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YOUTH POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

Abstract

This paper examines some problems of the youth policy and the ways of resolving them. The paper also reviews and analyzes youth policy programs implemented in Kazakhstan. Moreover, potential threats to the youth policy, and an impact of the threats on the social and economic development of the country were considered as well. According to the conducted research, author suggests in order to improve the youth programs it needs to formulate the integral national policy in area of youth policy, and to take steps toward stabilization of current situation.

Keywords: youth policy, youth policy programs, problems of youth policy, improvement of youth policy, impact of youth policy on social and economic development.

Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются некоторые проблемы молодежной политики и пути их решения. В работе также проведен анализ стратегических молодежных программ, осуществляемых в Казахстане. Кроме того, рассмотрены потенциальные угрозы молодежной политики, а также воздействий угроз на социально-экономическое развитие страны. Согласно проводимому исследованию, автор предлагает улучшить молодежные программы, которые и должны составлять ключевую часть национальной политики на молодежном направлении и по стабилизации текущей ситуации.

Ключевые слова: молодежная политика, молодежные стратегические программы, проблемы молодежи, улучшение молодежной политики, ее воздействие на социально-экономическое развитие.

Аңдатпа

Мақалада жастар саясатының кейбір мәселелері мен оларды шешу жолдары қарастырылады. Аталған жұмыста Қазақстанда жүзеге асырылатын стратегиялық және жастар бағдарламаларына талдау жүргізілді. Сонымен қатар жастар саясатындағы елеуетті қауіп-қатер және мемлекеттің әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамуына қауіп-қатердің тигізетіндігі қаралды. Автор жүргізілген зерттеу жұмысына жастар саясатын жақсарту мақсатында, жастар саясаты төңірегіндегі бір жүйелі ұлттық саясат құру керектігін және болып жатқан мәселені тұрақтандыру үшін әрекет қадамын жасау қажеттігін көрсетті.

Тірек сөздер: жастар саясаты, стратегиялық жастар бағдарламалары, жастар саясатының мәселелері, жастар саясатын жақсарту, жастар саясатының әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамуға әсері.

The top priority of state youth policy in the Republic is creation of conditions for implementation of the right for free social development, creative initiative by youth in line with their interests, tastes, physical capacities given the interests of the society.

The 2004 Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On state youth policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan" allowed singularize youth in a separate socio-demographic group, provide it with certain social rights and governmental guarantees.

The Soros Foundation Kazakhstan recently presented in Almaty a study on the problem of mass youth migration trying to draw additional attention to the problems remaining in this area.

In its study, the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan said: "In Almaty, every year the number of young migrants increases and this reality should not be ignored. Their problems should be resolved on the spot, rather than hoping to send them back to the villages. Instead, the development of programmes aimed at addressing the problems of registration, professional education and job creation will be more effective."

As a result of its study, the foundation made the recommendations which are primarily addressed at the local agencies in Almaty. A number of recommendations are addressed to the Government, the National Bank, civil society and international organizations.

On one hand, internal migration occurs regularly in societies as they urbanise, and urbanisation is considered by scientists and public opinion in general to be an objective of the development of a modern society and a result of the ambition of people to live more comfortably. Migration has positive effects not only on increasing the population, but also on qualitative characteristics of the region.

In Kazakhstan, every year about 300,000 citizens are actively migrating domestically. Of these, more than half are young people who want to go to university or find a job with high salary. The concentration of universities in Astana and Almaty cities, a large volume of domestic and foreign investments, greater economic opportunities and wide choice of employment cause a large influx of young people in these cities. For example, the population of Astana has more than doubled since 1997.

According to the Statistics Agency of Kazakhstan, Almaty and Astana cities and the Almaty, Atyrau and Mangystau regions have been the most attractive areas of internal migration in the last decade. In addition the number of youth aged from 14 to 29 years increased by 919,153 people (in 1999 – 3.78 million, in 2012 – 4.7 million people) over the last 10 years.

On the other hand, there are negative sides to internal migration. The youth leave areas unfavourable to life. This creates shortages of professional staff and a decline in agriculture; the regions lose their economic value. Internal migration is a complex indicator of the economic and social situation of a particular region. After moving, migrants are faced with difficulties in their new cities. An absence of official registration complicates access to some social services.

To support and create favourable conditions for rural youth, the government developed the Aul Zhastary (Rural Youth) Nationwide Initiatives Plan for 2009–2011, which provided for regional studies to determine the real problems of rural youth.

The state programme "With Diploma to Village" was created to effectively promote the influx of human resources to rural areas, create conditions to overcome staff shortages in the social sector and improve living standards. The programme provides social support to young specialists who come to work and live in rural areas, in particular providing soft loans for housing and 25 percent increases in salary and installation allowances. From 2009 this programme spent 16 billion tenge for 24,000 young professionals: 75 percent of them are working in education, 20 percent in health care and the remaining five percent in culture, social protection and sport. For 2012–2014, the state budget provides 21.6 billion tenge to attract more than 16,000 young professionals.

The Youth Practice" directive has been successfully implemented within Employment Programme 2020. It aims at creating conditions for young people to gain their first experiences in their careers, promoting employment and competitiveness in the labor market. Youth Practice is conducted at any enterprise, institution and organisation regardless of its ownership. The government pays the salaries of participants for up to six months.

As a result, compared to 2001, the level of youth unemployment reduced by more than fourfold and was lower than similar indicators of the CIS and European countries. In 2011, the level of youth unemployment made 4.6 per cent.

To provide housing for young families, the government plans to build 1.2 million square metres of affordable housing through 2020.

The total amount of funding for the national projects Aul Zhastary, With Diploma to Village, Youth Practice and Zhasyl El (Green Country) is 37.7 billion tenge.

The «Zhasyl El» program was launched in 2005. The program is based on the idea of attracting young people to creative work for the nation benefit. They also attract youth, in order to give opportunity to students to work on sub-projects, as well as to plant trees and shrubs during summer holidays.

The youth wing of the Nur Otan People's Democratic Party, Zhas Otan, tries to attract young people to socially and economically significant issues. The "Prosperity of Village–Prosperity of Kazakhstan" initiative brought together more than 700,000 young Kazakhstanis, who planted 640,000 saplings, cleared lakes, rivers and watercourses and scraped 450 tons of trash. Zhas Otan developed the new strategy "Zhastar – Otanga" (Young People to the Homeland), which identifies 11 directions for support and involvement of young people to achieve the objectives of industrial innovation development and increasing stability and security in the country.

According to the Statistics Agency of Kazakhstan, the level of migration from rural to urban areas in 2012 compared with 2011 declined by 4.5 thousand people. Agency Chairman Alikhan Smailov colligates these indicators with the social policy of state. "I attribute this to the improvement of the socio-economic situation in the country and the government's social policy implemented in rural areas," he said.

It should be noted that the number of youth organizations increased more than 7 times (from 150 to 1043) only for the period from 2000 to 2011, at the same time more than 10 times has increased financing of youth policy.

Particularly, a number state programmes such as “Bolashak”, “Zhassyl Yel”, “Zhas Otan”, “With diploma to village”, “Youth personnel pool”, “Youth internship” have been implemented.

The main «social elevator» of Youth is a quality education. Based on research data of the Ministry of Education and Science, about 718 thousand young Kazakhstan citizens have higher education, which is 15.9%, and 306 thousand (6.8%) have incomplete higher education, 728 thousand people, that is 16.2% have secondary education.

«During the period from 1994 to 2012, the Bolashak program awarded more than 8500 scholarships. The list of higher education institutions recommend by the «Bolashak» program includes more than 100 universities from 33 countries. The «Bolashak» scholarship has become a way of guarantor of successful career growth and professional fulfilment for the graduates.

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