



## **The Developing High Education In Uzbekistan (Based On Fergana Valley)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article devoted to the activities of higher educational establishments in the country, including the Fergana Valley, from the early years of independence to 2020. At the same time, the process of admission of students to higher education institutions and the reforms carried out in the field are studied on the basis of normative documents and scientific literature.

**Keywords:** sharp increase, in competition for admission, to higher education institutions, institutions operating, highly educated specialists, scientific personnel

### **INTRODUCTION**

The country's economic progress and ultimately its place among the developed countries depend on the potential of highly educated specialists. From the first years of independence, in order to further improve the higher education system of the republic, to improve the training of highly qualified specialists and scientific personnel, as well as to provide all regions of the republic with them even more fully and evenly, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 28, 1992 "On the establishment of new higher educational institutions of the Republic" Decree No. PF-356[1] was adopted. Based on this decree, changes were made in terms of structure and specializations in the higher education institutions operating in the regions of the Fergana Valley as well as in the republic. For example, Andijan State University on the basis of Andijan State Pedagogical Institute, Andijan Institute of Economics and Management on the basis of Andijan Department of Tashkent State University of Economics, Andijan Agricultural Institute on the basis of Andijan Cotton Institute, Namangan State University on the basis of Namangan State Pedagogical Institute, Namangan Department of Tashkent Textile and Light Industry Institute Namangan Institute of Engineering and Economics[2] and other institutes and universities were established on its basis. Newly established universities, on the one hand, became the center of cultural and educational development of the youth and residents of this region (province), on the other hand, the opportunities for applicants to choose their desired specializations and to enter studies expanded [3: p. 106].

In the first decade of independence, the parameters of admission to higher education institutions were gradually increased, although they were not high compared to the needs. But in the period from the later years of independence to 2017, the parameters of admission to higher education institutions remained almost unchanged. For example, in 1996, 27,900 applicants were admitted to higher education institutions of the republic, and by 2000, their number increased to 44,700[4:131-b]. Did That is, during these years, the enrollment of young people of the republic increased by 60.2%. However, if we focus on the following years, that is, in 2006, 61.2 thousand [5:131-b]. If the applicant was admitted to study, by 2016 only 58,022[6] applicants were admitted to study. During the above years, the number of students enrolled in higher education decreased by 3178 instead of increasing. Such a situation can be observed in the higher education institutions of the Fergana Valley, as in the republic.

### **LITERARY REVIEW**

The fact that the quotas for admission to higher education institutions of the republic have been left almost unchanged for years has limited the opportunity for young people to get higher education, and as a result of the continuous growth of the number of young people who want to get higher education, it has led to a higher selection compared to available places. As an example, if we analyze the situation in the last decade, the situation becomes clearer. This is detailed in the table below.

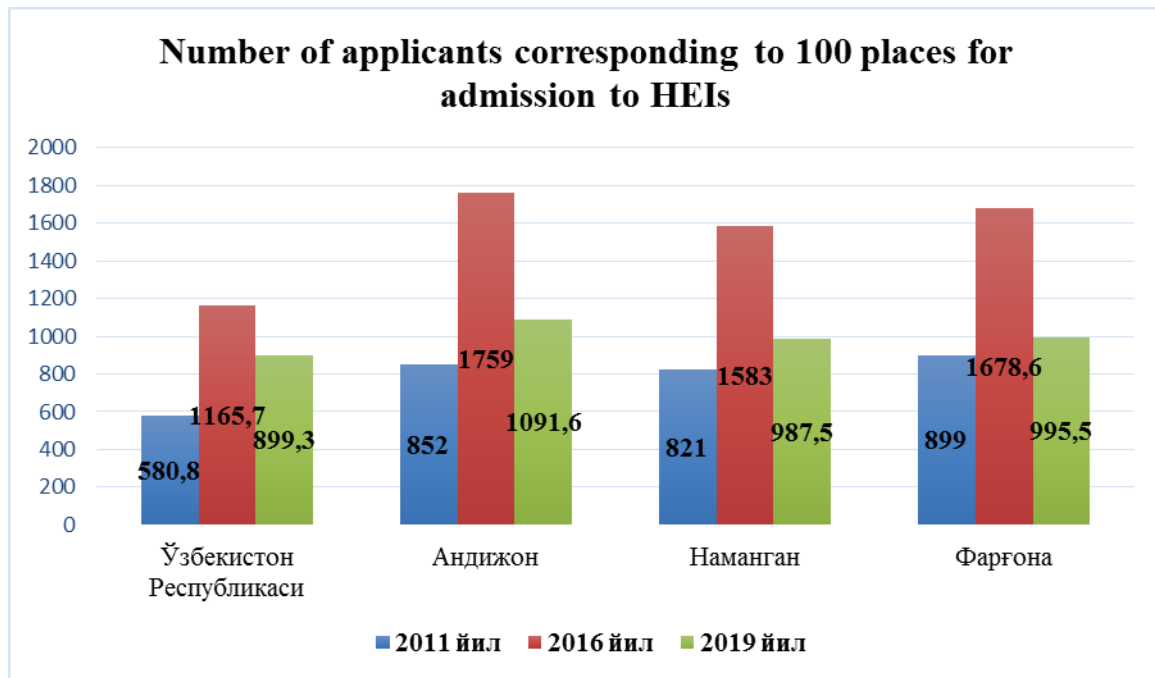


Fig.1

Source: Official website of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

<https://stat.uz/uz/rasmiy-statistika/social-protection-2> (22.12.2020)

If we pay attention to the table, in 2011 there were 580.8 applicants for 100 places in the republic, and by 2016, 1165.7 applicants for 100 places took part in exams for admission to higher education institutions. During these years, the demand for the offer in the republic increased by 100.7%. If we pay attention to the indicators of the regions of the Fergana Valley, in particular, in Andijan region, in 2011 there were 852 applicants for 100 places, and in 2016 their number was 1759. In accordance with the above years, the number of applicants increased from 821 to 1583 in Namangan region, from 899 to 1678.6 in Fergana region. At this point, it should be noted that according to the above data, the indicator of the Fergana Valley regions was much higher than the average indicator in the republic. For example, compared to the average indicator of the republic in 2011, Andijan region increased by 46.7%, Namangan region by 46%, and Fergana region by 54.7%. In 2016, the indicators of the Fergana Valley regions were higher than the national indicator. Such a high competition for admission to higher education institutions of the Fergana Valley regions was one of the reasons that in turn led to a decrease in the number of applicants. By 2019, the difference between the average indicator in the republic and the regions of the Fergana Valley was slightly reduced compared to previous years. This is certainly related to the reforms implemented in the field in recent years.

The main reason for the sharp increase in competition for admission to higher education institutions in the regions of the Fergana Valley, as in the Republic, was the lack of concrete measures to realize the aspirations of young people to obtain higher education. For example, in 2011, 58,204 of the 423,796 applicants who applied for admission to higher education institutions were accepted, while in 2016, only 58,022[8] were accepted out of 672,640[7] applicants. That is, during these years, the number of applicants who expressed their desire to study increased by 58.7%, while the number of admitted students decreased by 0.31%. The failure to increase admission quotas in line with the growing number of young people who expressed their desire to receive higher education led to an increase in the number of applicants for every 100 places in the entrance exams to higher education institutions. We can see a similar situation in the regions of the Fergana Valley. Even in Namangan and Fergana regions, we can witness a significant decrease in quotas for admission despite the increase in the number of applicants in accordance with the above years. This, in turn, limited young people's access to higher education.

One of the main reasons for restricting young people's desire to get higher education in the republic and the regions of the Fergana Valley was related to the establishment of new higher education institutions. If in the first years of independence, i.e. in 1991, there were 52 higher education institutions in Uzbekistan [9:182-b], by 2017 their number has reached 77[10]. That is, during these 26 years, the number of higher education institutions in the country increased to 25. However, this situation did not keep pace with the growth of the population and the aspirations of the youth for higher education. If we pay attention to the situation in the regions of the Fergana Valley, which is the object of our research, the number of higher education institutions did not increase compared to the above years. That is, in 1991, there were 9 higher education institutions in the valley regions,

and by 2017, their number was 10. That is, during these years, the number of higher education institutions in the Fergana Valley increased by only one. This situation caused the youth of the Fergana Valley regions to limit their opportunities for higher education compared to other regions of the republic.

From the information given above, we are far from the opinion that in the first 25 years of independence, the activities of higher education institutions were not developed in the regions of the Fergana Valley. That is, during these years, a number of reforms were implemented in higher education institutions in order to train personnel based on the requirements of the times. For example, according to the Resolution No. 192 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 30, 2010 "On improving the personnel training structure at Andijan State University" [11], the Andijan State Pedagogical Institute of Languages was terminated, and on its basis, the Faculty of Foreign Languages of Andijan State University was established. Based on the requirements of the market economy of the regions of the Fergana Valley, in order to meet the need for personnel who meet the requirements of the times in new specialties, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 25, 2011 No. 212 "On the transformation of the Namangan Institute of Engineering and Economics into the Namangan Institute of Engineering and Technology"[12: 8-b] and decisions No. 214[13:21-b] on "Converting the Andijan Institute of Engineering and Economics into the Andijan Institute of Mechanical Engineering" were adopted. These higher education institutions, which were newly established after changing their specialization, served to cover the need for personnel in modern fields of the Fergana Valley regions. However, it should be noted that during the first quarter of a century of independence, the newly established higher education institutions in the regions of the Fergana Valley did not serve to increase the indicators of inclusion of the youth of the valley with higher education. The main reason for this is that the newly established educational institutions in the valley regions were established on the basis of previously existing higher education institutions. In this respect, during the first 25 years of independence, the number of higher education institutions in the Fergana Valley remained almost unchanged.

As in the republic, the low rate of inclusion of young people in the regions of Fergana Valley to higher education, in turn, caused a decrease in the number of the population with higher education. For example, in 1991, the population of the republic was 20 million, and by 2016 it reached 30 million. Accordingly, the number of highly educated population should increase. But this did not happen, on the contrary, the number of people with higher education decreased throughout the republic, including in the valley regions [14:115-b]. If we pay attention to the numbers, in particular, in 1991, the number of graduates of higher education institutions was 26 per 10,000 inhabitants of the republic, 16 in Andijan, 11 in Namangan, 16 [15] in Fergana. If we pay attention to the following years of independence according to the above situation, we can witness that instead of increasing, the number of highly educated specialists among the population has decreased. In particular, by 2016, the number of graduates of higher education institutions per ten thousand inhabitants in the republic was 20, 14 in Andijan region, 10 in Namangan region, 13[16] in Fergana region. One of the main reasons for the decrease in the number of highly educated specialists among the population of the republic, as we noted above, that is, despite the increase in the number of young people who expressed their desire to receive higher education, was the lack of increase in the parameters of admission to higher education. At this point, it is necessary to pay attention to one more thing, in particular, in 1991 and in 2016, the indicators of the Fergana Valley regions were low compared to the average indicator in the republic.

By 2017, special attention was paid to the implementation of major reforms in the field of higher education, as well as in all spheres of public life. One of the main tasks that needs to be solved is to realize the aspirations of young people to get higher education, and by improving the indicators in this regard, it has become even more important to provide various sectors of the republic's economy with specialist personnel that meet the requirements of the time. By this time, bringing Uzbekistan to a new stage of development at the expense of comprehensively educated personnel[17] became one of the main goals.

As a result of specific measures taken by the government to ensure the implementation of decrees and decisions adopted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in this regard, the parameters of admission to higher education institutions are increasing in the republic and in the regions of the Fergana Valley. In particular, in 2016, 58,022 young people were admitted to the bachelor's degree of higher education institutions, and by 2020, their number has increased to 148,114[18]. 2020 admission parameters for higher education increased by 2.5 times compared to 2016[19]. As a result, the number of students studying in higher education institutions of the republic increased from 279,674 in 2016 to 590,077[20] in 2020. As in the republic, in the regions of the Fergana Valley, the parameters of admission to higher education institutions have been increased, and the number of students studying has increased.

## RESULTS

In the academic year of 2016, 77 higher education institutions were operating in the republic, and as of December 2020, the number of higher education institutions reached 132[21]. That is, during these years, the number of higher education institutions in Uzbekistan increased to 55. For comparison, the number of higher education institutions in the republic increased by 48% (25) during 1991-2016, while the number of higher

education institutions in Uzbekistan increased by 71.4% (55) during 2017-2020. The increase in the number of higher education institutions in the republic was not only due to local institutes, universities and their local branches, but also due to the opening of leading higher education institutions and their branches in the republic, as well as the opening of private higher education institutions.

In the last four years, as in the country, the number of higher education institutions in the Fergana Valley regions is increasing as a result of the establishment of a number of new higher education institutions based on the relevant decisions of the president and government[22]. This is detailed in the table below.

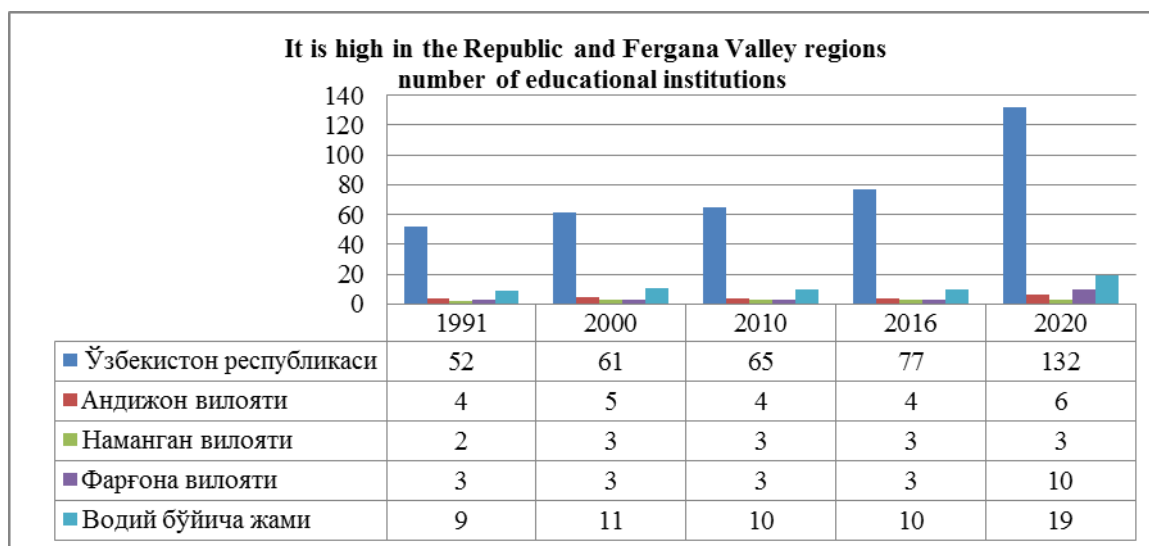


Fig.2

If we pay attention to the data presented in the above table, in 1991 there were 9 higher education institutions in the Fergana Valley, and by 2020 their number has increased to 19. It is noteworthy that 9 of the existing higher education institutions in the regions of the Fergana Valley today are higher education institutions established in the last 3 years. According to this indicator, the number of higher education institutions in the republic has increased by 71.4% in recent years, as we mentioned above, and in the Fergana Valley, this indicator has increased by 90%. This is a great opportunity created for the youth of the Fergana Valley regions to get higher education in recent years. As a result of this, the difference between the number of applicants per 100 places of admission to higher education institutions, which we mentioned above, was reduced compared to 2016 between the republic and the regions of the Fergana Valley [23].

## CONCLUSION

In addition to the increase in the number of higher education institutions in the regions of the Fergana Valley, the training of personnel in fields that did not exist before was allowed for the youth of the valley. In particular, in order to further improve the system of training of highly qualified specialists in the fields of theater, folk art, cultural studies and art studies for the Fergana Valley regions, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 16, 2017 "On the establishment of the Fergana regional branch of the Institute of Art and Culture of Uzbekistan" PQ-3218 Decision No. [24] was adopted. Based on this decision, the activity of the branch of the above-mentioned higher education institution was launched in the city of Kokan, Fergana region. The Fergana regional branch of the Institute of Arts and Culture of Uzbekistan started its activity with one course, that is, 24 students, by now it has ten different courses, and now about 300 students are studying. More than 70 professors and teachers, people's artists, honored artists, artists, composers, accompaniment musicians, concertmasters, scientific and labor workers [25] are working in the branch, and they are educating young people. The establishment of the activity of this educational institution serves to prevent the shortage of personnel in the fields of art and culture in the regions of the Fergana Valley. In conclusion, it should be noted that in the first 25 years of independence, despite the fact that a number of positive changes were made in the higher education institutions of the Fergana Valley regions, there were not many positive achievements in the field of training of highly educated personnel. For this reason, the number of highly educated personnel in the regions of Fergana Valley in relation to the general population is lower than the average indicator in the republic. Wide-ranging reforms started in 2017, increasing the parameters of admission of young people to higher education in the higher education system, increasing the opportunity to study up to five times, and also increasing the number of educational institutions by opening new higher education institutions in the regions of the Fergana Valley, as in the republic. expanded its capabilities.

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