

THE STRATEGY OF INDEPENDENT UZBEKISTAN – A FACTOR IN STABILIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRACTICE OF VALUE LAWS

Tukhtaev Khakim Primovich

National University of Uzbekistan, professor, Doctor of Philosophy

Email: tuxtayevxakim0@gmail.com

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract: This article examines the operation of axiological laws in the new stage of independent Uzbekistan's development. It also explores the philosophical essence of ways and opportunities to enhance the influence of values in creating a new sphere of spirituality and enlightenment in New Uzbekistan.

Basic concepts: Third Renaissance, new values, value system, value factor, moral views, process of value devaluation, spiritual values.

In human history, there have been great eras of rise, profound transformation, and creative advancement — periods whose essence is not easy to describe in a single word or phrase. In every age, humanity has developed certain strategies aimed at achieving specific goals that are significant for the state and society.

Eight years ago, Independent Uzbekistan also stepped into a new stage of its historical development. To implement the reforms initiated during this period, the Action Strategy, developed in close consultation with the people, was put into practice.

It is gratifying to note that “in a short period of time, the goals and objectives set out in the Action Strategy were achieved not through analysis or statistics, but through real changes that every citizen of Uzbekistan could feel in their daily life.”[1]

At the same time, the reforms initiated in these directions are being continued consistently. In particular, the development of the New Uzbekistan was announced by Shavkat Mirziyoyev, elected as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for a new term. This, in turn, indicates that “another important period of Awakening has begun in our country today. The key concepts of this process — the words ‘New Uzbekistan’ and ‘Third Renaissance’ — are resonating harmoniously in our lives, inspiring our people toward great goals.” [2]

As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized: “It is well known that the territory of today’s Uzbekistan was the cradle of two great periods of awakening — the First

(Enlightenment – IX–XII centuries) and the Second (Timurid – XIV–XV centuries) Renaissances. This is a historical fact recognized and proven in world science.”

It should be emphasized that Uzbek society is only now stepping onto the threshold of this new era of awakening. For the grand structure of the Third Renaissance to be fully realized, decades of tireless work and effort will be required”.[3] Therefore, it is necessary for the country’s intellectuals and educators to promote and explain the idea of the Third Renaissance to the population. To achieve this, a dedicated concept should be developed, and an effective state program for public outreach and explanatory work should be implemented. The idea of “New Uzbekistan” and the aspiration of the Third Renaissance will, in the truest sense, become a national value.

It is a demand of the time to expand the scope and increase the effectiveness of the work carried out by the society of “enlightenment” promoters. The task of theorists is to create the scientific and philosophical foundations for transforming the idea of the Third Renaissance into a national value and a source of action that mobilizes our multi-ethnic population toward great goals.

In New Uzbekistan, the process of forming new values and embedding them in the minds and hearts of our people is happening actively and consciously. This process cannot proceed uniformly and without contradictions. Naturally, there will be ups and downs, depths and cliffs along the way. However, as clearly demonstrated by the nationwide Referendum held on April 30, 2023, under the Constitution of Uzbekistan, our people’s worldview and system of values are fundamentally changing, confidence in their own strength and abilities is growing, and trust in the creative potential of youth and the future is steadily increasing.

The New Uzbekistan Development Strategy is a natural continuation of the Actions Strategy. Considering today’s global changes, the population’s way of life, societal needs, and our values, it has been outlined in seven key directions. Moreover, each task and goal within this strategy was discussed during this year’s election processes with the direct participation of citizens and supplemented with practical proposals and initiatives.

“Taking into account the demands of our people, the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy was developed.[4] This important conceptual document placed on the agenda the principle of ‘from the Action Strategy to the Development Strategy’ as a core idea and main criterion, aiming to ensure the continuity and consistency of our reforms.

As noted, this development strategy consists of seven directions, each of which has a significant impact on the values and axiological laws of our country. Each of these directions

influences the value sphere in its own way and, conversely, is influenced in a certain manner. For example, the first direction of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy, concerning the tasks of raising reforms to a new level, serves as a seamless continuation of the work carried out within the first direction of the Action Strategy ‘Improving the system of state and society building.’[5]

Indeed, the implementation of the tasks outlined in the first direction of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy ensures the full realization of the ideas of ‘New Uzbekistan as a people-centered and humane state’ and the priority principle of ‘For the dignity of the individual.’

In particular, this includes further expanding the powers of local authorities and transferring some responsibilities from central government bodies to regional administrations. This will enhance the effectiveness of initiatives carried out over the past five years under the principle: ‘State institutions should serve the people, not the other way around.’[6] From now on, in implementing each goal and task, not only the achievements of the past period but also any shortcomings will be carefully assessed to draw accurate conclusions.”

Within the framework of the Action Strategy, entirely new mechanisms for working with citizens’ appeals, such as “by neighborhood” and “by household,” were introduced. Now, these mechanisms are being further refined, and positions of assistants to local governors are being established to link each neighborhood with the relevant local administration. In this system, the local officials’ work serves as a procedural framework to ensure fairness and accountability to the citizens.

As a result, mechanisms for working with residents at the neighborhood level are being improved. It is particularly important that the assistant to the local governor is designated as responsible for the residents of the neighborhood. Considering that the majority of Uzbekistan’s population is young and that the neighborhood is often their first social environment, a representative of the Youth Affairs Agency is also appointed to support youth engagement. The operations of the People’s Reception Offices, established in 2017 to handle citizens’ appeals, have also been further improved.

It is well known that, under the Action Strategy, a new stage in the preparation and recruitment of civil servants was initiated. On October 3, 2019, by presidential decree, the Agency for the Development of the Civil Service under the President was established to advance this process. During this time, a unified open portal for vacancies

(<https://vacancy.argos.uz/>) was launched to implement recruitment based on transparent competition.

The New Uzbekistan Development Strategy pays special attention to continuing the reforms initiated in this area. For example, it includes defining improved criteria for personnel rotation. Implementing these tasks strengthens the political foundations of the practical sphere of values.

At the same time, there are a number of issues that can reduce the effectiveness of these reforms, including:

1. Rapid globalization, foreign information attacks, and destructive ideas threaten national values and identity. Attempts to influence inexperienced youth, turning them into self-centered individuals with a superficial understanding of life, are not uncommon. Additionally, terrorism, extremism, international crime, drug trafficking, and human trafficking are significant threats in the region.

2. Millennia-old traditions and values, as well as moral principles, are being subtly undermined, influencing society, particularly the youth, who may adopt foreign habits, harmful customs, and detach from national and Uzbek identity.

3. It is essential to prevent moral and spiritual voids. Developing ideological immunity among youth is a key task. If young people understand their national identity, the immortal history of their ancestors, and the importance of national values, and receive proper family upbringing, they will not blindly follow others. Knowledge and worldview of youth are crucial.

4. Without proper attention to the devaluation of values, reforms cannot achieve efficiency. Nationally-based education and upbringing are not easy tasks; they require responsibility, knowledge, and diligence.

5. Continuous education must strengthen the axiological upbringing of growing generations, taking into account their needs, demands, and characteristics, particularly in youth education. Coordination between preschool, school, and higher education, as well as collaboration with local neighborhoods, is essential for successful reforms.

6. The influence of social sciences, which play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the impact of national values, remains insufficient in scope and cannot keep up with modern pace.

7. Youth should be educated in modern sciences while also understanding the content and essence of eternal national values, fostering ethics and morality. Previous insufficient attention in this area has led some youth to be misled by foreign ideologies.

8. It is noticeable that young leaders are often far removed from national values. Opportunities and responsibilities are being given to young people, most of whom have studied in prestigious international universities and gained experience in major companies. However, their tendency to apply foreign experiences hastily may overlook local mentality and traditions, hindering the achievement of set goals and public trust.

The current era demands new approaches, new thinking, and specialists capable of analyzing and explaining socio-political events globally and regionally. Media, which reaches a large part of the population, plays a powerful role in promoting values, and it is necessary to use this influence effectively.

History demonstrates that the decline of values leads to state weakness and the rise of societal problems. To prevent this, a series of decrees and measures have been adopted. Notably, during the videoconference of the National Spirituality Council on January 19, 2021, specific conclusions and instructions were given to fundamentally improve the promotion of national values, followed by the presidential decree on March 26, 2021.

These measures address all aspects of spiritual and moral development, ensuring that reforms and updates in these areas are comprehensive and effective.

To date, the need has arisen to regulate processes in the spiritual sphere from a legal perspective, taking into account the moral and spiritual needs of New Uzbekistan. Arising from this necessity, it was deemed appropriate to allocate a separate section in the principle programs for the near future of our country, dedicated to reforms in the moral and educational spheres.

“The content, priority directions, and main tasks of our broad activities in the moral-educational sphere, carried out under the five directions of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy, are reflected in this, serving as a normative guideline and duty for us.”

Consequently, the development of the Law “On State Policy in the Sphere of Spirituality of the Republic of Uzbekistan”[7] became necessary. This law also fulfills the task of analyzing the results of reforms in all sectors of future programs and addressing related legal issues.

In addition, there is an urgent need to develop the “Spiritual Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2025–2035” and integrate it into state policy to enhance the scope, importance, direction, and effectiveness of future activities in the moral and educational sphere.

Furthermore, the points mentioned above highlight the need to develop a comprehensive set of documents reflecting the country’s moral-educational life and way of life—the “Code of Spirituality of Uzbek Society”. Its prompt implementation in practical life is considered vital.

Such a moral code would align with international standards, as evidenced by similar documents adopted by the UN in 2022. Additionally, measures must be taken to ensure the effective operation of the Institute for Social and Spiritual Research under the Republic's Center for Spirituality and Enlightenment.

Finally, the effectiveness of these normative documents and programs, their alignment with the aspirations of our people, depends directly on the responsible fulfillment of duties by leaders and administrative staff. All necessary conditions exist for reforms in the sector to yield high results.

Today, it is necessary to enhance and expand activities in the field of national values to cultivate individuals who can respond to the urgent socio-political needs, possess a modern worldview, think innovatively, are deeply engaged in social life, aware of the activities of others, understand public opinion, and take it into account.

Particularly, the formation of social activity among youth is an important issue. Social activity is characterized by an individual's self-awareness, self-assessment, the formation of a strong will, and the factors of personal development. Considering that young people are the future of the nation, educating them with confidence in the future is of great importance for development. Today, it is necessary to create a special cultural framework for the rational use of human technical achievements. Promoting the wise and productive use of these resources is a key requirement of our time.

As emphasized by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, "In modern conditions, broad use of global scientific and innovative achievements is an important factor in the consistent and sustainable development of all areas of society and state life, as well as in building a prosperous future for the country." The achievements of science and technology are positive when they serve humanity and noble goals. However, it is also a fact that some forces use the virtual world to pursue malicious intentions. Therefore, every country must take appropriate measures to safeguard its future—a necessity of today.

Indeed, the emergence of information technologies, especially the Internet and AI systems, can positively impact all areas of social life. On one hand, they simplify social problems and expand people's free time; on the other, they can cause personal alienation and detachment from society, strengthening the factor of social indifference.

In New Uzbekistan, where a legal, democratic state and just civil society are being established, it is the duty of the broad intellectual class to educate a generation that thinks

independently. After all, “no society can imagine its future without developing and strengthening spiritual and moral values in the minds of its people [8]”.

It is essential to consider the demands of the time and the perspectives of youth to create a complete and renewed spiritual life and achieve effective reforms. This necessitates introducing and implementing the “Code of Spirituality for Leaders and Public Servants.” The main task is to implement the duties specified in such documents promptly, avoiding negligence, corruption, or formalism. Failure to do so undermines public trust and negatively affects the dynamics of spiritual life [9].

It is important to search for ways to increase the effectiveness of spiritual and educational initiatives and to apply influential methods and tools to solve urgent issues. Understanding the essence of current reforms, drawing conclusions, and providing optimal recommendations are among the key tasks.

To further optimize and improve the effectiveness of spiritual and educational work in all regions of the country, it is necessary to develop and widely disseminate an “Action Program.” Introducing an innovative educational module titled “The Spirituality of New Uzbekistan” for people outside the formal education system will also contribute to the effectiveness of this process. Experts note that all structures involved in the field of spirituality must be engaged in creating a spiritual education system that forms a sense of participation in state policy and shapes the new face of society.

In today’s context of globalization and the intense struggle for the human mind and heart, the gradually developing spiritual life of society faces ideological threats. In such conditions, it is vital to implement the following measures to cultivate a society capable of withstanding all threats in the spiritual sphere:

- ✓ Publish exhibitions and materials promoting high spiritual values regularly, considering their strong influence on social consciousness;
- ✓ Present and distribute popular scientific publications to mentally “arm” the people, especially youth, against destructive ideas and actions;
- ✓ Organize publications, exhibitions, brochures, and advertising to attract public attention;
- ✓ Prepare social videos using effective methods of spiritual and educational influence and ensure their broadcast on television;

✓ Strengthen the ideological immunity of society, particularly youth, by combating localism, destructive tendencies, and other negative factors through spiritual and educational development.

Educational and outreach activities for people outside the formal education system under the topic “Urgent Tasks for Ensuring the Spiritual Development of Uzbekistan’s Society” should be implemented systematically to achieve the set objectives.

Additionally, organizations responsible for spiritual education, in cooperation with creative professionals, publishing houses, and newspaper and magazine editorial offices, must prepare and disseminate articles, books, albums, and media products under the section “Spiritual Life of Uzbekistan.” Using modern information technologies, mass media, and multilingual news updates, as well as creating a website dedicated to “Society’s Spiritual Life,” will help provide impartial perspectives and strengthen the influence of work in this field.

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