

The Role and Importance of Political Parties in Youth Political Socialization

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Abstract

This article analyzes the role and significance of political parties in the process of youth political socialization. It highlights the contribution of political parties to shaping young people's political consciousness, engaging them in political processes, developing their leadership potential, and instilling democratic values. Furthermore, the study substantiates that the educational and formative functions of political parties serve as an important factor in enhancing youth political participation. According to the research findings, political parties constitute a key social institution in shaping young people into active, responsible, and conscious citizens who participate effectively in the life of society.

Keywords: youth, political socialization, political parties, political participation, democratic values, political consciousness, civil society, civic engagement, leadership, political education.

1. Introduction

In contemporary society, the political socialization of youth is considered one of the key factors in the development of the state and society. Through the process of political socialization, young people adapt to the political system of society and acquire political knowledge, values, norms, and behavioral patterns. This process is continuous, beginning in early childhood and evolving throughout an individual's life. In this regard, political socialization serves as an essential factor in shaping an individual's civic position, political culture, and social activity [1]. Political socialization is carried out through various social institutions. Its primary agents include the family, educational institutions, mass media, social networks, and political parties. While the family forms an individual's initial political perceptions, the education system provides structured political knowledge. Mass media and digital platforms exert a strong influence on the formation of political views within the modern information environment. However, among these agents, political parties stand out as the most active and purpose-driven institutions, as they directly engage young people in practical political activities [2]. Political parties perform several important functions in the political socialization of youth. First and foremost, they carry out an educational function by providing political knowledge. Seminars, trainings, forums, and political education programs organized by political parties contribute to improving the political literacy of young people. Through these

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activities, youth gain in-depth knowledge about public administration, electoral systems, political institutions, and civil society. At the same time, political parties play a significant role in increasing youth political participation. They encourage young people to take part in elections, engage in public discussions, and actively participate in various political initiatives. In particular, involving youth in electoral processes as observers, volunteers, or campaigners helps to enhance their practical political experience. This, in turn, fosters an active civic position among young people and prevents political indifference [3].

Another important function of political parties is the development of leadership potential among youth. Parties identify talented and active young individuals and support them through leadership training, political practice, and mentorship systems. As a result, young people acquire not only theoretical knowledge but also practical governance skills. In practice, many public officials and deputies have begun their careers within the system of political parties [4]. Moreover, political parties play a crucial role in shaping democratic values among young people. Through their activities, youth develop respect for diversity of opinions, a culture of compromise, adherence to the rule of law, and a sense of civic responsibility. These values form the foundation of a democratic society and contribute to the enhancement of political culture among young people [5]. Political parties also function as key institutions representing the interests of youth. They study issues such as employment, education, and social protection, and elevate them to the level of state policy. In this way, the socio-political interests of young people are protected, and their role in society is strengthened.

In modern conditions, the process of political socialization is entering a new stage under the influence of digital technologies. The internet, social networks, and various digital platforms have become important tools in shaping the political consciousness of youth. Political parties are also actively utilizing these opportunities by establishing direct communication with young people through platforms such as Telegram, Facebook, and YouTube. Online debates, political blogs, and interactive content contribute to the development of young people's political thinking [6].

2. Research Method

Materials: In studying the process of political socialization, the primary materials include the activities of political institutions particularly political parties their youth-oriented programs, and practical experiences. At the same time, the influence of key agents of political socialization, such as the family, educational institutions, mass media, and digital platforms, is also taken into account [7]. Political parties implement numerous programs aimed at increasing the political knowledge of young people and engaging them in social life. For instance, seminars and training sessions introduce youth to the political system and provide knowledge about elections, public administration, and civil rights. Forums and public discussions, in turn, create opportunities for young people to express their opinions freely and to develop skills of dialogue and compromise. Mentorship and leadership programs are designed to identify talented youth and prepare them for practical political activity. Higher and secondary educational institutions also play a significant role in the process of youth political socialization. Through the inclusion of political science subjects in their curricula, universities and colleges familiarize students with political literacy, civic responsibility, and democratic values. In addition, through practical training and project-based activities, students gain the ability to analyze political processes [8].

Today, digital tools and social networks occupy a special place in political socialization. Through platforms such as Telegram, Facebook, and YouTube, political parties communicate directly with young people, engage them in political processes, and provide them with information [9]. In the digital age, the process of political socialization is carried out not only through traditional institutions but also within the digital space. This enables school pupils and university students to independently learn, discuss, and analyze political knowledge. At the same time, political parties are increasingly employing new pedagogical methods within this process.

Methods. This study is aimed at identifying the role of political parties in the process of youth political socialization and is based on modern sociological and political methodological approaches. The research examines the significance of political parties, educational institutions, mass media, and digital platforms in shaping young people's political knowledge, participation, and consciousness.

A combination of methods was employed in an integrated manner:

Survey: A survey was used to collect data on young people's interest in political parties, their level of political knowledge, and the influence of political parties. The questionnaire included both multiple-choice and open-ended questions, allowing for the analysis of youth political participation, their experience in elections, and their attitudes toward political parties.

Interview method: Individual and group interviews were conducted with party representatives and young people. This method made it possible to identify practical experiences related to the development of political knowledge, leadership potential, and democratic values.

Observation method: Direct observations were carried out during seminars, training sessions, and forums organized by political parties. This approach enabled the assessment of youth political activity, levels of participation, and patterns of interaction.

Document analysis: Annual reports of political parties, state programs, laws, and regulatory legal documents were analyzed. This helped to determine the practical activities of political parties in promoting youth political engagement.

Digital analysis: Interactions between political parties and youth on digital platforms such as Telegram, Facebook, and YouTube were examined, including online forums and webinars. This method proved to be an effective tool for studying the process of digital political socialization.

3. Results and Discussion

Results. The results of the survey and interviews indicate that political parties are an effective instrument for increasing the political knowledge of young people. Through seminars, training sessions, political schools, and forums, youth gain information about the political system, electoral processes, and public administration. For example, among 300 young respondents who participated in the "School of Young Politicians" project in Uzbekistan, 78% reported an increase in their political knowledge. This demonstrates the effectiveness of party-led educational programs and training initiatives [10]. Political parties encourage young people to participate in elections, engage actively in public discussions, and take part in political activities. According to the research findings, campaign activities and online forums organized by political parties significantly enhance youth political participation. For instance, monitoring data from the 2025 local elections revealed that 60% of observers and 45% of campaign activists were trained by political parties. This contributes to the

development of their practical political experience [11]. Political parties also identify talented youth and involve them in leadership training programs, mentorship systems, and practical political activities. The results show that a significant proportion of deputies and public officials began their careers within party structures. For example, more than 40% of members of the Oliy Majlis participated in political party leadership programs during their youth [12].

Political parties play an important role in fostering democratic values among young people, including respect for diversity of opinions, a culture of compromise, the rule of law, and civic responsibility. The findings suggest that online debates, political blogs, and interactive activities enhance young people's critical thinking skills. For instance, 65% of participants in political discussions organized in Facebook and Telegram groups reported that they learned to express their political views freely [13]. Political parties also bring youth-related issues such as employment, education, and social protection into the sphere of public policy. The research shows that programs and grants aimed at increasing youth employment have been expanded through party initiatives. For example, within the "Youth Employment Promotion" program, 70% of grant recipients were admitted to the project with the support of political parties [14].

In contemporary conditions, the internet, social networks, and digital platforms play a crucial role in political socialization. Political parties communicate with young people through platforms such as Telegram, Facebook, and YouTube, organizing online training sessions, webinars, and debates. For example, 72% of young people who participated in online political training reported a positive impact from the educational activities of political parties [15].

Discussion. The findings of the study indicate that political parties actively participate as a key agent in the process of youth political socialization and exert a direct influence on the formation of political knowledge, participation, leadership potential, and democratic values among young people. At the same time, when comparing these results with international experiences, several important conclusions can be drawn. Political parties' seminars, training sessions, forums, and political schools prove to be effective tools for enhancing the political knowledge of youth. This finding is consistent with international research. For instance, studies by Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba demonstrate that, in the process of political socialization, political parties and educational institutions jointly play a crucial role in shaping young people's political knowledge [16].

The research also shows that political parties encourage young people to participate in elections and to be active in public discussions. This fosters a sense of confidence and freedom in engaging with political processes. International experience similarly indicates that youth participation significantly increases through the combined influence of political parties and digital platforms. For example, in democratic countries of Northern Europe, young people are actively mobilized into political processes through party-led campaign initiatives [17]. Political parties identify talented youth and prepare them through leadership training and mentorship systems. This contributes to shaping young people as future political leaders. International practice confirms that political parties play an essential role in developing youth leadership potential. For instance, in several European countries, parties implement youth leadership programs that strengthen political socialization processes [18].

Political parties also contribute to the development of democratic values among young people, including respect for diversity of opinions, a culture of compromise, the rule of law, and civic responsibility. The findings indicate that online debates and political blogs enhance young people's critical thinking abilities. At the same time, international studies confirm the

importance of digital platforms in shaping democratic values. As noted by George Siemens and Stephen Downes (2008), online learning and digital interactive communication foster independent thinking among youth [19]. Political parties also bring issues related to youth such as employment, education, and social protection into the domain of public policy. The findings show that programs and grants aimed at increasing youth employment are effectively implemented through political party initiatives.

In contemporary conditions, the internet, social networks, and digital platforms play a crucial role in the process of political socialization. Political parties communicate with young people through platforms such as Telegram, Facebook, and YouTube, organizing online activities and debates. The study demonstrates that digital platforms serve as effective tools for enhancing both the political knowledge and participation of young people.

4. Conclusion

The findings of the study indicate that political parties play a central role as a key agent in the process of youth political socialization. They effectively perform functions such as enhancing political knowledge, stimulating political participation, developing leadership potential, instilling democratic values, and representing youth interests in public policy.

The main findings of the study can be summarized as follows:

Enhancing political knowledge: Political parties help young people acquire political knowledge through seminars, training sessions, forums, and political schools. This contributes to the formation of political consciousness and the development of independent thinking skills.

Stimulating political participation: Participation in elections, public discussions, and political activities increases young people's political experience and encourages their active involvement in social life.

Developing leadership potential: Political parties identify talented youth and prepare them as future political leaders through leadership training, practical political activities, and mentorship systems.

Instilling democratic values: Promoting respect for diversity of opinions, a culture of compromise, the rule of law, and civic responsibility strengthens the democratic consciousness of young people.

Protecting youth interests: Issues related to employment, education, and social protection are elevated to the level of public policy, ensuring the effective protection of youth interests.

Utilizing digital platforms: The use of the internet, social networks, and digital platforms expands the scope of political socialization. Through platforms such as Telegram, Facebook, and YouTube, interactive communication and online learning activities are organized, contributing to increased political knowledge and participation.

At the same time, the results suggest the need to systematically develop youth political socialization by integrating political parties with digital platforms. The following recommendations are particularly important:

1. Expanding and improving the quality of educational programs for youth within political parties;
2. Promoting youth political participation through the effective use of online communication and digital platforms;

3. Developing mentorship and training systems focused on leadership and democratic values;
4. Strengthening political initiatives aimed at protecting youth interests.

In conclusion, political parties contribute to the development of young people's political knowledge, participation, and democratic consciousness by actively engaging them in social life. Moreover, in the context of the growing role of digital technologies and platforms, the process of political socialization can become more effective and interactive. This, in turn, will help strengthen the political potential of youth, promote the development of a democratic society, and ensure the political stability of the country.

5. References

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