

Mass Media of Uzbekistan: Development from the First Years of Independence and Current Condition

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Abstract

This article is dedicated to the development of journalism during independence in Uzbekistan. The article deals with legislation on the media, the system of hiring the journalist's skills cadres and their motivation such as national awards. The dynamic increase in the number and quality of publications and broadcasting channels in Uzbekistan today, shows collateral works and the achievement of our country in this sphere.

Keywords: journalism, mass media, publication, broadcasting, legislation, national awards

Introduction

The development of information and communication technologies irreversibly changes the existing system of mass media. It alters its functional characteristics, the economic aspects of operation, its role in socio-political processes, the so-called model of functioning. The role of information and the need of people to keep abreast of rapidly changing events increase greatly in the era of innovation techniques.

Globalization of society affects the national peculiarities of the media sphere, offering new designs and models of existence of mass media.

Media is unique, because it can deliver the right information in the right shape to the right strata of society. Media is massive, interactive and various. It can not only affect the mind of people, but also influence on different social and political situations.

The development of mass production - mass consumption - mass media - mass culture affects the social sphere of public life and increases the social significance of information that promotes the motivation of mass communication.

The First President of our country has repeatedly pointed out that in today's world it is difficult to imagine progress and the social life without information and modern information and communication technologies, television and other mass media. A striking confirmation of these words is the dynamic increase of number and quality of publications and broadcasting channels in Uzbekistan.

1. Current condition and legislation

If in 1991 in Uzbekistan operated 395 media, in 1 July 2015 the figure was more than 1 688 400. It includes 688 newspapers, 294 magazines, 101 TV and radio channels. Due to the active introduction and development of ICT in the country, especially the Internet, websites are also registered as mass media, the number of which exceeds 400 [1].

An important role in the development and liberalization of the national media is played by the Public Fund for Support and Development of non-state print media and news agencies, the Public Fund for Support of NGOs and other civil society institutions under the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan, Creative Union of journalists of Uzbekistan and others.

Public Fund for Support and Development of non-state print media and news agencies held more than 230 international conferences, seminars, "round tables" and meetings in the past two years. They were attended by about seven thousand journalists, representatives of civil society institutions, chief information officers of public authorities and management, experts in their active participation. The Fund carries out consistent work on the material support of print and online media, strengthening their material and technical base.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and about ten laws serve as an important guarantor of citizens' rights to freedom of speech, information protection, and information security of individuals, society and the state. The Constitution of our country stipulates freedom of the media and states that everyone has the right to seek, receive and distribute any information. These standards are also reflected in the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On mass media", "On guarantees and freedom of access to information", "On principles and guarantees of freedom of information", "On Information".

Improvement of the legislation with the requirements of the time is an important factor in the further liberalization of mass media, the deepening of democratic reforms in this sphere.

The dynamic development of the information sector and information technology, liberalization of the media are important factors in deepening democratic reforms in our country. The first President Islam Karimov paved

special attention to strengthening the role of the media in the political and spiritual life of society, to ensure guarantees of social and legal protection activities of journalists, training of journalists, meeting the requirements of the time, the development of the media market and a healthy competitive environment in the field. The head of our state has set new challenges for the continuation of these positive changes in the Concept of further deepening of democratic reforms and formation of civil society in the country.

A great work to improve the people's participation in political and public life in Uzbekistan was carried out in the framework of large-scale democratic reforms. Adoption of more than 10 laws regulating the activities of mass media formed a solid legal framework for the realization of freedom of speech, as well as the dynamic development of the information sphere. The laws stipulate inadmissibility of censorship requirements, state that the media activities can be suspended through courts, provide the right to conduct a journalistic investigation, research, to receive and distribute information. They also simplified rules of registration of mass media, created the necessary conditions for the formation and development of public, non-governmental institutions and structures in the field of information. The Decree of the President Islam Karimov "On granting additional tax benefits and preferences to further develop the media" (December 30, 2011) was yet another practical manifestation of great attention and care paid to improvement of domestic media [2].

National legislation related to mass media was improved in accordance with the Concept of further deepening democratic reforms and formation of civil society in Uzbekistan. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the openness of public authorities and management" ensures the rights of citizens in the sphere of information, enhances the accountability of public authorities and management to improve the quality of decisions, public awareness of their activities.

2. Improvement of the system of training and retraining of journalists

During years of independence the country managed to completely eliminate the total government control of media, provide a consistent and gradual introduction of market mechanisms in the information sphere, develop the network of non-state television and radio, news agencies as well as funds supporting print and audiovisual media. Moreover, the country re-established the periodical press system, organized the new political newspapers and many other publications and magazines aimed at various groups and strata of society. Domestic media is included in the international information space.

Under the leadership of the First President Islam Karimov measures for training and retraining journalists yield good results. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On improvement of the system of training and retraining of journalists" from February 26, 1999 serves as an important guide in this area [3].

One of the important projects in 2013-2014 was the organization of training activities and exchange of experience in the offices of leading publishing houses and news agencies of the country, the educational centers of journalists operating in the regional media. The project covered more than 500 journalists from around the country. Only during 2013 more than 60 media representatives from regions have undergone training in the capital's publishing houses [4].

The mastery of journalists in foreign languages and implementation of modern media and information technologies into the work of editorial offices play a great role today. The question regarding enhancement of excellence and professional skills of journalists as well as their further specialization is also actual today. This will allow publishing high quality analytical materials on all areas of the reform of state and public construction in the country.

International competition for the National Award "Oltin Kalam" was established at the initiative of President of our country in order to motivate journalists. The competition plays an important role in the further development of this sphere. This competition is dedicated to the World Press Freedom Day and held by the Creative Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan, the Center for training journalists together with the Public Fund for Support and Development of Independent Print Media and Information Agencies of Uzbekistan, the National Association of Electronic Mass Media, the National TV and Radio Company, the Ministry of Culture and sports, news agency "Uzreport" and the Council of Federation of Trade Unions.

The competition is held in areas of television, radio, print media and online journalism. There is one major national award in the competition, three awards in each direction as well as reward nominations "The best press service" and "The best photo spread."

About the competition 5000 journalists with nearly 70 thousands creative materials participated in "Oltin Kalam" over the years. 510 artists submitted about 8,500 materials to take part in the contest this year [5].

3. Current state and dynamics analyze

Analysis of the current state and dynamics of development of the national information and media space in Uzbekistan shows:

- There is a great legal basis for successful and active work of the media in Uzbekistan that

continues to improve in accordance with international experience and the realities of our time;

➤ The current legal basis in the field of mass media promotes consistent improvement of quality and efficiency of the national press meeting the requirements and standards of the global media, as well as expansion of the network of non-governmental media and implementation of market-based mechanisms into information sector.

➤ Print and electronic media in Uzbekistan are based on international standards and best practices of democratic states and adequately reflect national values and mentality of the nation;

➤ Gradual liberalization of the media, the revitalization of the non-state print media, radio, television, the expansion of their entry into the global Internet provide transparency political reforms in the country;

➤ There are conditions for active coverage of the country's foreign and domestic policy by media taking into account the diversity of opinions, events occurring in the country and abroad.

➤ New non-state and private media are being actively created

➤ State and non-state media of Uzbekistan are actively involved in the formation of a democratic civil society.

➤ The government supports the formation of independent, self-reliant and democratic print media that meets modern international standards;

➤ As in all democratic countries, Uzbekistan has free and independent media that serves as an important civil institution. Independence of editorial boards of newspapers and magazines and their responsibility are increasing day by day;

➤ An important role in the development and liberalization of national media is played by social structures, such as the National Association of Electronic Mass Media, Public Fund for Support and Development of non-state print media and news agencies, Creative Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan, etc. ;

➤ Development of party press is contributing to the formation of the political culture of the population. All political parties currently operating in the country have their own periodicals;

➤ Taking into account the ethnic diversity of the population in Uzbekistan, newspapers are published in more than 7 languages and television and radio broadcasts are prepared in several languages.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan has created ample conditions and opportunities for domestic media to become a mouthpiece of public opinion, an effective force in the way of further democratization of all spheres of our lives, to ensure that every citizen of Uzbekistan feels responsibility for the future of our country and seeks to contribute to its further prosperity.

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