

PRINCIPLE OF “NEIGHBORHOOD-SECTOR-PEOPLE’S RECEPTION TO NEIGHBORHOOD”

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Abstract

This article examines innovative changes in Uzbekistan’s neighborhood system, emphasizing its role in enhancing social and spiritual stability. Drawing from the decrees of the President of Uzbekistan, it examines improvements in the Neighborhood Institute’s status and its interaction with the public. A key focus is implementing a “neighborhood-sector-people’s reception-microdistrict” system for addressing community issues. The review also addresses overcoming past inefficiencies in public committees and introducing new roles to increase effectiveness and accountability in local social problem management. This transformation marks a significant shift towards more responsive and community-oriented governance in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: innovative changes, neighborhood, improvement, interaction, community, transformation, governance

Introduction

“Today, the roles and functions of neighborhoods are expanding, with increased trust placed in them to ensure the stability of the socio-spiritual environment in the regions. New legal frameworks are being established to regulate the activities of the monand system. For instance, the President of Uzbekistan’s measures on April 2, 2019, and February 18, 2020, aimed at elevating the status of the Neighborhood Institute in addressing population issues [1].

An important initiative outlined in these documents is the establishment of a cooperative system based on the “neighborhood-sector-people’s reception-neighborhood” principle for processing appeals, detecting, and resolving population issues. This has enabled executive bodies in the regions to collaborate closely and harmoniously with the population. Every issue faced by the residents is now addressed door-to-door with the active participation of the community, leading to timely solutions. This system ensures that the population no longer has to wait for hours to be heard by any organization, putting an end to excessive indulgence.

It must be acknowledged that, in the past, public commissions in citizens’ assemblies functioned in name only. Representatives of state and non-governmental organizations, affiliated with neighborhoods, were nominal members of various commissions and rarely attended meetings. Reports were superficial, and there was no clear mechanism for monitoring or improving their activities. The old approach to neighborhoods is no longer acceptable. The introduction of positions such as Deputy Chairpersons of the Citizens’ Assembly, serving as consultants on social, spiritual, and educational issues, as well as advisory roles for entrepreneurship and landowner activity support, is set to resolve these issues. Moreover, ‘senior counseling’ groups organized within neighborhoods are being empowered not only to highlight problems but also to actively engage in their resolution, with the possibility of receiving incentives or disciplinary action.”

“It should be candidly acknowledged that there were instances in the past where personnel non-release occurred due to unwarranted intervention by local authorities in the activities of civilian assemblies. The neighborhood chairman was often compelled to follow the district mayor’s orders, irrespective of whether such orders were within their authority. To prevent such negative occurrences and to stop illegal interference, as of June 1, 2019, it has been established that the hiring and termination of employment contracts for citizens’ assembly staff will be executed by the first deputy chairpersons of the district (city) councils responsible for coordinating the activities of the citizens’ self-governance bodies.

In the recent period, comprehensive measures have been undertaken to implement an effective cooperation system based on the “neighborhood-sector-people’s reception-neighborhood” principle. These measures are designed to ensure that neighborhoods serve as a reliable “bridge” between the people and the state, bolstering support for families and women [2]. However, the imposition of atypical functions on citizens’ assemblies, lack of systematic cooperation with subordinate agencies, absence of a unified system for assisting families, women, and the elderly, and the ineffectiveness of early violation prevention measures have adversely affected the revitalization of the socio-spiritual environment and the enforcement of the rule of law. To ensure public tranquility, elevate the system of working with families and women, increase the social activity of luminaries, and further strengthen the role of citizens’ self-governance bodies in making neighborhoods crime-free zones, the Republic of Uzbekistan’s law on citizens’ self-governance bodies mandates that state bodies create the necessary conditions for citizens to carry out self-governance activities, supporting them in the exercise of their legislated powers.

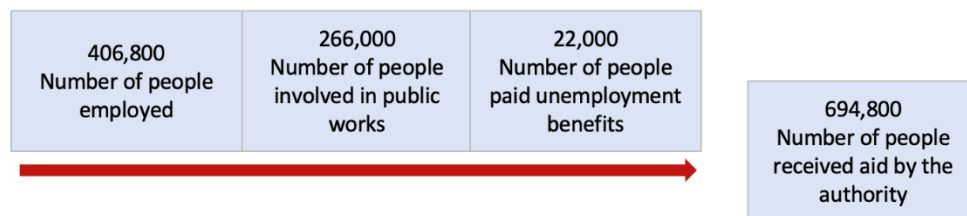
All these measures are significant as they aim to transform the Neighborhood Institute, a unique social structure, into a truly responsible entity serving the population, increasing its role and significance [3]. Furthermore, to bolster the social activity of women, reinforce their societal status, and ensure a stable socio-spiritual environment, it’s important to establish ongoing, systematic collaboration between the Neighborhood Institute and law enforcement, other government bodies, and public organizations. The base point for the staff of the citizens’ self-governance bodies and law enforcement is designed to further enhance the role of preventive inspectors, ensuring their independence and the practical efficacy of their powers. The introduction of modern information and communication technologies into this field is also key, along with providing adequate incentives and improving the resources and equipment available to staff.

The cooperation system based on the “neighborhood-sector-people’s reception-neighborhood” principle, comprehensive assistance for the effective realization of the “prosperous and safe neighborhood” concept, and the close collaboration of citizens with self-governing bodies in revitalizing the socio-spiritual environment in families and neighborhoods are also noteworthy. Organizing targeted assistance for troubled families, protecting the rights and legitimate interests of women, and ensuring guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for both genders are essential. It is particularly significant that women in need, including those with disabilities, receive socio-legal, psychological, and material support. Addressing the comprehensive support of women in employment, improving working conditions, and promoting the involvement of women, especially young girls from rural areas, in family and private entrepreneurship, as well as in crafts, is also a current priority. Society benefits when the cooperation among law enforcement, other government agencies, and public organizations in ensuring law and order in neighborhoods is reinforced, and when the mechanism for effectively utilizing the knowledge and life experience of luminaries in fostering a patriotic spirit is strengthened. Such efforts contribute to peace and stability in Uzbekistan and the well-being of families.”

“In our country, efforts are being made to implement a brand-new system – the principle of a ‘prosperous and safe neighborhood’. This has set the priority to elevate the system of working with families and women, enhance the social activity of luminaries, and increase the role of citizens’ assemblies in transforming neighborhoods into crime-free areas. To ensure the realization of this goal, the Ministry of Neighborhood and Family Support has been established and tasked with 10 priority objectives. One of the main tasks and focus areas of the ministry is to provide comprehensive assistance for the full and effective realization of the ‘prosperous and safe neighborhood’ principle, establishing close collaboration between citizens and self-governing bodies to rejuvenate the socio-spiritual environment in families and neighborhoods [4].

Reducing poverty is currently one of the most crucial challenges in our country. A model system, which began in the ‘new Sebzor’ urban neighborhoods of Olmazor District in Tashkent City and in the ‘sample’ rural neighborhoods of Qushtepa District in the Fergana region, has been developed and is being effectively implemented across all 9,150 neighborhoods in our country [5]. This initiative has significantly decreased the rate of family divorces.

A ‘roadmap’ has also been created, tailored to the specific needs of each province, to prepare young people for family life, prevent early childbirth, and work systematically with children from troubled families and their parents. In 2020, in collaboration with the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, 406.8 thousand citizens were employed, 266 thousand were engaged in public works, over 22 thousand received unemployment benefits [6], and 126,245 individuals expressed interest in entrepreneurship, with 81,764 being assisted in starting their businesses [7]. As a result of these efforts, 174,258 out of 409,178 families listed in the ‘Iron Notebook’ were lifted out of poverty [8].”



“A new procedure for assessing crime levels in neighborhoods has been implemented. A ‘social prophylaxis’ system is being developed to address crime by working with underprivileged, isolated individuals, those who have lost breadwinners, people with disabilities, and those who are not permanently employed.

In the execution of these measures, certain issues have arisen due to specific factors. In particular, neighborhoods and families lack a healthy and stable socio-spiritual environment, undermining the efforts of those responsible for ensuring peace, harmony, and tranquility. Some executive staff members in neighborhoods fail to grasp the essence of effectively organizing and coordinating work. At such times, the ‘neighborhood-sector-people’s reception-neighborhood’ principle is critical for ensuring significant public control of this mechanism, facilitating the organized organizations’ timely resolution of population issues.

During the current pandemic, understanding the population’s problems, supporting the underprivileged, women, and developing entrepreneurship have become pressing matters. There is also a need to enhance parliamentary oversight of the work being conducted in this direction.”

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