

Increase the Involvement of Civil Society Institutions in Ensuring Transparency in Public Administration

Rasulov Bekzod Boymuratovich

Senior lecturer, Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science (PhD), of Samarkand State Architectural and Construction Institute

Annotation. The tremendous changes that are occurring in the world today necessitate a high level of openness in the actions of public authorities and governance, as well as a high level of citizen knowledge of those activities. One of the most important prerequisites for the development of civil society is the completion of this process.

This essay addresses the challenges of governmental power transparency and increasing civil society participation in Uzbekistan, and presents solutions and recommendations for openness and transparency.

Key words: Transparency, political power, civil society institutions, information transparency, non-governmental non-commercial organizations, government transparency, citizen participation.

Introduction.

Reforms are gaining traction in Uzbekistan's present stage of development, bringing the issue of state body transparency to a new level. The separation of powers, the achievement of mutual balance between State authorities and civil society institutions, the guarantee of human rights and freedoms in cooperation, and the mutual responsibility of the State and citizens towards each other are all basic principles for the formation of a democratic State based on the rule of law.

The formation of "Parliamentary control," "Public control," and other modern forms of control over the operations of state organizations through mutual separation of powers and diversification of public administration, assuring the openness of their activities, is a pressing issue today.

Public administration must rely on certain values while building social interactions with non-governmental non-profit groups in a certain area. Only then will the system of "power - society" find harmony. The criterion of "trust" is at the heart of this system's relationship harmonization. This can be accomplished through avenues of government information disclosure. The principles of civil society and the information society are compatible with the openness and transparency of governmental bodies. "It is vital to clearly define the responsibility to have public consultations and public hearings in making decisions on the most critical issues of the country's socio-economic life and of particular interest to the public," President Sh. Mirziyoyev said. They say yes if the public says yes, and no if the public says no. Today, the performance of our reforms is largely determined by four key factors: the rule of law, corruption combat, institutional capacity building, and the development of strong democratic institutions." [1]

The failure to reveal information regarding government activities leads to bad public impressions of officials' behavior.

Examining the topic of government openness and transparency is important because it identifies the weakest parts by analyzing the level of government transparency. This type of analysis allows for the detection of democratic processes' passivity in specific sectors of government-society relations. This is because, in global reality, many of the functions previously handled by official authorities are now performed by civil society institutions, which contribute to development while adhering to democratic values.

Purpose of study.

It entails examining and developing practical proposals for increasing the participation and role of civil society institutions in ensuring transparency in public administration.

Method and object of research.

Methods including examination of rising civil society engagement and role in assuring public administration transparency, comparative analysis of scientific perspectives and concepts, and generalization were employed.

The goal of this study is to ensure that government administration is transparent and to promote the participation and influence of civil society organizations in it.

Research results and their discussion.

Any democratic government is built on the principle of public administration transparency. As a result, the degree of transparency of government should be evaluated as it approaches this ideal. Moving toward transparent government is one method to transform it into a functional institution that completely represents and defends the interests of society through the institutions that govern it. The following transparency criteria apply to this model:

- policy transparency;
- freedom of citizens to access official information;
- legal and political culture;
- the level of democratic elections,
- the essence of the relationship between formal and informal institutions;
- existence of a developed civil society with mechanisms and means of control over public administration;
- the existence of a multi-party system, etc.

The mechanisms of democratic interaction between political power and civil society underpin public administration transparency. Civil society institutions contribute to efficient governance as a trusted partner of political authority. Transparency in government is achieved by public relations support, political party engagement, advisory services, and civil society organisations, among other things.

"The existence of conditions (legal, procedural, technological, etc.) that strengthen the mechanism and channels of entrance of civic initiatives into the sphere of power constitutes transparency in public administration." We may greatly increase the channels of connection between the state and its citizens by utilizing information and communication technologies." [2]

There are numerous techniques to ensuring public administration transparency. In his book *The Two Sources of Morality and Religion*, French philosopher Henry Bergson introduced the concept of open and closed society. An open society, according to A. Bergson, is an international humanitarian community free of social structural ideals and antagonisms. He describes how universal human moral values prevail in this passage. A closed society, according to Bergson, is one in which members are strongly linked to one another, unconcerned about others, and always ready to fight and protect. In a nutshell, it means that every citizen must be cautious. Citizens' stereotyped perspectives are marked by immutability, which can be influenced by instinct.

In *"Open Society and Its Enemies"*, Karl Raymond Popper (1945) understands the concept of open society in a somewhat different way. The words closed and open society, according to K. Popper, are based on rationalist difference. A closed society is defined as one in which people learn to criticize prohibition, discuss their decisions together, and rely on their intellect's capabilities, whereas an open society is defined as one in which people learn to criticize prohibition, discuss their decisions together, and rely on their intellect's capabilities. [3]

People in this society, according to K. Popper, must actively participate in planning and design in order to adapt to the "changing needs" of an open society, using institutions to better institutions and social change. Only the concept of open political power involves the existence of organizations and procedures that use political technology to represent the interests of civil society and ensure the participation of "public experts" in the development of technologies, laws, and other policies. [4]

In the current era of globalization and the information society, ensuring transparency in the activities of government agencies in Uzbekistan is extremely difficult; their understanding of the relationship with civil society institutions, as well as the laws that govern their development, necessitates a thorough and systematic investigation.

In the system of political power, public administration, and relations, transparency is defined as the interconnection and collaboration of all social, economic, and political forces. Civil society institutions, individuals, and political authorities must be able to communicate freely in order for public administration to be transparent. Authorized representatives of public administration bodies are accountable to society's citizens and ensure that the bureaucratic apparatus operates in an open and transparent manner. As a result, the concept of public administration openness has a socio-communicative character, on the one hand, because it speeds up and improves communication between political power and civil society institutions, and on the other hand, it is broadly functional because it aids in the optimization of regulatory socio-political processes.

Transparency is not only a necessary and descriptive feature of public authorities, but also a critical component of their effectiveness, the ability of organizational and managerial structures to serve as a unifying force between the government and the population, and the realization of citizens' legal rights and freedoms. The level of administrative offenses is defined by providing quality services to the people, which creates the opportunity for social effect in the form of various sorts of social control.

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The existence of conditions (legal, procedural, technological, etc.) that increase the process and channels of entrance of citizen initiatives into the realm of power is referred to as transparency in public administration. We can greatly extend the channels of connection between the state and its citizens by utilizing information and communication technologies.

Various people have different ideas on how open and transparent government should be. However, political thinking in ancient times demonstrated the most important characteristics of political power:

- organizational violence as a means to an end (organized coercion);
- fulfillment of common tasks, achievement of social welfare as the goal of the government.

In our view, there are factors in many countries that hinder the development of transparency in public administration:

- insufficient development of the system of public oversight bodies and a clear definition of their powers;
- lack of a system for assessing the effectiveness of administrative regulation;
- incompetence or passive incentives for civil servants in service;
- conservatism and unwillingness to change, the absolute dominance of bureaucracy.
- lack of competition in the activities of the executive..

Municipalities (as well as neighborhood assemblies of citizens) spend a lot of energy and resources to enforce the will of the authorities, according to V.Kh. Kuchkarov and B.B. Rasulov. Not only in Uzbekistan,

but in many countries around the world, municipalities (as well as neighborhood assemblies of citizens) spend a lot of energy and resources to enforce the will of the authorities. In other words, they frequently end up following their stated initiatives and regulatory orders without question. [5]

Indeed, effective state-society cooperation is required, as is the development of effective channels for open and direct contact between state officials at all levels and citizens. As a result, representative bodies have a responsibility to freely and transparently address current concerns in the areas and work out the best available solutions.

In our view, the following principles for ensuring transparency in public administration by civil society institutions should be a priority:

- in their multifaceted activities, government agencies adhere to public policy and are accountable to the people;
- the state, in turn, must create all the conditions for the implementation of social control by civil society institutions within the law;
- openness of society (according to the theory of open society), citizens have access to information from all sources (except state and trade secrets), with the right to receive and disseminate information about the most important events and decisions in the life of the state and society;
- the principle of transparency is established in the society. At the same time, all reforms, measures and legislative changes in the country will be carried out in a transparent manner;
- real (de facto) guarantee of freedom of speech and religion in society;
- the establishment of the rule of law, the rule of law, the legal relationship between the individual and the state, i.e. the establishment of a relationship based on mutual rights and duties in the entire system of relations, as well as the existence of effective control over the enforcement of laws.

It should be noted that the issue of transparency of government in Central Asia remains a serious obstacle to the rapid development of civil society reforms. The fact that such aspects as national mentality, culture, spirituality, spirituality of the nation are not yet ready to master democratic values, as well as the "activity of citizens" as a result of self-realization or the prevention of initiatives of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) has a negative impact on reforms.

One of the main problems of the transition period is the fact that the political and legal culture of the population is not yet completely free from the previous traditions, human rights and freedoms and democratic values are reflected in the outlook of citizens due to economic and political factors. The slowness of the socio-political activism of the social strata of society has resulted in the failure of political parties to act on the basis of democratic principles. These conditions in society have now begun to demand that the path to civil society development in each country is different and according to different criteria.

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As part of the solution to these problems, a number of administrative reforms have been undertaken in Uzbekistan at the initiative of President Sh.M.Mirziyoyev. The initial emphasis was on reform of the executive branch of government based on the rule of law, which is an obstacle to the development of civil society. After all, civil society can only develop in a state that operates on the basis of democratic principles.

Reforms have been introduced to transform the state executive, which is a serious obstacle to building civil society not only as a governing body, but also as a public service body for citizens. Reforms in this area are based on the principle that "the people should serve our people, not government agencies." 2017 has been declared the Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests. On 28 December 2016, Presidential Decree was issued on measures to radically improve the system for considering applications from individuals and legal entities. In accordance with it, the Virtual and People's Reception of the President of

the Republic of Uzbekistan and virtual receptions of the President of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and the city of Tashkent, as well as in each district and city (except for cities subordinate to the district). As a result, citizens have experienced bureaucratic hurdles in various areas, the abolition of many illegal departmental directives, the granting of optimum bank loans, the elimination of illegal inspections of businesses and a dramatic change in the activities of law enforcement agencies.

On 8 September 2017, the Presidential Decree approving the Concept of Administrative Reforms in the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the legal framework and strategic concept for the modernisation of the executive branch in the country. Undoubtedly, the transformation of the executive into a body of government based on the interests and needs of the people - this has come to signify the traits and characteristics of civil society and the rule of law in the country. The decree clarified not only the challenges of implementing administrative reforms, but also the complexities of the old methods of administration that hindered the development of these reforms and how and under what conditions they prevented the modernisation of public administration.

If we look at the essence of the concept and its objectives, we can see that national traditions are intertwined with the experience of modernising public administration in developed countries.

Conclusions and proposals.

As a result of our analysis of the problem under study, we believe that the role and importance of civil society institutions in ensuring transparency of public authorities can be enhanced by focusing on the following factors:

Firstly, Criteria (indicators) for evaluating the activities of civil society institutions and a national ranking should be developed. It is advisable to pay special attention to the following indicators:

- ✓ Indicators of the extent to which civil society institutions represent various human interests, the extent to which they are reflected in government decisions;
- ✓ Indicator of how many proposals and recommendations from civil society institutions, based on the interests of the population, are reflected in national legislation;
- ✓ Indicator of the level of participation of civil society institutions in the activities of public authorities;
- ✓ An indicator of the extent to which civil society institutions can operate independently (de facto) from state authorities in public life.

Secondly, In Uzbekistan, many state bodies and their middle and lower echelons are evaluated and included in the national rankings by state bodies. This indicates a lack of civil society institutions to evaluate the performance of these sectors. For example, the Republican Education Inspectorate evaluates the activities of educational institutions. Consequently, there is a need to improve the evaluation of public administration in the country by civil society institutions.

Thirdly, In Uzbekistan, the rights and powers of civil society institutions to participate in public administration and ensure transparency are defined in the legal system in accordance with all democratic principles. For example, the provisions of the "Public Oversight Act", the "Social Partnership Act", the "Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations (Safeguards) Act" and other laws and regulations provide every opportunity for civil society. Thus, improving the system of active public scrutiny by civil society institutions and increasing the responsibility of public administration bodies and their officials to consider reports, appeals and suggestions coming from civil society institutions can have positive results.

In short, the current academic literature presents different paradigms for designing and managing an effective mechanism for political authorities to communicate openness and transparency in democracies. There are elements of transparency in public administration, without which the activities of public bodies are illegal. In Uzbek context, civil society can be further developed through a reflection on modern forms of openness and transparency, taking into account national values, and the implementation of acceptable aspects.

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