

IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE MAHALLA INSTITUTION— AS ONE OF THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

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This article analyzes the role of the Mahalla institution in the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy, its socio-economic and spiritual significance, and innovative approaches aimed at improving its effectiveness. It also highlights the importance of the Mahalla system in strengthening civil society, ensuring social stability, and upholding human dignity.

Introduction

The Mahalla institution is one of the most ancient and stable forms of social governance in Uzbek society. For centuries, it has served as a system of self-governance, mutual assistance, and solidarity among the population. Today, the principle of “For the sake of human dignity” lies at the heart of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy, where improving and organizing the activities of the Mahalla system efficiently is considered one of the key directions of state policy [1].

The Mahalla serves as the nearest social support structure for citizens, playing a vital role in improving living standards, solving social issues, and preserving national values.

Currently, each Mahalla has evolved into a comprehensive system that organizes social protection, employment, healthcare, and educational activities within its territory [2].

The Mahalla system also acts as a main pillar of civil society, serving as a bridge of trust between the state and the people. As President ShavkatMirziyoyevemphasized, “The Mahalla is the heart of the people and the foundation of society” [3].

The Development Strategy for 2022–2026 defines several priority areas to strengthen the role of the Mahalla institution [4]:

Implementation of the “Digital Mahalla” system to promptly review citizens’ appeals;

Retraining and capacity building of Mahalla chairpersons and specialists, introducing modern management skills;

Integration of social services through Mahalla, particularly in healthcare, employment, education, and legal assistance;

Financial strengthening of Mahalla activities by providing grants and subsidies for social projects.

These measures increase the independence of the Mahalla institution, expand citizens’ participation in governance, and help implement the “bottom-up” management approach [5].

In the era of New Uzbekistan, the Mahalla is recognized not only as a civic organ but also as a social institution ensuring human dignity and social justice.

Through the Mahalla system, targeted assistance is provided to families in need, employment of youth and women is supported, social services are organized for people with disabilities, the elderly, and low-income groups [6].

Furthermore, promoting a healthy lifestyle and improving the medical literacy of the population have become integral parts of Mahalla activities. This contributes to the creation of a socially healthy environment within the community [7].

The Mahalla institution, as one of the main principles of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy, represents an essential social structure that ensures human dignity, social harmony, and cohesion. By digitizing Mahalla activities, introducing innovative management mechanisms, and enhancing the qualifications of Mahalla leaders, it is possible to significantly improve the system’s efficiency.

Consequently, the Mahalla remains a unifying force in society — a reliable bridge between the people and the state.

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