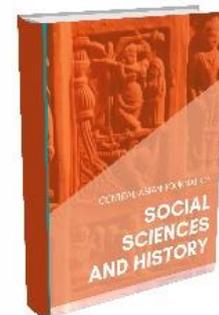




CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY

Journal homepage: <https://cajssh.centralasianstudies.org>



Government Attention and Support to Craftsmanship in Uzbekistan

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Abstract:

In Uzbekistan, the art of handicrafts, which is an integral part of the daily life of many people, in particular, wood carving, carving, pottery, weaving, goldsmithing, music making, carving, jewelry, has a history of several thousand years, its own creative schools and traditions, and famous representatives. The fact that many artistic crafts and applied art products made by skilled craftsmen are kept in the famous museums of the world to this day indicates that they have an important place in the history of the peoples of the world.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 23-Sep-22

Received in revised form 22-Oct-22

Accepted 24-Nov-22

Available online 27-Dec-2022

Key word: government decisions, woodcarving, family business, pottery, pottery, textiles, goldsmithing, music, carving, jewelry.

Introduction.

Government decisions of the Republic of Uzbekistan are of great importance in the development of folk crafts, and the holding of handicraft exhibitions, competitions, symposiums and international scientific and practical conferences contributes greatly to the development of the field. The purpose of these events is to establish mutual cooperation and exchange of experience between craftsmen and foreigners, to preserve traditions, and to encourage craftsmen materially and morally.

Materials and Methods

On October 24-25, 1995, the holding of the first Republic Fair[11] in Tashkent in practical cooperation with the permanent representative office of the United Nations in Uzbekistan, in which the craftsmen and craftsmen of Uzbekistan took part, also stimulated the increase of attention to the activities of craftsmen. 6 artisans from Kashkadarya region took part in this fair, drawing the attention of the general public to the revival of national handicraft traditions (the importance of the master apprenticeship system). At the end of the fair-exhibition, since handicrafts are fundamentally different from entrepreneurship and business, a number of economic and social tasks were assigned to them in order to appreciate the work of craftsmen.

In addition, the World Exhibitions organized in Tashkent in 1995 on the basis of the UNESCO project and held in Hanover, Germany in 2000 also played an important role in the recognition of Uzbek handicrafts at the international level [4]. Artisans from the southern regions of Uzbekistan have been successfully participating in these exhibitions and fairs.

With the support of "Usto" association, Uzbek coppersmiths have successfully participated in many exhibitions in Malaysia in 1994, Pakistan in 1997 and Europe[10].

The establishment of the "Golden Heritage" international charity fund in the republic in 1996 and the "Tashabbus" competition, which has been held every year since this year, and the establishment of the "Best craftsman" nomination in it, indicate special attention for the development of national handicrafts.

Vocational education is important in providing the developing branches of folk traditional crafts with qualified young personnel. Vocational education was reformed under conditions of transition to market relations, and 140 vocational and 18 national craft colleges were established in the republic in 1995-1996. Also, in order to preserve and develop traditional crafts, 12 educational institutions were transformed into national craft colleges, and it was decided to train specialists in 76 directions and 140 specialties. Southern oases vocational colleges train specialists in tailoring, carpet making, goldsmithing, carving, woodworking, cooking, pastry making and hairdressing [2].

In 1996, the "Kashteks" textile complex was launched in the city of Karshi, and 1300 kg of cotton fabric was woven in one day on 11 looms brought from the Italian company "Orizio". The complex has a production capacity of 2,500 tons of cotton fiber per year, and the work is carried out on automated computers. "Kashteks" is intended for the production of 12 types of inner knitted clothes, and in one year, the enterprise sewed more than 100,000 T-shirts and more than 300,000 children's clothes[3].

Since 1997, attention to national handicrafts in Uzbekistan has risen to a new level. National crafts, preservation of traditional values, restoration of centuries-old traditions and unique types of handmade art products and care for craftsmen have been raised to the level of state policy, and its legal basis has been created[5]. At the same time, in the conditions of the market economy, they had the opportunity to supply and use local raw materials, materials, tools, etc., and freely sell their products at exhibitions, fairs, auctions, and stores.

In the following years, in order to preserve this rich cultural heritage of ours, to further develop folk art and applied art, to adequately encourage the hard work of skilled craftsmen who have been consistently continuing historical traditions in this regard, relevant decrees and decisions have been adopted, and new opportunities and privileges have been created for them.

In order to improve the system of attracting the population to handicrafts, to provide vocational training and employment to youth in the neighborhoods based on the "master-apprentice" tradition, as well as to reduce poverty and to consistently continue the ongoing reforms on the development of handicrafts:

1. According to the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 20, 2021 "On additional measures to develop family entrepreneurship and increase the source of income of the population" PQ-55, within the framework of family entrepreneurship development programs in 2022:

that 10 trillion soums have been allocated for project financing;

preferential loans at an annual rate of 14 percent to the members of the "Hunarmand" association for the purchase of equipment, spare parts and raw materials for production needs, the establishment of craft development centers, "master-apprentice" schools, building houses-museums and workshops, or for these purposes for the purchase of buildings and facilities - up to 3 years and up to 18 months for replenishment of working capital.

In 2022, 500 billion soums of the funds allocated within the framework of family business development programs were directed to the financing of handicraft projects.

preferential loans for the implementation of craft projects with a grace period of up to 6 months up to 225 million soums are allocated under the conditions provided for in the framework of family business development programs;

concessional loans were provided with the possibility of receiving cash at the request of the craftsman; funds generated from the extinguished part of preferential loans allocated to artisans in previous years were re-directed to finance crafts projects;

"Hunarmand" association established a permanent monitoring and control system together with commercial banks regarding the effective use of preferential loans allocated to artisans within the framework of family business development programs and their timely return to commercial banks.

In this regard, a separate department was launched for the online queuing of artisans and lending their projects on the electronic platform "oilakredit.uz" for the provision of preferential loans within the framework of family entrepreneurship development programs.

From 2022, at the expense of the Fund for Involvement of the Population in Entrepreneurship:

to the artisans who teach trades to young people on the basis of the "master-apprentice" tradition - for the training of apprentices, the purchase of necessary raw materials and the provision of wages to the apprentices in an amount not less than twice the amount of the basic calculation every month for 6 months;

Apprentices - to purchase the necessary tools and equipment to start their independent activities, as well as to masters - to set up websites, launch their products on global electronic trading platforms, and allocate subsidies for 50% of advertising costs, but not more than twenty-five times the amount of the base calculation was introduced.

In this case, the account of subsidized artisans and apprentices was maintained by the "Craftsman" association and integrated with the "Online Mahalla" electronic platform of the Neighborhood Work and Entrepreneurship Development Agency.

Starting from 2022, for the members of "Hunarmand" association:

it was accepted for information that the social tax rate is set at one time of the base calculation amount per year;

regardless of the place of operation, the payment of utility infrastructure services (electricity, water supply, sewerage, gas supply and heat supply) was carried out according to the tariffs set for the population and on the basis of conditions.

Until June 1, 2022, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city governments have established trade pavilions for handicraft products specialized in the trade of products produced by artisans in the cities of Tashkent, Nukus and regional centers.

trade pavilions are established on the basis of a model project developed by the Ministry of Construction on an area of not less than 150 square meters;

organization (construction) of trade pavilions was carried out at the expense of local budget funds and other sources not prohibited by law;

commercial pavilions put into use were given to the regional offices of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the right of operational management;

The Chamber of Commerce and the "Hunarmand" association was responsible for the systematic organization of the purchase, sale and export of handicraft products through trade pavilions;

trade pavilions were included in tourist routes intended for foreign and local tourists.

In accordance with the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 28, 2019 "On additional measures for the further development of handicrafts and support of craftsmen" No. designated as responsible for export to foreign markets.

Results and discussion.

It is necessary to highlight the role of the UN projects "Cultural Acquaintance Tourism and Development of Crafts" and "Help to Craftsmen" announced by the American organization "Counterpart Consortium" (1990) in the restoration of forgotten craft traditions. Based on this project, the embroiderers of the "Zebuniso" center in Bukhara returned from a creative tour in India[6]. They were able to hold fairs, invite experts from abroad to teach local craftsmen to use traditional technologies, natural dyes, and develop joint projects with famous craft centers. In recent years, the Swiss Bureau of Cooperation and Development, the representative office of UNESCO in Uzbekistan and the National Commission have been actively working in this regard.

The exhibition building was built and put into operation in Tashkent city in order to promote to the general public traditional crafts, which are considered a unique masterpiece of Uzbek culture and art, to preserve them carefully, to show the rich historical heritage to the world in harmony with the present [7].

The practice of hearing the reports of the embassies and representative offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries on the support of tourism activities, including the export and promotion of handicraft products to foreign markets, once every six months in the Senate of the Oliy Majlis.

As a privilege for the export of handicraft products to foreign countries, 24 types of handicraft products were exempted from the examination fee [8]. Local artisans are included in the "Handicraft Products of UNESCO", which includes the countries of Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan), South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), East Asia (China, Japan, Korea). are participating in the "quality mark" program. In 2006, the janda fabric and flowing carpet produced in the Boisun district of the Surkhandarya oasis were awarded the UNESCO quality label and were placed in office sites in Bangkok, Beijing, New York,

Delhi and Almaty, among other winners. Shahrisabz Pottery School was also awarded the UNESCO quality mark [9].

Conclusion

In conclusion, the funds generated from the extinguished part of the preferential loans allocated to artisans in recent years are redirected to the financing of handicraft projects. "Hunarmand" association, together with commercial banks, established a permanent monitoring and control system for the effective use of preferential loans allocated to artisans within the framework of family business development programs and their timely return to commercial banks. In this regard, a separate department was launched for the online queuing of artisans and lending their projects on the "oilakredit.uz" electronic platform for providing preferential loans within the framework of family entrepreneurship development programs.

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