

## INTEGRATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND FOREIGN STATES

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### ABSTRACT

Implementing reforms in developing higher education at the international level in the Republic of Uzbekistan have entered a new phase. In particular, the integration of national higher education into world higher education, raising the level of quality to the international level, organization of higher education based on international educational standards, establishing cooperation with higher education institutions of developed countries are being paid great attention. The rationale of the study is to highlight the process of integrating higher education of the Republic of Uzbekistan into the world higher education area. It is emphasized that internationalization of higher education is an important factor in the integration into the world higher education.

**Keywords:** Internationalization, higher education, integration, international purposes, renewal.

### INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

The internationalization of higher education is developing rapidly in recent years. This process requires forming scientific and practical views and developing the most optimal ways of participation in this process, not only for newly independent states but also for developed countries of the world. It also contributes to the integration process in higher education. Extensive integration and internationalization processes have become one of the important features of the development of world higher education at the present. The development and prosperity of higher education in each country is closely connected not only with regional but also global level, it is becoming increasingly clear that higher education in particular country cannot develop without the mutual influence. Further deepening integration into the world higher education space in the period of internationalization of higher education is among the important tasks facing the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Internationalization of higher education has become a dominant strategy as a result of the efforts of the countries around the world towards the unification and generalization of their goals for the development of higher education. Hans De Wit's vision is complementary to our view that "*Internationalization is a process to introduce intercultural, international and global dimensions in higher education to improve the goals, functions and delivery of higher education, and with that to improve the quality of education and research*" (De Wit, 2013). It is also notable that the following opinion of Soderqvist on this issue is remarkable: "*internationalization is the process of transition from national higher education to international higher education, the introduction of international criteria into all forms of management of higher education and the improvement of the quality of education and the achievement of the necessary competence*" (Soderqvist, 2002). As can be seen from these points of view, the internationalization of higher education is not only an important strategy but also promotes the integration process in higher education. The implementation of

international goals to higher education leads to a further deepening of the integration process along with further development it. The internationalization of higher education represents integration based on its characteristics. Jane Knight's following opinion in this regard is a clear proof of this, "*Internationalization at the national, sector, and institutional levels are defined as the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of postsecondary education*" (Knight Jane, 2003).

In this regard, it would be expedient to theoretically analyze the concept of integration. According to one of the definitions in the Interpretation Dictionary of the Uzbek language, integration means the convergence and interconnection of subjects (Interpretive Dictionary of the Uzbek language, p. 216). According to the definitions in the National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, integration means the mutual coordinating and merging the economies of two or more countries (National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, p. 2014).

In our opinion, integration is a broad concept. Its meaning developing in a connected state, that is, in the term of interaction applies to all spheres. At present, the integration of economic, political, socio-cultural and other spheres requires interconnected development. Also, in the higher education, interdependence plays an important role in meeting the requirements of global development. One of the important features of integration in the higher education is its constant renewal along with development within the framework of interaction. It can be seen that the process of integration is an important factor in the development of higher education, raising it to new stages of development and the determination of its prospects. It is known that a certain process does not occur spontaneously. There are subjective and objective factors in its formation. Globalization and internationalization are key factors in the development of the process of integration of the higher education across the world.

The XXI century is a period of adaptation to the changes that have appeared under the influence of globalization and internationalization processes and finding answers to the new requirements of the era. At present, the extremely acute and extensive impact of the internationalization of higher education can be seen in almost all states. The integration of higher education of the Republic of Uzbekistan into the world higher education is deepening at a high level within the framework of this impact of internationalization. Especially since the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has come to state administration, Uzbekistan has entered a new stage of integration of higher education into the world higher education. The emphasis on international relations with developed countries, the development of human capital, and the foreign investment in higher education are indicative of drastic changes in higher education. In the following years, the role of higher education in the economic, social and cultural development of the Republic of Uzbekistan is taken into account, and the transformation of higher education into an industrial sector is also given serious importance. The state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the higher education system is aimed at developing the National higher education system to meet international requirements and on a global scale. Extensive reforms are being implemented in this regard.

International experiences show that the formation and development of integration processes takes a long time. Integration of higher education of the Republic of Uzbekistan into World higher education is carried out in logical sequence and step by step based on strict mechanism. On October 8, 2019, the Presidential Decree "Concept of development of higher education of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In this Decree, including at least 10 higher educational institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan into the list of higher educational institutions of the first 1000 places of the rating

of internationally recognized organizations (Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, Times Higher Education or Academic Ranking of World Universities), including the National University of Uzbekistan and Samarkand State University in the list of top 500 universities. Also in this Decree "Step-by-step transfer of the educational process in higher educational institutions to the credit-module system, publication of articles in prestigious international high impact factor journals by professors, teachers, researchers, doctoral students of higher education institutions, increasing quotations for the articles, improving the quality of articles, as well as, issues such as ensuring the gradual access of the national scientific journals into the international scientific and technical databases and transforming the Uzbek higher education system into the "Hub" which implements international education programs in Central Asia were also emphasized (Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2019). The tasks that should be carried out in this decree ensure further integration of higher education into the world higher education area according to their characteristics.

The emergence of international organizations, especially those that define the ranking of higher education institutions, contributes to the development of integration processes in higher education. The ranking of HEIs of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the world rankings determines the successful integration of world higher education. Also, the emergence of international scientific organizations has accelerated the process of scientific integration. The Republic of Uzbekistan needs to have a worthy reputation in the world scientific space. To increase the academic reputation of Uzbek researchers in the international area of science, as well as to ensure the level and quality of scientific articles, the Uzbek Research online digital platform, which conducts scientific journals was opened in Uzbekistan first time (Edu.uz news, 2019). This, in turn, allows Uzbek scholars to gain recognition in the world and undoubtedly contribute to a prominent place in the world of science.

At the moment, efforts focused on to organize higher education in cooperation between the countries are grooving at a fast rate. The number of foreign universities and branches in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the increasing number of joint programs and faculties of local higher educational institutions in cooperation with foreign higher educational institutions are a clear example to our opinion. Establishment of 13 new foreign higher education institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan during recent years is a sign of further development of such cooperation. As expected results from the development of such cooperation relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan can be understood that Uzbekistan intended to increase human capital, to find a worthy place in the world market with intellectual labour, educational service and scientific products through developing the higher education system. The operating of higher education institutions of different states in the Republic of Uzbekistan contribute to the development of the integration process, along with creating opportunities for the citizens of Uzbekistan to receive higher education based on American, European and Asian models of Higher Education.

Global development in the economy of the world and higher education requires the transition from the national higher education to the international higher education. This can be explained by adapting to the changes that have occurred under the processes of globalization and internationalization, and the response to new challenges of the era. The rapid development of global higher education and the strengthening of integration processes in higher education require that the Republic of Uzbekistan should concentrate on the development of higher education not only at the national but also international levels. One of the topical issues of higher education of Uzbekistan is the formation of a unique international education system, as well as meeting the needs of highly skilled professionals in developing the existing fields in

the country as developed countries. Currently, the international status of universities is determined by the number of foreign students. Student mobility is also one of the key tools for the development of integration processes in higher education. To attract foreign students to local higher education institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it is desirable to develop special programs based on the experience of developed countries.

In conclusion, the internationalization of higher education will be an important tool in the integration of higher education of the Republic of Uzbekistan into the world higher education. At present, the landscape of world higher education is manifested as internationalization, globalization and integration. In short, the internationalization of higher education develops the integration process, and the development of integration processes, in turn, leads to the development of the internationalization of higher education.

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