



# EDUCATIONAL REFORMS: PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AT A NEW STAGE (UZBEKISTAN)

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**Abstract.** The article describes the organization of preschool education in New Uzbekistan on new foundations - state, non-state, public-private partnership, family forms. It is analyzed that the tendency of inclusion of children aged 3 to 7 years in preschool education increases every year. The article provides figures that the coverage of preschool education in 2016 was 27 percent, and by 2023 it will reach 74 percent. Education is an important branch of the social sphere in New Uzbekistan, which is confirmed by the facts.

**Key words:** organization of preschool education, state educational organization, non-state educational organization, public-private partnership, concept of development of preschool education.

**Introduction.** In a market economy, a person works as an active subject of economic and political life in order to develop democratic values and form a civil society. This, in turn, requires the creation of the necessary conditions so that the younger generation can study and receive education throughout their lives.

The results of scientific research confirm that almost 70% of all information and data that a person acquires during his or her life are assimilated by the age of 5. This factor determines the importance of preschool education, which is the initial link in the continuous education system.

**Main part.** After our country gained independence, in the period up to 2017, the number of state preschool education organizations decreased by 45%, as a result of which the preschool education index of children aged 3 to 7 years reached 27%. [1]. If we compare the situation with the advanced countries of the world, we see the following picture: the coverage of children aged 3 to 7 years by preschool educational institutions is 99% in Denmark, 97% in Japan, 95% in South Korea [2].

Looking at the period up to 2017, we see that the preschool education system was in a sad situation. Preschool educational institutions lacked specialists with specialized higher education. Not enough attention was paid to the training of highly qualified specialists for preschool educational institutions in higher educational institutions. By 2017, the situation in the industry had changed dramatically. The Presidential Decree "On measures to radically improve the management of the preschool education system" was adopted. According to the decree, the development of preschool education in completely new forms has become one of the main priorities of the state. Based on the experience of developed countries, much attention was paid to expanding the network of preschool education organizations through the creation of state, non-state, public-private partnerships and family kindergartens.

On the initiative and direct leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Program for Further Improvement of the Preschool Education System for 2017-2021 was implemented to expand the network of preschool education organizations, strengthen their material and



technical base and create new ones, as well as from 3 to 7 years old. The Concept for the Development of the Preschool Education System with the aim of covering 80% of children with preschool education by 2030 was developed. The concept deeply analyzes the preschool education system, in the future it is necessary to create the necessary conditions for the intellectual, moral, aesthetic and physical development of preschoolers, cover children from 3 to 7 years old with high-quality preschool education, in the field of public development of private partnerships, the introduction of advanced pedagogical and information and communication technologies in the preschool education system, as well as ensuring full coverage of six-year-old children with compulsory general primary education, the foundation has been laid for further expanding the participation of the private sector in the field, increasing its social responsibility, expanding sources of financing and increasing the types of preschool education services [3].

Today, as a result of the reforms carried out in the field of education in New Uzbekistan, the coverage of children aged 3 to 7 years by preschool educational organizations has increased almost 2.5 times compared to 2016, and the total coverage will reach 74 by 2023. percent, the number of children brought up in them has increased by 2 million.

In the "New Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", approved by Presidential Decree No. PF-160 dated January 28, 2022, much attention is paid to the further development of preschool education. In 2022-2023, increase the level of coverage of 6-year-old children by the preschool education system to 90%, by the end of the 2024/2025 academic year - to 100% by attracting private sector funds. into the preschool education system, the creation of more than 7 thousand new non-governmental preschool educational organizations, the introduction of an improved system for improving the professional training and qualifications of kindergarten workers. In 2022-2026, the task was set to improve the qualifications of more than 160 thousand teaching staff and improve preschool education processes based on scientifically based approaches [4].

In the consistent continuation of the reforms implemented in the preschool education system, the Decree of the President of September 27, 2023 "On additional measures to further support public-private partnerships in preschool education" Resolution No. 316. activities of non-governmental educational organizations and expansion of their network. In accordance with the decision, business entities will be paid only interest on the amount of the loan received by business entities during the grace period for preferential loans allocated for the creation of non-governmental preschool organizations on the basis of public-private partnership in 2018-2022. The principal amount is paid during the grace period, and the debt is repaid equally over the remaining term of the loan.

In accordance with the procedure defined in the decision, preferential loans allocated for the creation of a non-governmental preschool educational organization on the basis of public-private partnership are implemented in layers in the regions, in particular, in the city of Tashkent, for a period of 10 years, of which 2 years are a preferential period, at an annual rate of 12 percent, the city of Nukus, district centers and cities subordinate to the region for a period of 10 years, of which 2 years are preferential, at an annual rate of 8 percent, in the districts for a period of 10 years, of which a preferential period of 2 years is provided at an annual rate of 5 percent [5].

As a result of the reforms implemented in the field of education in our country, the strength of preschool education, which is the main link in education, is increasing every year. Based on



this, in 2024 it is planned to increase the number of places in state kindergartens to 10,000 places and to 50,000 places in private kindergartens [6].

The scale of reforms in the field of preschool education is becoming increasingly significant, as can be seen in the two tables below.

Table-1\*

1. Number of children aged 3-7 years enrolled in preschool education organizations in 2017-2023 (in percentage by year)		2. The number of children aged 3-7 years enrolled in preschool education organizations in 2017-2023 (number of children by year)	
in 2017	27,7 %	in 2017 году	708 thousand
in 2018	37,7 %	in 2018 году	932 thousand
in 2019	52,3 %	in 2019 году	1 million 413 thousand
in 2020	60,9 %	in 2020 году	1 million 670 thousand
in 2021	67,2 %	in 2021 году	1 million 895 thousand
in 2022-2023	71,8 %	in 2022-2023	2 million 103 thousand

Table-2\*

3. Increasing the number of pre-school educational institutions during 2017-2023.		4. Number of preschool educational organizations by type of ownership in 2023.	
in 2017	5 211 children	in 2023	6598 state
in 2018	7 104 children		833 private
in 2019	13 530 children		20676 family
in 2020	18 254 children		1313 public-private partnership
in 2021	27 609 children		
in 2022-2023	29 420 children		

\* The tables were compiled by the author based on Internet materials.

**Conclusions.** The reforms implemented in the field of preschool education, which is the main link in the education system, are bearing fruit. Over the past five years, 1 million 200 thousand jobs have been created due to the construction of 422 state kindergartens, the construction and operation of more than 21 thousand non-state preschool educational organizations. By the end of 2023, the coverage of preschoolers by preschool education organizations was 74 percent. Today, 152,897 managers and teachers work in preschool educational organizations, of which



52,085 have higher education (34.1%), the number of preschool educational organizations will increase from 5,211 in 2017 to 29,420 by 2023.

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