

Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council 4th Cycle – 44th Session

Right to Education
Country Review: Uzbekistan

Submitting Organization: BROKEN CHALK

April 2023

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Broken Chalk is an Amsterdam-based NGO established in 2020 that monitors and minimises worldwide human rights violations in education. We aim to promote universal and equal access to education for all.

We encourage and support achieving societal peace with our international sponsors and partners by advocating for intercultural tolerance, preventing radicalism and polarisation, and tackling educational inequalities.

Content

Introduction	3
Educational Challenges in Uzbekistan	3
Recommendations	4
References	5

Introduction

1. In Uzbekistan, almost 60% of the population is covered under the education system. In 1992, a policy decision was made, providing that education is mandatory for at least nine years for both men and women. After the required nine years, there is a compulsory two years of studying for 10th and 11th grades and attendance to the vocational institution. After attendance and graduation from secondary education, students are expected and allowed to join higher education institutes for their bachelor's, master and even doctoral degrees.
2. Public and private education
3. Public schooling in Uzbekistan is inconvenient because of the language barrier; for instance, most of their population is taught in Uzbek; hence, most school curricula are in Russian, the second most spoken language. No public schools teach in English, therefore inconveniencing most families who primarily understand English.
4. Private schools in Uzbekistan have been legalised recently. The government started issuing incentives before 2017. With this, there is a growth in private education in Uzbekistan. Through the active development of private schools, an improved record of highly performing students has been observed through their persistent curriculum. English as a language has advanced through private schools as these schools teach in their preferred language. International schools have been embraced in Uzbekistan, which is regarded as very expensive.

Educational Challenges in Uzbekistan

5. Poverty in Uzbekistan is a case that is being experienced where children living in rural areas are at a geographic disadvantage compared to those who live in cities. Issues affecting children living in impoverished, rural areas include a lack of access to primary education and healthcare services. Another significant, long-standing problem Uzbekistan faces is the state-controlled labour system supporting massive cotton exports. This hinders education in rural Uzbekistan from making lasting and vital impacts on children involved in the business.
6. Lack of vocational training where the education system in Uzbekistan places too much emphasis on academic qualifications, with little focus on vocational training. This hinders the country's workforce development and economic growth.
7. Secondary education in Uzbekistan consists of 11 years. This is 12 years in most other developing countries, especially in Europe. This results in a loss of one year of education in Uzbekistan.
8. Due to the lack of suitable materials in most schools, Uzbekistan's students need help to link the theoretical part of the course to the appropriate one. This leads to a higher practical orientation

of education. Furthermore, unsophisticated means of information technology lead to poor communication standards in specified fields. Through globalisation, this equipment is grown, but it is up to the government of Uzbekistan to level up.

9. Educational institutions in Uzbekistan need higher levels of funding. Annual records have identified this as an urgent matter, as most educational institutions need modern equipment that corresponds to the latest achievements of science. This has resulted in an opposing force that has significantly affected the wages of academic workers.
10. High demand for higher education. Uzbekistan has been recorded as a country with good universities, for instance. Still, as years come, many students seek this education in large numbers, directly resulting in the creation of bad universities.
11. Low educational legislation. Ideally, a state's educational system is ranked on how well the legislative system functions. The licensing of educational institutions, for instance, depends on these laws. Incomplete social rules might be faced where corruption is experienced, leading to the registration of institutions that provide substandard education. This is exceptionally experienced in tertiary education.
12. Low training in technical schools. This has been a challenge that has been experienced where students have preferred university education experience, which has affected the growth of technical institutes. This, as a result, has led to the unemployment of these students who are found to have experience in similar fields.
13. Banning private schools due to free compulsory primary education in Uzbekistan for every child has been challenging, followed by separating religion from education.
14. Lack of education opportunities for special needs students is a challenge faced in Uzbekistan, lacking special education facilities, materials, and curriculum that accommodate students with diverse learning needs.
15. Many students in Uzbekistan drop out of school before completing their education due to poverty, lack of interest, or peer pressure to work. This has hindered the country's efforts to improve overall literacy rates and access to education.
16. The curriculum in Uzbekistan is outdated and fails to equip students with the skills necessary for the modern job market.

Recommendations

17. Foreign assistance should be highly embraced in Uzbekistan since this would lead to the donation of educational materials to some schools in Uzbekistan, reducing the cases of students not being able to attend school. The Ministry of Education in Uzbekistan has cooperated with foreign aid assistance to broaden local knowledge.

18. The government of Uzbekistan should implement an education system that centres on the educational needs of an individual student's learning process. This can help improve the quality of education in Uzbekistan.
19. Large class sizes can make it difficult for teachers to give individual attention to each student. Reducing class sizes can enable teachers to give personalised attention to each student and provide a better learning experience
20. The separation of education and religion was solved by establishing Tashkent Islamic University with assistance from the international commission, followed by the establishment of computer technology.
21. Fight child trafficking and corruption in the police department.
22. Consult with UNICEF for the creation of centres to help victims of trafficking.
23. Help teachers improve their knowledge and skills to provide children with better education.
24. Prevent human violations in school institutions with strict precautions.
25. The government needs to reform the curriculum to make it more relevant to the needs of students.
26. Promotion of parental involvement in schools should be embraced in the country, where parents can be encouraged to volunteer in schools hence interacting with students directly. This should be under the assistance of the government in Uzbekistan.

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