LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN NEW UZBEKISTAN - ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract: In recent years, Uzbekistan has gone through major reforms in educational field, especially in terms of language acquisition. These reforms have been designed to develop foreign language teaching skills, especially English language in accordance with international standards. This article analyzes both the main achievements and the current problems in education system of Uzbekistan. In addition, it demonstrates the role of modern technology, the development of teachers' experience as well as the creation of a multilingual learning environment.

Key words: multilingualism, innovation, experience of teachers, quality of education.

In the age of globalization, language is an important factor of indicating competitiveness. Therefore, language education has become a stragegic priority in the “New Uzbekistan” strategy. In fact, Presidential Decree PQ-5117 from May 19, 2021“On measures to systematize the teaching of foreign languages” marked a turning point in this field. The decree introduced reforms aimed at improving teaching methods while establishing clear proficiency standards as well as enhancing teacher qualifications.

According to UNESCO (2022), Uzbekistan’s recent educational policy has emphasized multilingualism and inclusive access where English is selected as a tool for international integration and career mobility.

What is more, The Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) has become a foundation for assessing language proficiency in Uzbekistan, having been adapted to local educational system. According to Rakhmonova (2023), CEFR-based curricula are now implemented throughout state schools and higher education institutions. This, admittedly, allowed language levels of learners to be measured in accordance with international standards. Hence, the Global Research Network found that teacher training programs in Samarkand and Tashkent now align with CEFR framework, which has significantly improved teaching consistency and transparency across different regions in Uzbekistan.

Foreign language instruction now begins from preschool level, one of the recent key innovations of educational reform. The programs such as “A Million Coders” and “Speak English” aim to provide young learners with early exposure to English and digital literacy. The Ministry of Preschool and School Education (2023) reports that over 60% of public schools have introduced foreign language clubs or online learning programs in cooperation with platforms like BBC Learning English, Coursera and Duolingo. Furthermore, the national certification system for teachers and students launched in 2024 currently recognizes international qualifications like IELTS and TOEFL, encouraging learners to meet global standards.

In conclusion, the education system has undergone fundamental changes in the past few years. In fact, reforms being introduced gradually and mentioned above such as teacher retraining have truly led to measurable progress. To overcome remaining challenges as of teacher experience or quality of learning resources, continuous support by all structural systems is essential. If languages continue to be supported and integrated into education and technology, Uzbekistan’s language policy will achieve sustainable and globally recognized success.

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