

“Factors for Promoting Youth Social Activity in the Development of Civil Society Institutions”

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Abstract: This article analyzes how to build civil society and the strategic importance of the social system. The development of the person is a basis for creating the social system and is an important factor in political institutions. Europe, USA, Japan, and UNO are developing strategies aimed at deepening integration by strengthening democratic processes and increasing youth activism. The author analyzes the factors of the development of the civil society through reforms aimed at attracting young people to social, political and economic processes in Uzbekistan, emphasizing the importance of these processes in strengthening state stability and democratic values.

Keywords: Civil society, social system, youth activism, cultural and economic relations, world experience, democratic processes, the UN “Youth strategy, globalization, integration and cooperation, social-political factors, education and knowledge, family and neighborhood institution, youth organizations, social projects, non-governmental and non-profit organizations.



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Introduction

Civil society is an essential social system that has formed over thousands of years as a result of people's experience living in organized communities. The developmental processes related to individuals' interactions with family, community, and state have refined human perspectives and led to the creation of complex social structures. In the Eastern world, significant changes in statehood and societal organization during the first millennium BCE strengthened economic and cultural ties. In this process, youth participated as a key force in social progress, playing a crucial role in maintaining societal stability. The efforts to build an ideal society in Eastern countries have influenced societal theories in Central Asia, the Near East, and Europe. In recent years, reforms aimed at increasing youth engagement have become significant in the development of civil society worldwide. The European Union implements programs to enhance youth political and social activity, while the United States engages youth in civic education and volunteerism to integrate them into social activities. In Japan, youth participation is encouraged through youth organizations, while the United Nations, under its "Youth Strategy," promotes initiatives aimed at increasing young people's contributions to social stability. Such reforms support youth activism in civil society development, aiming to strengthen democratic processes.

In the context of globalization, developed countries are actively participating in expanding the economic, political, and cultural impact aimed at increasing youth engagement in civil society, thereby strengthening integration and cooperation. Countries such as the European Union, the United States, Japan, and South Korea are solidifying their international positions by promoting youth engagement and leveraging technology, creating innovative mechanisms to adapt to new challenges. In Uzbekistan, reforms to enhance youth involvement in the development of civil society are also of significant importance. Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, state programs are being implemented to widely engage youth in social, political, and economic processes. Through the “Youth Union” and non-governmental non-profit organizations, extensive opportunities are being created for young people to actively participate in social projects, mahallas, and civil society institutions. Additionally, programs focused on education, career guidance, entrepreneurship support, and increasing youth social activism are also being implemented. In particular, young people are being provided with opportunities to carry out social initiatives through state grants, loans, and subsidies.

Literature Review

Confucius sought to create the image of an active and responsible individual to ensure order in state and social life. According to his teachings, stability and justice in society are achieved when each person fulfills their duties precisely. His idea that “the ruler should be like a ruler, and the citizen like a citizen” defined the responsibility of each individual in society. In his work *The Analects*, Confucius emphasized youth education, asserting that justice and stability in society are ensured by encouraging youth social activity. He called on state officials to serve the people justly, directing the core principle of governance, *dao*, toward protecting the people's interests. In his view, moral values play a crucial role in regulating society. If governance is based on moral influence (*de*), people will act conscientiously and justly. Confucius' views are significant in shaping the current model of civil society. According to the ideals of a virtuous society, stability is achieved in a society founded on justice and moral values. Today, youth social activity is one of the essential factors in social development and contributes to

building a just society. Confucius' ideas, directed at forming civil society based on justice, morality, and transparency, remain relevant in the 21st century.

The ancient Greek philosopher Socrates played an important role in the development of civil society theory. He established the foundations of ethical philosophy, believing that a moral society cannot be built without laws. Socrates' aphorism "Know thyself" shaped his views on law, justice, and youth social activity. According to him, laws form the moral foundation of society, and their fair application ensures social stability. Socrates considered laws as the foundation of the state and regarded their importance as relevant to current political and legal systems as well as youth social activity. He also emphasized that laws and state governance should be executed by intellectual individuals, as youth social activity is essential for the moral development of society.

The ancient Greek and Chinese scholars Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Confucius discovered the early elements of civil society in their works. Their scientific and theoretical legacy later served as a vital source for the development of Eastern and Arab philosophy and political science. During the 9th to 14th centuries, Arab and other Eastern thinkers, building on Greek and Roman philosophy, advanced ideas about society and the state, contributing their insights. This scholarly heritage became the foundation for modern Western philosophers and political scientists. The scientific legacy of our compatriot Abu Nasr al-Farabi, who made significant contributions to the development of civil society during the Middle Ages and is famous for his concept of the virtuous society, remains relevant to this day.

Abu Nasr al-Farabi made a substantial scientific contribution by developing theories on building a virtuous society and forming elements of civil society. His views on the development of society and statehood are extensively presented in works such as *On War and Peace*, *The Book of the Attainment of Happiness*, *The Governance of the City*, *Virtuous Conducts*, and *The Opinions of the Inhabitants of the Virtuous City*. Farabi's legacy holds significant importance for modern youth social activity. As the new generation of society, young people should deeply study their historical and scientific heritage and actively participate in the development of civil society based on Farabi's ideas. Farabi's perspectives on understanding society profoundly encourage youth social engagement, strengthening their moral growth and contributions to society.

The views of Western philosophers Hugo Grotius, Baruch Spinoza, John Locke, and Immanuel Kant on individual freedom are closely linked to youth social activity. Attention to individual freedom and rights creates an essential foundation for young people to actively participate in society and exercise their rights and responsibilities. Through their struggle for social equality and justice, young people play a vital role in societal development. The teachings of Montesquieu and Voltaire, focused on enlightenment and free thought, promote moral growth and social engagement among youth. Young people should participate in democratic processes and contribute their ideas to social change. The ideas of Rousseau and Kant on the social contract and individual freedom are also seen as important concepts aimed at enhancing youth activism in civil society. As key participants in civil society, young people should actively protect their rights, engage in governance, and advocate for social justice.

Based on the views of these thinkers, it is evident that the role of youth in society is of decisive importance in the development of civil society.

Research Methodology

In the late 20th century, several countries (such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany) initiated reforms to promote and enhance youth social activity in the development of civil society. These reforms focused on ensuring active youth participation in local governance and social processes, as youth are considered vital drivers of social activity. Through these reforms, the functions of municipal bodies were re-evaluated, increasing the influence of central authority over their activities. Funding for social services was reduced, and the powers of local authorities in areas such as healthcare and housing were limited. Simultaneously, reforms were implemented to create new opportunities for youth and encourage their social activity, particularly their involvement in local community affairs. In the evolution of municipal governance, the concept of dualism in the relationship between central and local authorities has become widespread. According to this concept, while local authorities may have autonomy in certain areas, central authority intervenes more broadly in matters of national importance, such as education or road construction. This expands opportunities for the moral and social development of young people, promotes their social engagement, and encourages their active involvement in democratic processes. The central authority's oversight over local governance, especially in fields like education and public utilities, is aimed at safeguarding its interests; youth participation in these areas plays a crucial role in ensuring societal stability and advancing the development of civil society.

Analysis and Results

The demands for democratizing municipal governance and directing local government bodies toward the interests of the population have facilitated and strengthened youth social activity. Reforms implemented in countries like the United Kingdom, France, and Germany in the 1980s reduced the influence of central bureaucracy and protected citizens' rights and freedoms. In this process, young people gained the opportunity to actively participate in local governance, reinforcing the protection of public interests through their social engagement. In the United States, urbanization influenced theories of local governance, enabling youth participation in processes related to social justice, democratic decision-making, and economic efficiency. The reforms implemented in the United Kingdom in 1974 reshaped local governance at various levels, creating new conditions for youth social activity. The European Charter of Local Self-Government, adopted in 1985, granted local government bodies the right to independent governance within the legal framework and aimed to enhance youth social

engagement. This charter solidified youth rights to be elected and participate in referendums, thus broadening their involvement in democratic processes within local governance through active social engagement.

Conclusion

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the importance of youth social activity in the formation and development of civil society. From the perspectives of ancient thinkers to modern Western and Eastern philosophers, the theoretical foundation for ensuring active youth participation in civil society has been established. In countries such as Europe, the United States, and Japan, programs and initiatives aimed at increasing youth social engagement are helping to strengthen democratic processes. In Uzbekistan, reforms are also being implemented to engage youth in social, political, and economic processes. The views of philosophers like Farabi and Socrates on morality and justice serve as a theoretical basis for youth social activity and the development of civil society.

In conclusion, promoting youth social activity is a crucial factor in ensuring societal stability and strengthening democratic values, as their active participation in social and political processes significantly contributes to the overall development of society. Furthermore, youth social activity serves to further reinforce civil society institutions.

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