

Development of child sports in Uzbekistan

Upbringing of healthy young generation is one of the main objectives of state policy in Uzbekistan.

The children's sport in Uzbekistan has gained massive nature for the period of Independence. It has been developing as part of policy to increase the role of young generations and as a component of the National program on professional training. In Uzbekistan traditional sporting contests such as “Umid nikhollari” (amongst pupils of secondary schools), “Barkamol avlod” - among youth of the academic lyceums and professional colleges, and “Universiada” – different games among students of higher educational institutions are held every year. These contests embrace all the youth and serve as important factor in improvement of young generation’s health, development of children’s physical and mental will, in raising their determination and confidence in themselves and many other positive qualities.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted in 2002 has brought to the establishment of the Children's Sports Development Fund, which was an important step in children's sports. In 2004 the Fund became structural branch of the Ministry for Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Fund functions as an effective mechanism in realization of the purposes and goals in the field of children's sports.

The primary goals of the Fund are:

-assisting in realization of the state policy in the field of development of physical training and sports among the children, promoting greater interest of young generation in sports, protection of youth from various harmful attitudes and providing a good education to them in patriotic spirit.

The Fund has been authorized to form the material base for children's physical training and sports, to organize construction of the children's sports buildings, especially in rural areas, and to provide technical and equipment assistance with modern sports equipment and etc. Since the time the Fund was established, about 215 new sports constructions, including more than 70 sports buildings in secondary schools were constructed. Moreover, more than 170 buildings were reconstructed. The farmers and entrepreneurs have sponsored special projects under which 27 children's sports buildings were completed throughout the republic. It is remarkable, that the majority of new sports constructions were erected in countryside. In particular, 85 percent of sports buildings were put into operation in villages in 2005.

Introduction of modern forms and methods of children’s physical education and schools sport is acquiring significant importance. Currently more than 23 thousand teachers of physical education and schools sport have been employed within the system of the Ministry of public education. The significant attention is being given to issues of increasing the qualification and training of teachers at leading scientific centers and institutes of the country. The state educational standards developed on the

basis of modern requirements and according to curriculum manuals on physical education.

In remote areas, especially in countryside and rural districts the Fund holds practical seminars with participation of Physical education teachers, trainers, sports-veterans, representatives of state and non governmental organizations. The Fund also makes recommendations after researching main problems in order to set up strategies to improve sports education.

Necessary conditions are created for the young pupils to spend their free time in sports. The number of children, who are regularly attending sports, is constantly increasing. Now they account for 2 mln 423 thousand or 36,4 per cent of all school pupils.

More than 400 youth sports schools within the Ministry of public education organize different sports activities which are held by qualified experts and trainers. The number of sports sections and pupils in such schools has increased significantly.

The sponsors of republican level have transferred 12,5 mlrd.sum in 2006 for the development of The Children's Sports Fund, whereas 9,5 mlrd. sum and 1,5 mln.USD was given by sponsors from remote areas.

Decent attempts in sports education for physically developed generation has begun bringing results. Further enhancement of sports education is important objective both for the state and other nongovernmental organizations.