

# Youth Social Deviation in the Process of Reforms in Uzbekistan

Bahromjon Tozhibayev <sup>1</sup>, Saidulla Isokov <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Namangan Engineering and Technological Institute, Namangan, Uzbekistan

\*Email: [saydulla.isoqov@mail.ru](mailto:saydulla.isoqov@mail.ru)

## ABSTRACT

The article presents a sociological analysis of the impact of reforms in modern Uzbekistan on the deviant behaviour of young people. Even though economic reforms always have a material reflection, it makes sense to describe the transformation processes of people's behaviour under the influence of reforms. Just as individualism is approved in the West, the collective value of society is recognised in the East; established traditions play a fundamental role in shaping the behaviour of citizens. But the death of I.A. Karimov in 2016, who ruled the country for many years, and the moderately liberal reforms of his successor, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, began to expand freedom of thought and thinking in the minds of young people. As a result, the system of education that forcibly formed subordination to discipline became moderate and manifested itself in the form of uncontrolled jokes, which can be described as a prelude to deviation among young people. The transition of mechanisms of influence on young people in the transformation process from a challenging course to a softer one has expanded the audience of the deviant layer. In the case of Uzbekistan, globalisation is not the main factor of immorality, but it is the cause of marginalisation and social exclusion.

**Keywords:** Reforms, Social deviations, Behavioural changes, Deviant behaviour, Youth.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As Uzbekistan's development moves towards a free-market economy, economic reforms have begun in the country and the processes of socio-cultural transformation. The adaptation of people to the new era's socio-economic requirements and social norms has become a requirement of the time. During the transition period, severe changes in the development of personality and mentality are observed, and certain socio-economic crises arise. American sociologist Merton, the successor of the work of the French sociologist E. Durkheim, tried to explain such a period using the concept of "Anomie" - "strong socio-economic, political and other crises in society, where the old social norms regulating human relations will no longer meet the new requirements of the time" [1, p. 299]. Reforms against socio-economic crises in the transformation process have not always produced effective results. In the reforms aimed at achieving the ultimate goal of socio-economic results, human thinking and spiritual values were given secondary importance because, in the modern world, the principle of a new

social ideology arising as a result of economic growth should be reflected in a spiritual image. The higher the socio-economic status of an influential group, the more likely its values and interests will be reflected in the law [2, p. 149]. As the transformation of society moves from traditional to pluralistic thinking, the diversity of subcultures emerging among the youth of Uzbekistan is beginning to be seen as a threat to the older generation.

In many ways, the struggle with deviation turned into a struggle with a variety of emotions, ways of thinking and behaviour, and as a rule, did not bring results, i.e. the deviation became more pronounced. Since the accusation in the external environment has formed a negative assessment of state institutions, there is a practice of self-accusation in Uzbekistan as a reason for deviations in youth policy. Such procedures are primarily regarded as a process typical of post-Soviet states, which is strictly controlled [3]. A change in the socio-economic situation as a result of transformation inevitably leads to changes in the cultural image of young people through a change in the way of thinking in society, which is one of the laws of development. According to Erich Fromm, the success

of society in the fight against deviant situations can be ensured only through the development of human qualities, such as humanity, intelligence, consciousness, etc. [4, pp. 26-27]. According to B. Skinner, one of the founders of behaviourism, human behaviour is formed mainly under the influence of the external environment [5, pp. 4-5]. Since time immemorial, the influence of the external environment has been significant in Central Asia, especially in Uzbekistan. Yusuf Khas Hadjib, one of the first thinkers who wrote in the Turkic language, wrote in *Qutadg'u Bilig* that good and bad behaviour could be of two types: innate and social [6, p. 185]. This is the first work on domestic deviantology. Proceeding from the above, inductive perceptions as a criterion for ensuring the transparency of a person (person) are unilateral processes or processes of members of society as elements of the social environment. The fact that transparency of social relations in society has a severe impact on human behaviour does not play a significant role in psychology, and this process is essential for sociology [7, p. 425]. In today's globalising society, such processes give sociology a significant advantage.

The relevance of the study of social and intellectual changes of youth in the process of reforms in Uzbekistan is reflected in the following:

- the need for effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating a new balance between the aspirations of a young person and the correct assessment of their abilities in adolescence as a result of accelerating socio-psychological and intellectual changes in young people;
- the possibility of socio-psychological conflict among young people as a result of the acceleration of reforms in recent years, creating a basis for increasing the intelligence and activity of young people;
- the fact that in recent years young people have a wide range of creative thinking, independence, self-awareness and self-expression, they will have the opportunity to choose a lifestyle based on conformal or informal behaviour.

## **2. THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF CHANGES IN THE BEHAVIOUR OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF REFORMS**

For some of the processes taking place during the period of reforms in Uzbekistan, it is advisable to explain the factual basis of sociological approaches to the problem of deviation in the behaviour of young people. After I.A. Karimov's death in 2016, who ruled Uzbekistan for many years, and the moderately liberal reforms of his successor Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, the problems accumulated in the country began to be openly expressed and criticised; in particular, issues in the education system were noted. The results of the analysis of the development of general secondary, secondary specialised

and vocational education have shown that they do not meet today's requirements and need radical reform. It was noted that the organisation of the educational process in colleges, focused on a superficial approach to students' intellectual, spiritual and educational process, will lead to an increase in the number of offences and crimes committed by students. On the one hand, as a result of the reforms of recent years, the growth in the number of young people looking to the future with hope, wishing to have new opportunities in the future, contributed to the strengthening of youth mobility and had a positive impact on society as a whole. According to Travis Hirsch, in a society with systemic creative activity, people have no place for deviant behaviour [8, pp. 438-439].

On the other hand, the freedom that emerged as a result of these reforms expanded and liberalised the sphere of individual movement of young people and contributed to the emergence of new subcultural phenomena. Young people who were previously under the strict control of state institutions quickly turned into leaders, which led to an increase in deviations among some young people. Changes in society are the basis of personality changes. Consequently, changes in the socio-psychological image of young people result from social changes in society. When covering the topic, we tried to pay more attention to the content of the problem rather than the formal aspects.

It is advisable to classify the factors that lead to deviations in young people due to social changes. The classification of these factors primarily requires the interpretation of the deviation. According to Parsons, the analysis of processes in the social system itself is a struggle with this deviation [2, p. 145]. In the explanatory dictionary of sociology, deviation is defined as behaviour that differs from accepted in society and is considered "normative" in a specific social context [9, p. 161]. The sociological approach to this issue does not focus on the fact that the deviation depends on the heredity and character of a person; it is mainly related to the social environment in which a person is located. In our opinion, the deviation can be characterised as an action, activity or lifestyle that does not correspond to the system of norms accepted by the majority in a social group or society.

Based on their specific similarity, behavioural changes in young people can be classified into social, mental, intellectual and biological changes. The study considered not only biological changes, since this is a natural process that occurs almost identically in people at all times and in all societies, and also has common features at the heart of these changes, regardless of whether a person is educated or not, but also tried to consider serious social, intellectual aspects of youth at the stages of its cognitive development.

There are several theories about the cognitive development of social changes, the behaviour of young

people in adolescence, the characteristics of each age group. These include biogenetic, sociogenetic and psychogenetic theories. These theories evaluate the development of a person depending on his position. Together, these views can shed more light on the essence of the problem as a whole. Russian teacher K. Ushinsky stressed that if pedagogy wants to educate a person comprehensively, it must know him in all respects [10, p. 232]. It should be noted that when determining the social deviations of students, one of the critical factors is to take into account not only pedagogical but also national socio-economic factors arising in the process of transformation of society.

The institution of the family, which plays a vital role in transforming society, is the basis of social and national factors in the actions of young people. In Uzbek society, the family is crucial in determining plans. Easterners spend more time in the family circle than Westerners. Due to the underdevelopment of socio-political institutions in Uzbekistan, the dependence of a person's life on the family is increasing. This encourages us to consider family as a key factor in young people situations. According to the analysis of the Centre for Scientific and Practical Research of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 58.7% of cases of juvenile delinquency in educational institutions are caused by parental neglect. At the same time, the peer group provides youth with more freedoms than the family and the education system, while it functions as a social group and not as a social institution.

Freedom in a peer group often manifests itself in the form of jokes, while unbridled jokes are no different from deviations. During the day, students are under the moral influence of their parents, and during their studies, they are exposed to a group of peers. However, in the peer group, the hegemony of aggressive youth persists, albeit at a passive level, limiting young people's opportunities to express their views. According to Edwin Sutherland of the Chicago School of American Sociology, criminal behaviour is often committed by a group of peers [11, p. 187]. While the family is seen as the main social group in society, the peer group is seen as the main group in educational institutions. Reducing adult supervision in educational institutions also increases the dependence of young people on peer groups. In this situation, the assimilation of certain aspects of deviation is reflected in behaviour, in the sense of "reflection or reflection of the image of power." Studies show that representatives of conformal behaviour around potential deviants and the absence of criminal friends reduces risk factors. When

assessing risk factors, peers' behaviour is crucial [12]. A group of peers in an educational institution or certain small social groups (for example, a group of compatriots, classmates), as a rule, are more unprotected, more aggressive than others of a similar group, and members of this group usually do not object to this. These social groups also have similar habits and internal and external control methods. The reason for the proximity of habits is the presence of a single social institution, that is, the norms and procedures inherent in this institution of education. In some cases, small social groups have sharply differentiated dangerous habits because they have a destructive effect. The situation mentioned above is destructive for society and its future, as it seriously undermines the effectiveness of education. To improve work efficiency in this area, it is important that the relevant parties, especially the public, demonstrate a unified approach to this issue. At the same time, existing social norms and procedures directly impact the formation of public opinion.

In transforming society, it is natural that the exchange between generations creates new procedures and norms. In this process, the observance of modern rights and obligations, norms and procedures requires the responsibility of a new generation. After all, each generation has its rights and responsibilities, and as they grow older, the requirements change and become more complicated. It is well known that special rituals usually mark the transition of people from one age group to another. For example, friendships between peers of the same age usually persist throughout life. We can also interpret a peer group as a collection of people with different tasks, roles, responsibilities and different characters. In social groups, deviant behaviour is characterised by quick and easy organisation, arbitrariness, a tendency to strive for a certain cult due to a tendency to conflict.

### **3. STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF REFORMS IN UZBEKISTAN ON THE DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

The practical basis of our scientific research is sociological surveys in different regions of Uzbekistan<sup>1</sup>. The upper age limit of our respondents was 25 years, and the lower age limit was 13-15 years. 25% of respondents were aged 17, 18 years old - 20%, 19 years old - 16% and 16 years old - 13%. In the study, much attention is paid to the influence of stratification factors on youth as one of the facts leading to deviations from social changes in youth. The socialisation of young people in various situations is carried out based on belonging to different

questionnaires were distributed to respondents, of which 2,032 questionnaires were recognised as valid. The survey was conducted randomly in different regions of the country.

<sup>1</sup> A sociological survey on the topic "Youth deviations - a threat to the future" was conducted in the city of Tashkent, Namangan, Khorezm and Kashkadarya regions in the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to the study, the respondents were 56% of young men and 44% of young girls. During the study, 2,100

**Table 1.** Youth attitudes towards alcohol-addicted people

Examples of relationships	
There are no differences from others; I feel comfortable with them	13%
I feel that they need help and support	9%
They are the cause of this condition; they need to be treated in special institutions	23%
I am against such people because they could become criminals and spread various diseases	15%
They harm society	17%
I have nothing in common with such people	21%

strata of society, characterised by such characteristics as age, gender, beliefs, interests, political and cultural views. In a sociological survey conducted in educational institutions of Uzbekistan, 35% of respondents admitted that there is a stratification of society in educational institutions. Studies have shown that the higher the level of education of students in France, the higher the chances of success [13]. Later, due to the expansion of opportunities for demonstrating human abilities, it was noted that education does not reject this point of view but acts as a "selector" and succeeds depending on students' skills [14, p. 233]. Research in this area, firstly, shows that more results can be expected due to the expansion of educational opportunities for young people; secondly, it allows us to predict the social structure of society in the future, and thirdly, it facilitates the study of the problem, at least partly due to changes in the social structure.

According to our observations, the signs of deviant behaviour of the youth of Uzbekistan are formed against the background of intellectual and socio-psychological changes, such as: aggression, depression, looking at others as potential enemies, non-recognition of their mistakes, knowledge of the wrong path, offensive rhetoric of words, striving for self-esteem, etc. In turn, young people have several deviations from critical thinking. They manifest themselves precisely in the process of reflecting reality, as behaviour, knowledge and self-esteem in intellectual activity. In some cases, the nature or regularity of things and events is often

overestimated and sometimes underestimated. There is no balance between the aspirations of a young man and the correct assessment of his abilities, which leads to negative emotional experiences and internal conflicts, which in turn contribute to the formation of negative traits in his character.

Early sexual activity among young people in Uzbekistan also increases the likelihood of deviation from the norm. Early sexual activity is observed in girls with deviant behaviour in most cases. According to the survey, 43.3% of such girls started sexual activity at the age of 16-17 years, and 41.7% - at the age of 14-15 years [15, p. 29]. Currently, social networks are playing an innovative role in shaping their ideas about sexual life. According to our special survey, 80.2% of respondents know that today young people have information on their mobile phones that reflects obscene situations. Unfortunately, the ideas formed based on such data are an essential factor in weakening the will and imagination of young people. According to the study, starting from the 6th grade, teenagers with a "difficult" upbringing lose interest and motivation [16, p. 267]. A soft attitude or indifference to immorality, which is one of the manifestations of deviance, is one of the aspects that has been developing in our country in recent years. This situation leads to strong erosion of the processes that embody conformity, such as morality, modesty, humility, discipline, which form the basis of our national values. In some cases, immorality is considered one of the diseases

**Table 2.** Youth attitudes towards people use drugs

Examples of relationships	
There are no differences from others; I feel comfortable with them	2%
I feel that they need help and support	11%
They are the cause of this condition; they need to be treated in special institutions	24%
I am against such people because they could become criminals and spread various diseases	19%
They harm society, interfere with your activities	21%
I have nothing in common with such people	21%

of globalisation. Unfortunately, globalisation is not the main factor leading to immorality. As proof, we have identified the following facts: firstly, in all traditional societies that have undergone globalisation, there is no indifference to immorality; secondly, the marginalisation or alienation of the population occurs due to economic difficulties; and, thirdly, the idea of the "face of the nation" as a value has decreased as a result of the desire of some young people for a "Western paradise life" and its transformation into a social ideal.

Our study also examined the attitude of young people to traditional values and institutional mechanisms. While 34% of the students surveyed were satisfied with the existing value system and institutional mechanisms, 11% of respondents answered unsatisfactorily. The existing values are satisfactory, but the share of dissatisfaction with the system of institutional means is 29%, while the values are unsatisfactory, but the respondents who satisfactorily assess the system of institutional mechanisms are 26%. We can also determine the future dynamics of societal processes by changing the percentage of our students belonging to groups over time. Depending on the deviantology study results, it is also essential to determine which representatives of social groups are constructive or destructive for our society. 11% of students who are dissatisfied with both existing values in society and institutional mechanisms are more prone to deviant behaviour, in which they can use illegal methods to create a favourable situation for themselves when such an opportunity arises. Sociologist M. Bekmurodov notes that "where traditions and customs have a strong influence, the level of disorder and crime is low" [17, p. 18]. According to our observations, the uncertainty of social norms inherent in a renewed society and the instability of collective control contribute to the emergence of deviant behaviour among young people.

When studying the attitude to compliance with internal regulations in educational institutions, 47% of respondents stated that students comply with internal regulations, 53% of young people in educational institutions report non-compliance with internal rules to some extent.

According to respondents, 31% of young people do not attend classes because they work. Currently, 37% of young people (56% of respondents are young people) drink alcohol to a varying degree.

The same questions were asked in the tables above to determine the relationship between the two different processes, and different answers were received. 13% of young people surveyed said they were more comfortable with alcoholics, while the answer to the question about drug addicts was 2%. Naturally, drug addicts are much less common than alcoholics since they lead a more secretive lifestyle, as they can be punished for using or distributing drugs (Tables 1-2).

A characteristic feature of youth is the acceleration of puberty, and the feeling of love makes this a critical moment in life. To the question "What vital values are your priorities in our research?" - 10% of young people answer that this is love, which means that love is not a slogan for the current generation. Our observations also confirm this idea. At the same time, fears are growing that morality and decency will remain classical values. New subcultural and ultracultural manifestations, including morality, gifted by the globalising world, serve as an example of deviation from the norm for our students. 58% of respondents noted the presence of behaviour in educational institutions reflecting immorality. This situation depends on the assessments, even if there are elements of obscenity that do not like to adhere to our values or prefer freedom. When asked why girls with indecent behaviour get used to social life, 55% of respondents answered that it is a family environment upbringing. The family's status and the environment provide a potential future for children. Conflict relations in the family are the cause of immorality and other forms of deviance (Table 3).

Based on our theoretical and practical research results, it is possible to make social forecasts, even if the prospects are not ideal. Social prediction of the future is quite complex, and this is one of the most critical tasks of sociology. In the future, there will be an opportunity for a more convenient analysis of how social relations in

**Table 3.** Youth attitudes towards people who are considered immoral

Examples of relationships	Boys	Girls	Result
There are no differences from others; I feel comfortable with them	11%	11%	11%
Unfortunately, the number of such people is growing	20%	16%	19%
Mandatory preventive maintenance should be carried out with them	14%	8%	12%
I am against such people because they could become criminals and spread various diseases	25%	24%	24%
They harm society, interfere with your activities	10%	16%	12%
I have nothing in common with such people	20%	25%	22%

society, social threats, and their scale can be scientifically and theoretically justified.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. As the transformation of society moves from traditional to pluralistic thinking, the emergence of various subcultural manifestations among the youth of Uzbekistan began to be seen as a threat to the older generation with socio-political resources.

2. As a result of the reforms of recent years, the growth in the number of young people who look to the future with hope, want to have new opportunities in the future, contributed to the strengthening of the mobility of young people and began to have a positive impact on society. On the other hand, the resulting reforms have expanded and liberalised the sphere of individual movement of young people, and at the same time, new subcultural manifestations have begun to appear.

3. Globalisation is not the main factor of immorality in Uzbekistan. As proof, we have identified the following facts: firstly, in all traditional societies that have undergone globalisation, there is no indifference to immorality; secondly, the marginalisation or alienation of the population occurs due to economic difficulties; and, thirdly, the idea of the "face of the nation" as a value has decreased as a result of the desire of some young people for a "Western paradise life" and its transformation into a social ideal.

4. 11% of young people in Uzbekistan are not satisfied with traditional values and societal processes. According to our research, this group makes a significant contribution to the deviation.

5. As a result of the gradual decrease in family control in adolescence, the individual's dependence on a group of peers increases.

6. Even though Uzbekistan is a secular state, only 10% of young people answer that love is a vital value means that love is not a slogan for the current generation.

7. In Uzbekistan, priority is given to educational mechanisms based on such principles as the idea of a perfect person and the idea of tolerance as a result of education.

8. The main feature of young people is that if the result of a person's intellectual activity is abstract and complex or devoid of light in the future, he chooses deviant activity as an alternative to this. One of the biggest problems we face is that we need to be able to prove or convince the younger generation to live in a society with a bright future with the help of intelligence.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] R. Merton, Social structure and anomie [Sotsial'naya struktura I anomiya]. In: Wolfgang, M. (ed.) *Sociology of Crime [Sotsiologiya prestupnosti (Sovremennye burzhuznye teorii)]*. Translated from French by E.A. Samarskaya. Moscow: "Progress", 1996, 313 p. (In Rus.).
- [2] Ju. Komlev, Theories of deviant behavior: Tutorial [Teorii deviantnogo povedenija: uchebnoe posobie] – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised and added – SPb.: «ALEF-PRESS», 2014, 222 p. (In Rus.).
- [3] Post-Soviet states: 25 years of independent development [Postsovetskie gosudarstva: 25 let nezavisimogo razvitija]. Col. of works in 2 vol. / Chief ed. A.B. Krylov, West Flang CIS. Central Asia [Zapadnyjflang SNG. Central'naja Azija], M.: IMJeMO RAN 1 (2017) 197 (In Rus.).
- [4] M.I. Enikeev, Fundamentals of general legal psychology [Osnovy obshheji juridicheskoi psihologii], M.: «Jurist», 1996, 621 p. (In Rus.).
- [5] David G. Muers, «Psychology ninth edition in modules». NY WORTH PUBLISHER, 2010, 734 p.
- [6] Beruni, Abu Rajhan, Monuments of the ancient peoples. Selected works [Pamjatniki drevnih narodov. Izbrannye proizvedenija], Tashkent: «Fan», 1968, p. 486 (in Uzb.).
- [7] P. Shtompka, Sociology, Analysis of modern society [Sociologija. Analiz sovremennogo obshhestva]: Transl. from Polish by S.M. Chervonnaya, M.: «Logos», 2005, 664 p. (In Rus.).
- [8] Criminology [Kriminologija] / Transl. from English, Ed. Dzh. F. Shelli– SPb, 2003, 864 p. (In Rus.).
- [9] Large Sociological Dictionary [Bol'shoj tolkovyj sociologicheskij slovar'] (Collins), (A-O): Transl. from English, M.: Veche, AST 1 (1999) 544 p (In Rus.).
- [10] Je.D. Dneprov, Ushinsky and modernity [Ushinskijii sovremennost'], M., 2008, 232 p. (In Rus.).
- [11] Giddens Antony, Sociology / With the participation of K. Berdsoll [Sociologija / Pri uchastie K. Berdsol]: Transl. from English, 2nd edition, revised and added, M.: Editorial URSS, 2005, 632 p. (In Rus.).
- [12] E. Ortega-Campos, J. García-García, L. De la Fuente-Sánchez, F. Zaldívar-Basurto, Assessing the Interactions between Strengths and Risk Factors of Recidivism through the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY), *Int. J. Environ*,

Res. Public Health, 2020. DOI:  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17062112>

- [13] P. Bourdieu, L'ecole conservatrice // Rev. fr. sociol. N 3, 1966 (InFr.).
- [14] F.R. Filippov, Sociological Analysis of Education Problems / France Eyes of French Sociologists [Sociologicheskij analiz problem obrazovanija / Francija glazami francuzskih sociologov], M.: Nauka, 1990, 280 p. (In Rus.).
- [15] K.R. Abdurasulova, D.M. Mirazov, Ja.S. Muhtorov et al., Causes, Terms and Prevention of Female Crime [Prichiny, uslovija i profilaktika zhenskoj prestupnosti], Tashkent: Ministry of Home Affairs Academy, 2016, 159 p. (in Uzb.).
- [16] Z. Nishanova, N. Kamilova, D. Abdullaeva, M. Holnazarova, Psychology of development. Pedagogical psychology [Psihologija razvitija. Pedagogicheskaja psihologija], Tashkent: «Typography of the Centre of Science and Technology », 2017, 437 p. (in Uzb.).
- [17] M.B. Bekmurodov, Law and public opinion // Under the protection of the law [Zakon i obshhestvennoe mnenie // Pod zashhitoy zakona], No. 8, 1997 (in Uzb.).