

THE STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF NAVOI REGION DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE HISTORIOGRAPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF REGIONAL YOUTH POLICY**Toshpo'latov Mamadali Zayniddin o'g'li**

Navoi State University

e-mail: mamadali.toshpulatov97@gmail.com

ORCID: 0009-0002-8667-7743

Tel: +99890-739-97-97

Toshpulatov Mamadali

PhD Student, Navoi State University

e-mail: mamadali.toshpulatov97@gmail.com

ORCID: 0009-0002-8667-7743

Tel: +99890-739-97-97

Abstract

This article analyzes the study of the history of Navoi Region during the years of independence, as well as the historical formation of state youth policy, its theoretical and methodological foundations, and its reflection in historiography. It substantiates that, in the context of globalization, digital transformation, and structural changes in the labor market, ensuring social protection for young people, promoting their employment, and realizing their entrepreneurial potential have become urgent scholarly and practical issues. The study classifies and examines the relevant literature into three groups: first, academic works devoted to youth policy at the national level in Uzbekistan; second, sources on the modern history of Navoi Region and its territorial development; and third, studies by CIS and foreign scholars, as well as reports by international organizations. Using the example of Navoi Region, the article demonstrates the necessity of interpreting youth policy as a historical process, a system of social institutions, and a factor of regional development.

Keywords

Navoi Region, years of independence, youth policy, historiography, social protection, employment, youth organizations, regional development, demographic processes.

Introduction

Today, in the context of globalization, digital transformation, and the structural renewal of labor resources in the labor market, strengthening the social protection of young people, ensuring their employment, and enabling them to realize their professional and entrepreneurial potential have emerged as urgent scholarly and practical concerns. At the current stage of New Uzbekistan's development, comprehensive support for young people has become one of the priority directions of state policy. This approach is explained by the Head of State's emphasis on the need to mobilize all available resources and opportunities so that young people may find their *достой* place in life [1]. International experience also demonstrates that this process is far from



accidental: according to Youth Policy Labs, whereas in 2013 national youth policies existed in 99 out of 198 countries worldwide, by 2014 this number had risen to 122; moreover, it was recorded that 66.2 percent of countries had national institutions responsible for implementing youth policy [2]. In the United Nations Youth2030 Strategy, youth are interpreted not as passive objects of contemporary development, but as active subjects of innovative, communicative, and socio-political change [3]. This indicates that the issue of youth should be studied not as a narrow social sphere, but as a strategic category of development.

Central Asia is one of the youngest regions in the world in demographic terms, distinguished by the relatively low average age of its population. The fact that nearly half of the region's population falls within Uzbekistan demonstrates the country's leading place in regional demographic processes [4]. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the total population amounts to 36,963.3 thousand people, of whom 9,640 thousand are young people, constituting 26 percent of the total population; this confirms that youth represent a demographically significant stratum of society [5]. At the same time, the fact that the number of persons under the age of 30 exceeds 19 million, accounting for more than 55 percent of the population, provides sufficient grounds to interpret youth policy as one of the key pillars of national development [6]. Alongside this, the share of youth, which stood at 27.85 percent in the initial stage of independence, later increased and from the 2010s began to display a relative decline, revealing the need to study this group not only quantitatively, but also from the perspectives of quality, employment, socialization, and civic activity [7].

In recent years, the introduction of the *Youth Notebook (Yoshlar daftari)* system, the expansion of targeted social assistance mechanisms, and the strengthening of programs oriented toward vocational training and entrepreneurship have shaped a new institutional model for supporting youth. However, the historical roots, theoretical and methodological foundations, and regional experience of these systems—particularly in the case of Navoi Region—have not yet been comprehensively examined in academic research. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to analyze the historiographical foundations of the study of Navoi Region's history and youth policy during the years of independence, to systematize the existing body of scholarship, and to identify the scholarly prospects for further regional research.

Methods

This article was prepared on the basis of the principles of historicism, objectivity, systematicity, and comparative analysis. Methodologically, the study integrates several approaches. First, through the historical-genetic approach, the stages in the formation and development of youth policy are examined in close connection with the broader socio-political transformation of the independence period. Second, by means of historiographical analysis, the scholarly sources relevant to the topic were divided into groups and their substantive orientations were identified. Third, through the comparative-regional approach, general tendencies observed at the national level in Uzbekistan were compared with the specific regional features evident in the case of Navoi Region. Fourth, based on the institutional approach, the mechanisms through which youth policy has been implemented by the state, public organizations, and social institutions were assessed. The source base includes normative documents, statistical data, monographs, dissertation abstracts, and reports of international organizations.

The scholarly novelty of the study lies in the fact that the history of Navoi Region and the issue of youth policy are interpreted not separately, but as interrelated historical phenomena. In other words, the region's socio-economic development, demographic composition, territorial disparities, and social institutions are considered as factors directly influencing the effectiveness



of youth policy. In this way, the article advances the interconnection between historical process, regional development, and state policy as a methodological framework.

Results

1. The Formation of Youth Policy as a Scholarly Field in the Independence Period

The examined sources show that during the years of independence, state youth policy emerged as a distinct scholarly field. Initially, this issue was addressed primarily within the framework of political and moral education, but over time it came to be studied as a complex and multi-layered academic problem at the intersection of history, political science, economics, and philosophy. Using the example of Navoi Region, Sh. Norov investigated the historical formation of youth policy and the development of youth organizations, while X. Raxmonov focused on the historical role of social institutions in implementing youth policy [8]. At the national level, historians such as O. Topildiyev, X. Xaknazarov, Sh. Raximov, S. Mirzaxalov, E. Raxmonov, D. Atamuratova, and M. Xadjamuratova examined the place of youth in socio-political life, their everyday lifestyles, entrepreneurship, social protection, and institutional activity [9]. In the field of political science, S. Jo'rayev, A. Xolmaxmatov, X. Kuchkarov, and N. Turgunova analyzed youth policy in connection with public administration, political institutions, and processes of moral-spiritual transformation [10]. Economic studies addressed issues such as youth employment, the competitiveness of unemployed youth in the labor market, ways of increasing employment in the context of the digital economy, and mechanisms of social protection [11]. Philosophical research, in turn, examined the formation of an active life position, the social activity of unorganized youth, and the institutional problems of ensuring their employment [12].

As a result, it becomes evident that the first group of studies interpreted the issue of youth not merely as a moral or organizational phenomenon, but as a complex system linked to historical evolution, the normative-legal framework, socio-political participation, employment, and social protection mechanisms. This represented an important shift in historiography, elevating youth policy to the level of an independent object of scholarly analysis.

2. Sources on the History of Navoi Region and Their Importance for Understanding Youth Policy

The second group of sources illuminates the modern history of Navoi Region, its economic development, territorial structure, and processes of social development. Researchers such as S.K. Kabulov, A.M. Aminova, U.O. Narzullayev, Sh.B. Xoliqulova, D.M. Ro'ziyeva, N.M. Raxmatova, F.I. Shirinova, S.I. Xamrayeva, I.B. Murtazayev, H.A. Oblaqulov, O.I. Sherxolov, and N.N. Nazarov studied the region's economy, the lifestyle of its population, the systems of education and healthcare, urbanization, and the factors of sustainable development [13]. Although these works are not directly devoted to youth policy, their academic significance lies precisely in reconstructing the socio-demographic and economic portrait of the region. Youth policy can never exist outside its social environment; it is always formed in close interaction with the regional economy, labor market, educational infrastructure, and local social institutions.

In addition, the works of Vetshteyn, Kucherskiy, Oltinov, Hotamov, Bekniyozov, Inoyatov, Rajabov, Ibragimov, Rizayev, Xaitova, Qurbonov, Narzullayev, Mustafojev, and other authors devoted to the industry of Navoi Region, its historical territories, and the histories of its cities and districts reveal the local layers of regional history [14]. These works are important as auxiliary sources for writing the history of youth policy, since they help illuminate the region's social space, historical memory, and territorial identity. The developmental dynamics of Navoi



Region by cities and districts, the formation of industrial centers, and the expansion of social infrastructure create the necessary historical background for analyzing youth employment, migration, and social activity.

3. The Comparative Significance of Foreign and International Sources

The third group of sources encompasses studies by foreign and CIS scholars devoted to youth organizations, youth movements, and the socio-political activity of young people. Authors such as Nemeryuk, Chekmareyev, Koryakovtseva, Sokolov, Sabirov, Trofimova, and Kaliyeva analyzed the formation of youth policy in the post-Soviet space, the institutional development of youth movements, and their interaction with civil society [15]. These sources make it possible to understand the experience of Uzbekistan not in isolation, but within a broader post-Soviet comparative context. In particular, issues such as cooperation between state and public institutions, the role of youth in political modernization, and the activity of youth organizations at the local governance level contribute to a deeper analysis of the case of Navoi Region.

Reports by international organizations interpret the demographic potential of youth in Uzbekistan, their social protection, employment, and participation in public life within the framework of the human capital concept [16]. This approach encourages viewing youth not merely as a social category requiring protection by the state, but as a strategic resource in which investment should be made. Consequently, in regional historiography as well, the issue of youth must be regarded not only in moral-educational terms, but also as a category of socio-economic and demographic development.

Discussion

The results of the analysis show that the existing historiography on Navoi Region and youth policy is relatively rich; however, at the same time, a number of scholarly gaps remain. First, although there are many studies devoted to youth policy, most of them focus on general processes at the republican level, while regional differences have not been sufficiently analyzed. This hinders a deeper understanding of how youth policy was formed in regions such as Navoi, with its distinctive economic structure and socio-demographic profile, through what mechanisms it was implemented, and which factors shaped it. Although the studies of Sh. Norov and X. Raxmonov constituted important steps in the case of Navoi Region, they still leave considerable room for further research [8].

Second, economic, social, geographical, and cultural studies of Navoi Region provide a broader picture of the region's development, but this picture is often presented without direct linkage to youth policy. Yet industrialization, urbanization, the structure of employment, and changes in the systems of education and healthcare in the region all directly influenced the socialization and social mobility of young people. Therefore, future research should strengthen the connection between regional history and youth policy. In particular, the study of youth employment, internal migration, vocational education, social assistance, and the activities of youth organizations in historical dynamics at the level of districts and cities may yield significant scholarly results.

Third, international and comparative studies interpret youth policy from the perspective of the balance between the state and civil society, institutional adaptation, and social capital. In Uzbekistan, and particularly in the experience of Navoi Region, this direction has not yet been fully reconstructed historically. Mechanisms such as the *Youth Notebook*, targeted assistance, vocational guidance, and support for youth entrepreneurship are more often mentioned as practical administrative tools, whereas historiography concerning their historical genesis,



interaction with local social institutions, and regional outcomes is still at the formative stage. In this sense, developing a historical model of youth policy on the basis of Navoi Region would serve not only regional history, but also the theory of modern public administration.

Fourth, the available historiographical sources demonstrate the multi-dimensional nature of the youth issue: on the one hand, it is a demographic factor; on the other, it is an economic resource; and thirdly, it is a subject of political and moral modernization. The interconnected analysis of these three dimensions constitutes one of the strengths of historical scholarship, and this potential should be utilized more broadly in studying the history of Navoi Region. For modern historiography, one of the most important requirements is to consider regional history not merely as the history of events or economic indicators, but also as the history of human capital, social institutions, and generational change.

Conclusion

During the years of independence, youth policy in Uzbekistan became a strategic direction of state development. Globalization, digital transformation, the renewal of the labor market, and the increasing importance of demographic factors turned the issue of youth into a central element of state policy. This process was also reflected in historiography, where youth policy rose to the level of an independent scholarly field. Studies conducted using the example of Navoi Region, as well as those at the national level, have revealed the normative-legal, institutional, socio-political, economic, and moral dimensions of this sphere.

The analysis showed that works devoted to the modern history, economic development, and territorial characteristics of Navoi Region, although not directly focused on youth policy, create an important historical basis for understanding it. Foreign and international sources, in turn, make it possible to evaluate youth policy within comparative and institutional contexts. However, at the regional level—especially in the case of Navoi Region—the historical mechanisms of socio-economic support for youth, the role of local social institutions, and the evolution of new institutional models have not yet been sufficiently studied in a comprehensive manner.

Thus, the study of the history of Navoi Region in conjunction with the history of youth policy represents one of the promising directions of contemporary historical scholarship. Such an approach contributes to a deeper understanding of the interconnections between regional development, human capital, and state policy, and creates a solid theoretical and methodological foundation for future dissertation research.

References:

1. Prezident yoshlar bilan muloqot qildi [The President held a dialogue with youth]. *Xalq so'zi*, June 29, 2024, No. 128 (8751), p. 1.
2. *The State of Youth Policy in 2014*. Berlin: Youth Policy Press, 2014, pp. 8, 30.
3. *Youth2030: Working With and For Young People. The United Nations Youth Strategy*. New York: United Nations, 2018, p. 4.
4. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 23 dated January 18, 2021, "On Approval of the Concept for the Development of State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan until 2025." *Collection of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan*, 2018, No. 3, Article 25, pp. 45–62.



5. National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. *Demographic Situation in the Republic of Uzbekistan. January–March 2024* [electronic resource: press release]. Tashkent, 2024.
6. Xo‘jaxonov, I.A. *Innovative Methods for Enhancing the Legal Culture of the Youth of Uzbekistan*. Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy. Tashkent, 2024, p. 5.
7. Mirzaxalov, S.J. *Problems and Solutions of Youth Entrepreneurship in the Republic of Uzbekistan (on the Example of the Fergana Valley Regions, 1991–2021)*. Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in History. Fergana, 2023, p. 14.
8. Norov, Sh.S. *The Historical Formation and Experience of the State Youth Policy of Uzbekistan during the Years of Independence (on the Example of Navoi Region)*. Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Historical Sciences. Bukhara, 2021, 160 p.
9. Topildiev, O.R. *The Role of Youth in the Socio-Political Life of Uzbekistan (1991–2008)*. Abstract of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences. Tashkent, 2011, 25 p.
10. Juraev, S.A. *Peculiarities of the Formation of the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Transitional Period: Theory and Practice*. Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Political Sciences. Tashkent, 1994, 47 p.
11. Zikriyaev, Z.M. *Increasing the Competitiveness of Unemployed Youth in the Labor Market*. Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics. Tashkent, 2019, 57 p.
12. Malikov, T.T. *Dialectics of the Formation of an Active Life Position among Youth*. Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Philosophical Sciences. Tashkent: Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1993, 28 p.
13. Kabulov, S.K. *Organizational and Economic Mechanism for Managing the Economy of a Region under Market Conditions (on the Example of Navoi Region)*. Dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Economic Sciences. Tashkent, 1999, 114 p.
14. Vetshteyn, L.M. *Nash Navoimash [Our Navoimash]*. Tashkent: “Abdulla Qodiriy,” 1998, 243 p.
15. Nemeryuk, A.A. *Youth Organizations and Movements in Russia in 1992–2005 (Based on the Materials of Moscow)*. Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences. Moscow, 2010, 24 p.
16. UNICEF. *Generation 2030 Uzbekistan: Investing in Children and Young People to Reap the Demographic Dividend*. Tashkent: UNICEF, 2018, 36 p.

