



STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE (1991–2016)

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Annotation

This article analyzes the stages of formation and development of the public administration system in the Republic of Uzbekistan during the years of independence, in particular, in the period 1991–2016, based on a scientific-theoretical and historical approach. The study covers the issues of institutional reforms implemented in the field of public administration, the creation of legal frameworks, the improvement of the executive system, and the division of powers between central and local government bodies. The results of the article show that the public administration model of Uzbekistan has evolved and has gradually improved in accordance with national interests.

Keywords: public administration, independence, political reforms, executive power, institutions.

Introduction

The public administration system is one of the main mechanisms ensuring the political, social and economic stability of any independent state. After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, it became necessary to abandon the former centralized administrative-command system and form a new management model based on national statehood.

In the early years of independence, the establishment of the public administration system was carried out in complex political, economic and social conditions. Therefore, the process of developing the public administration system in Uzbekistan took on an evolutionary character and was formed in several historical stages. The purpose of this article is to identify the main stages of the development of the public administration system in the period from 1991 to 2016 and to scientifically analyze their content and essence.

Research methodology

The research process used the methods of historicism and systematic approach, comparative-analytical method, analysis of regulatory and legal documents and scientific generalization. Also, the scientific works of national and foreign researchers in the field of public administration were analyzed.

1. The stage of formation of the public administration system (1991–2000)

The stage of formation of the state administration system in the Republic of Uzbekistan covers the first decade of independence, and this period is characterized by fundamental political, legal and institutional changes. The centralized administrative-command



management system that existed during the former Soviet Union did not meet the needs of an independent state. Therefore, since 1991, the establishment of a new state administration system based on the principles of national statehood in Uzbekistan has been identified as a priority task.

1.1. Legal foundations of state sovereignty and the system of administration

The declaration of state independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on August 31, 1991 created a legal and political basis for a fundamental reorganization of the state administration system. In the early years, regulatory and legal documents adopted in the field of state administration were aimed at strengthening state sovereignty, ensuring political stability and forming new institutions. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted in 1992, served as the main legal foundation of the state administration system. It strengthened the principle of separation of powers, established the constitutional status of the legislative branch - the Oliy Majlis, the executive branch - the President and the Cabinet of Ministers, and the judiciary. These legal foundations served to form the system of state administration based on democratic principles.

1.2. Formation of the Presidential Institute and Executive Power

At the initial stage of independence, the Presidential Institute was formed as a central link in the system of state administration. The President, as the head of state and head of the executive branch, acquired significant powers in determining the country's domestic and foreign policy. This situation served to ensure a centralized and coordinated system in state administration during the transition period, when there was a risk of political instability.

As the highest body of executive power, the Cabinet of Ministers was established, which included ministries, state committees, and central agencies. Through this structure, mechanisms were formed for implementing economic reforms, managing the social sphere, and implementing state policy on the ground. At the same time, the clear definition of the powers of the executive branch and the strengthening of central government served to increase the efficiency of state administration.

1.3. Development of legislative and representative bodies

At the stage of formation of the state administration system, the institution of legislative power also acquired significant importance. The establishment of the Oliy Majlis and the definition of its powers served to introduce mechanisms of representation and balance in the political system. Initially, a unicameral parliament functioned, which was mainly engaged in creating the legal foundations of independence and adopting the necessary laws in the field of state administration.

During this period, the electoral system was formed and measures were taken to legally strengthen the activities of the legislative branch. These processes determined the place of the parliament in the political system and created the basis for expanding its powers at subsequent stages.

1.4. Organization of the local government system

In 1991–2000, local government bodies were formed as an important component of the state government system. The institution of khokims was introduced at the regional, district and city levels, which served as a connecting link between the central executive power and the regions. As heads of executive power, khokims acquired the authority to implement state policy in the regions, ensure socio-economic development and monitor the implementation of laws.



The establishment of Local Councils served to introduce elements of representation in territorial governance. At the same time, centralization prevailed in local governance at this stage, which was an important factor in terms of ensuring the integrity and stability of the state.

1.5. Features of the transition period in public administration

The stage of formation of the public administration system was accompanied by the complexities inherent in the transition period. The economic crisis, social problems and the need to stabilize the political system required careful reforms in public administration. Therefore, the public administration system in Uzbekistan chose the path of evolutionary development rather than sharp liberalization.

The public administration model formed at this stage served as a solid institutional and legal foundation for the reforms implemented in subsequent years.

2. The stage of improving and institutional strengthening of public administration (2001–2010)

The years 2001–2010 are characterized by bringing the public administration system in Uzbekistan to a qualitatively new level. During this period, the priority tasks were to stabilize the institutions of administration formed in the early years of independence, strengthen their legal and organizational foundations, and increase the efficiency of public administration. Along with ensuring stability in public policy, special attention was paid to the gradual modernization of the management system.

2.1. Optimization of the executive system

At this stage, improving the executive system has become a central direction of public administration reforms. The functional structure of the management system is being improved by reviewing the functions of ministries and state committees, clarifying their powers, and reducing repetitive tasks. Efforts were made to increase the efficiency of the state administration. This process served to strengthen discipline and responsibility in the activities of state bodies. Also, elements of strategic planning and forecasting were introduced into state administration. Improvement of mechanisms for coordinating the activities of executive bodies ensured consistency in the implementation of state policy.

2.2. Strengthening the role of parliament and balance between powers

In 2001–2010, reforms were implemented aimed at increasing the role of the legislative branch in state administration. In 2002, the adoption of a decision on transforming the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan into a bicameral parliament was an important institutional change in the state administration system. A bicameral parliament served to take into account territorial interests and improve the quality of lawmaking.

The gradual development of the institution of parliamentary oversight created the basis for ensuring the transparency of the activities of the executive branch. These processes strengthened the practical mechanisms of the principle of separation of powers.

2.3. Personnel policy and professionalism in public administration

In the process of improving the public administration system, special attention was paid to the issue of personnel. Improving the skills of civil servants, developing a system of training and retraining of management personnel was considered an important factor in increasing management efficiency.

During this period, measures were taken to form professional competencies in the field of public administration, strengthen service discipline, and improve management culture. This served to ensure the institutional stability of public administration.



3. Stage of democratization and modernization of public administration (2011–2016)

2011–2016 are characterized by reforms aimed at democratizing the public administration system in Uzbekistan, ensuring openness and transparency. At this stage, improving the relationship between the state and society, increasing the role of civil society institutions, and modernizing management processes were identified as the main directions.

3.1. Deepening the separation of powers and parliamentary oversight

At this stage, the role of the legislative branch in state governance was further strengthened. The powers of the parliament to control the executive branch were expanded, and the practice of hearing government reports was introduced. This process served to increase accountability and responsibility in state governance. In addition, the participation of political parties in state governance was activated, elements of political competition through their parliamentary factions have increased. This has served to ensure balance and openness in the governance system.

3.2. Openness and public dialogue in public administration

In 2011–2016, the introduction of the principles of openness and transparency in public administration was one of the important tasks. Strengthening the dialogue of public authorities with the population, improving the mechanisms for considering citizens' appeals served to increase the quality of governance.

The introduction of information and communication technologies has become an important factor in the modernization of public administration. The emergence of e-government elements has simplified the process of providing public services and increased their efficiency.

3.3. Local government and civil society institutions

At this stage, special attention was paid to the development of cooperation between local government authorities and civil society institutions. The activity of non-governmental non-profit organizations, public associations and the media in public life has increased. Some elements of public control in local administration have been formed, and citizens' participation in governance processes has begun to expand. These processes were an important step towards the democratization of public administration.

Discussion

The results of this study show that the public administration system in the Republic of Uzbekistan developed consistently, gradually and in an evolutionary way during 1991–2016. This process is fundamentally different from the models of abrupt and rapid transformation observed in some countries of the post-Soviet space. Maintaining stability, ensuring socio-political balance, and prioritizing national interests were the main strategic approaches in the reform of the public administration system in Uzbekistan.

At the first stage (1991–2000), the formation of the public administration system was accompanied by problems inherent in the transition period. The choice of a model of strong centralized executive power made it possible to ensure state integrity and coordinate economic reforms in conditions of political instability. Although this situation was assessed by some foreign researchers as a limitation of democratic institutions, from the point of view of national conditions, this approach served as an important factor ensuring the stability of the state during the transition period. In the second stage (2001–2010), the state administration system was institutionally strengthened. The transition of the parliament to a bicameral system, measures aimed at optimizing the activities of the executive branch, and the professional training of management personnel contributed to the functional improvement of the management system.



increased efficiency. These processes developed practical mechanisms of the principle of separation of powers and strengthened the elements of balance in public administration. At the same time, the preservation of centralization served to ensure the consistency of the management system.

In the third stage (2011–2016), the processes of democratization and modernization of the public administration system were activated. Strengthening parliamentary control, increasing the role of political parties, and the development of mechanisms for dialogue with the public brought relations between the state and society to a new level. In particular, the introduction of information and communication technologies into public administration was an important factor in increasing the efficiency of management and ensuring openness.

The results of the study show that the Uzbek model involves a gradual transition from the concept of a “strong state” to a “strong civil society” in the field of public administration. This process, unlike the rapid liberalization model widespread in Western countries, was carried out taking into account the factors of national mentality, historical experience, and social stability. In this regard, the experience of Uzbekistan is of scientific interest as an alternative development model for countries with a transit economy.

At the same time, some limitations are also identified within the framework of the study. In particular, the lack of statistical data and empirical research creates certain methodological limitations in assessing the real effectiveness of public administration reforms in 1991–2016. In the future, it remains an urgent task to analyze reforms in the public administration system based on quantitative indicators, as well as compare them with regional and international experiences.

In general, this study shows that the development of the public administration system in Uzbekistan is based on a combination of political stability and evolutionary reforms. This serves as an important scientific and theoretical basis for understanding the large-scale administrative reforms that began in the period after 2016.

Conclusion

This study has shown that the process of formation and development of the public administration system in the Republic of Uzbekistan during the years of independence, in particular, between 1991 and 2016, was complex, multi-stage and evolutionary. According to the results of the study, public administration reforms were carried out not through abrupt and rapid changes, but taking into account national conditions, historical experience and social stability factors.

At the first stage (1991–2000), the legal and institutional foundation of an independent public administration system was created. The adoption of the Constitution, the formation of the Presidential institution and the executive branch, as well as The introduction of local government bodies played a decisive role in strengthening state sovereignty. The centralized management model chosen at this stage served to ensure the stability of the state in the conditions of political and economic problems inherent in the transition period.

At the second stage (2001–2010), the state administration system was institutionally improved. The transition of the parliament to a bicameral system, measures aimed at optimizing the activities of executive bodies and increasing the professional capacity of management personnel increased the efficiency of the management system. During this period, the principle of separation of powers was enriched with practical mechanisms, ensuring balance and consistency in state administration.



At the third stage (2011–2016), the processes of democratization and modernization of the state administration system were activated. Strengthening parliamentary control, expanding the participation of civil society institutions in state administration, as well as the introduction of information and communication technologies brought the relationship between the state and society to a new qualitative level. These processes served to strengthen the principles of openness, transparency and accountability in the management system.

The results of the study show that the Uzbek model of public administration reflects an evolutionary development path from the concept of a “strong state” to a “strong civil society”. This model is of scientific importance as an alternative and relatively sustainable development path for countries undergoing a transition period. In conclusion, the public administration reforms implemented in 1991–2016 created a solid institutional and legal foundation for the large-scale political and administrative modernization processes that began in the Republic of Uzbekistan in the subsequent period. It is advisable for future scientific research to be aimed at assessing the long-term effectiveness of public administration reforms based on empirical data, as well as at a comparative analysis of the experience of Uzbekistan with the models of other transition countries.

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