

TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN SOME COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

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Abstract: *This article highlights modern trends and new directions in the development of higher education systems across various countries. It focuses on the democratization and globalization of education, the impact of digital technologies, and the evolving role of education in shaping human capital and driving economic growth. Statistical data and international experiences are analyzed to support the discussion.*

Keywords: *teaching, education concepts, science and innovation, teaching quality, educational trends, globalization, higher education, digital learning.*

Introduction

In the contemporary era, science and education are increasingly transforming into a productive force of society. This shift stems from the rising interest in human capital theory, which emphasizes that for any nation to develop competitive human capital, improving the quality of education—especially higher education—is essential. Science and education are pivotal socio-economic and political assets for every country.

Nowadays, under the influence of global trends, the development of education is leading to the active transformation of higher education institutions. In the context of increasing competition in the global educational space, universities are facing far more serious challenges than in previous periods. They are compelled to compete not only in the fields of education and scientific research, but also in creating innovations, contributing to economic growth, and addressing critical global issues.

Accordingly, the world's leading universities are defining key directions for strategic development, which are reflected in their strategic documents, development programs, and model policies.

For example, in 2018, U.S. universities spent more than \$71 billion on federally funded research. That same year, approximately \$2.94 billion in revenue was generated through the commercialization of scientific discoveries and the licensing of technologies. The number of startups in the United States grew from 306 in 1998 to 1,098 in 2018. This

can be attributed to the proactive role universities play in incubating technologies at early stages through startups.

Unicorns are startups valued at over \$1 billion. According to expert assessments, the most popular educational institution among the world's top 63 unicorn founders is Stanford University.

Some other notable developments in this regard include: Financing universities in cryptocurrency: In 2013, the University of Nicosia in Cyprus became the first educational institution to accept tuition payments in cryptocurrency. According to the university's financial director, Christos Vlachos, this step helps expand access to financial services in regions where the global banking network is underdeveloped.

1. Massification and Democratization of Higher Education

Over the past 50–60 years, due to the expansion of state social functions, education has become a global phenomenon. Access to education has broadened, leading to the transformation of elite education into mass education. In G20 countries, nearly 40% of the population possesses higher education. In Russia, Canada, Japan, and South Korea, this figure exceeds 55%. The digitalization of education continues to accelerate this trend.

2. Dynamics of Educational Needs in Society

The societal demand for higher education has evolved dramatically:

- Ancient societies – 0.01%
- Pre-industrial – 0.05%
- Industrial – 3%
- Post-industrial – 20%
- Knowledge economy – 60%

Technological cycles that once spanned centuries now update every 3–5 years. As a result, knowledge acquired at the beginning of a university program may become obsolete by graduation.

3. The Role of Education in Human Capital Development

Human capital includes the skills and knowledge enabling individuals to generate income and contribute to economic growth. Investing in human capital allows nations to achieve 3–4% annual growth and strengthen their position in global competitiveness. In developing countries, human capital accounts for over half of national wealth, and in developed countries, it exceeds 70–80%. According to the World Bank, in 92 countries studied, human capital comprises 67% of national wealth and 75% in developed nations.

4. Global Trends in Higher Education Systems

Modern universities must respond to global challenges not only through teaching and research but also by fostering innovation and addressing global issues. Key trends include:

4a. Globalization of Education

Education facilitates integration at economic, political, and cultural levels. In developed countries, initiatives to transition toward global-local-individual paradigms are gaining momentum.

4b. Democratization of Education

Technological advancements, particularly the digital revolution, have expanded access and learning opportunities worldwide.

4c. Technological Transformation

Digital tools have transformed the educational landscape. Platforms like edX, Coursera, and Udacity have connected over 101 million users from around the globe. MOOCs have become an innovative mode of delivering high-quality education.

5. Effective Strategies for Creating World-Class Universities

To develop globally competitive institutions, governments may:

- Modernize a few high-potential universities.
- Merge institutions into new hybrid models.
- Establish entirely new universities from scratch.

Characteristics of world-class universities include:

- Highly qualified faculty
- High research output
- Advanced teaching standards
- Talented student populations
- Strong funding from public and private sectors
- Academic freedom
- Clear governance structures
- Adequate infrastructure

6. The Case of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan's strategy for developing its scientific and educational sectors includes:

- Supporting public-private partnerships in research
- Protecting intellectual property rights
- Increasing financial investment in science

Conclusion

In conclusion, the transformation of higher education worldwide is shaped by globalization, technology, and the growing value of human capital. To build world-class universities, three key interrelated components must be ensured:

- Concentration of high-level talent
- Sufficient resources
- Effective institutional governance

These factors must work in harmony to position universities as engines of innovation and pillars of national development.

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