

**THE ROLE OF MATHEMATICS IN SHAPING YOUTH
INTELLECTUALITY AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS IN THE WORKS OF ISLAM KARIMOV**

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Abstract: This article explores the emphasis placed by the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, on mathematics as a key tool for fostering intellectual development among the youth. His works reflect the vital importance of science and mathematics education in advancing national progress and sustainable development. Through analysis of selected quotes and ideas from his books, the paper reveals how mathematical thinking is promoted as an essential element in preparing young generations for future challenges. The article also discusses how mathematical competence contributes to scientific and technological growth, forming a foundation for innovation and independence.

Keywords: Islam Karimov, mathematics education, intellectual development, youth, scientific progress, technological innovation, Uzbekistan.

In the modern era, the advancement of any nation is closely linked to the development of its intellectual resources, particularly among the youth. The First President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, in his numerous speeches and writings, consistently underscored the crucial role that education—especially mathematics—plays in shaping critical thinking, logic, and innovation. As he once stated, *“If people don’t believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is.”* This view highlights the foundational role of mathematical reasoning in understanding and navigating the complexities of the real world.

1. Mathematical Thinking and Youth Development:

Islam Karimov believed that mathematics not only teaches numbers and formulas but also builds discipline, logic, and structured thinking. In his book *“High Spirituality – Invincible Power”*, he wrote that national progress depends on the intellectual potential of the younger generation, and mathematics is key to unlocking that potential.

2. Mathematics as a Driver of Technological Progress:

In his work “Uzbekistan on the Threshold of the 21st Century”, Karimov emphasized the need for Uzbekistan to prepare for a knowledge-based economy. He mentioned that in order to keep up with the world, the nation must develop strong human capital in science and technology, rooted in mathematical skills.

3. Strategic Vision in Educational Policy:

Karimov’s strategic documents, such as the national program for personnel training (1997), placed a special focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. He believed the future of Uzbekistan depended on creating an environment that nurtured scientific curiosity and problem-solving capabilities through education reforms.

4. Socio-Philosophical Perspective on Mathematics:

Mathematics, according to Karimov, is not only a science but also a way of thinking—a worldview. It teaches individuals to think independently, analyze critically, and make informed decisions, which are essential skills in the era of globalization and digital transformation.

Conclusion:

Islam Karimov’s legacy includes a deep understanding of the importance of mathematics in building a modern, independent, and progressive Uzbekistan. His emphasis on mathematics as a core discipline in shaping the thinking patterns of youth underlines a strategic and forward-thinking approach to education policy. By fostering a strong foundation in mathematics, Karimov aimed to prepare a generation that is capable of independent thinking, critical analysis, and innovative problem-solving—qualities that are essential for the challenges of the 21st century. His educational reforms were not only about improving school systems but about cultivating a national mindset aligned with scientific progress and global competitiveness. Moreover, Islam Karimov recognized that the rapid technological changes in the world demand a society well-versed in science and mathematics. He envisioned a future where Uzbek youth, equipped with mathematical knowledge and logical reasoning, would become the driving force behind economic modernization, scientific discovery, and technological innovation. It is therefore imperative that modern educators, policymakers, and

students revisit his insights and work collectively to strengthen mathematics education across all levels. Only by doing so can the nation unlock the full intellectual potential of its youth and secure a sustainable future based on knowledge, innovation, and scientific excellence.

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