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EDUCATIONAL COSTS

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Abstract: This article explores the structure and dynamics of educational costs in Uzbekistan across different levels of the education system. While primary education remains officially free, families often bear additional expenses such as textbooks, uniforms, and supplementary materials. These hidden costs place a considerable financial burden on households, particularly those with multiple school-aged children. Government support through subsidies and targeted assistance programs—such as uniform provisions for socially vulnerable groups—plays an essential role in alleviating these expenses. The paper also analyzes the cost differences between public and private higher education institutions, where tuition fees vary significantly depending on the program and specialization. Rising tuition fees, especially in private institutions, remain a barrier to equitable access to higher education. Understanding the composition and implications of educational expenditures is critical for developing effective policy interventions to ensure that quality education remains accessible and affordable for all segments of the population in Uzbekistan.

Key words: education costs, Uzbekistan, tuition fees, higher education, primary education, school uniforms, textbooks, family expenses, educational equity, public vs private institutions, state subsidies, financial burden, accessibility, quality education, education policy.

INTRODUCTION

The education system of Uzbekistan has been undergoing serious changes and updates in recent years. As the focus on education increases, so does its price and tuition costs. In order to create high-quality education in Uzbekistan and equal opportunities for everyone, the cost of studying in educational institutions of various levels changes regularly.

In this article, we will consider the cost of education in Uzbekistan and how it affects students and parents, as well as the composition of education costs in our country. The cost of education has become a major concern for students and families worldwide. With rising tuition fees, textbooks, and additional expenses such as housing and transportation, the financial burden of obtaining an education is heavier than ever. While the value of a quality education remains undeniable, the increasing costs are leaving many individuals questioning how they can afford it. Understanding the factors contributing to educational costs and the impact they have on students is crucial in finding potential solutions to make education more accessible and affordable for everyone.

In this article, I will cover the costs of education in Uzbekistan step by step despite the fact that primary school education is free, students and their families face many additional costs. These costs are mainly divided

into the following types: Books and educational materials - Every student must purchase textbooks, study guides and other educational materials at the beginning of the new academic year. Although textbooks are mostly rented by the school, some materials have to be purchased. These costs vary from year to year and are often a significant financial burden for parents.

School uniforms and clothing - In public schools in Uzbekistan, students are required to wear school uniforms that are mostly uniform in appearance. The demand for these uniforms depends on the season. This is also one of the largest parts of tuition costs. For this reason, our country organizes discounted fares in order to reduce these costs. In addition, school uniforms for summer and winter seasons are given to children who have lost their breadwinners, orphans and youth registers, iron registers, and children under similar social protection.

These supports by our government help to go down the percentage of studding expenses. In this study, I will analyse the effective implementation of such alternatives. Educational Costs in Higher Education. While primary and secondary education may be free or low-cost in many countries, higher education often comes with substantial costs. These costs can differ greatly depending on whether the institution is public or private, the course of study, and the country in which the education is pursued. One of the most significant costs for students in higher education is tuition. Public universities typically charge lower tuition fees than private institutions, but the cost can still be a substantial barrier for many students. Tuition fees for some specialties and areas in many state higher education institutions of Uzbekistan. These payments are generally accepted as annual payments. Fees for higher education differ between public and private higher education.

Although public higher education institutions have fee-based courses, they are often cheaper than private higher education institutions. Tuition fees can be much higher in private higher education institutions. Tuition fees for some specialties and areas in many state higher education institutions of Uzbekistan. These payments are generally accepted as annual payments. Fees for higher education differ between public and private higher education. Although public higher education institutions have fee-based courses, they are often cheaper than private higher education institutions. Tuition fees can be much higher in private higher education institutions.

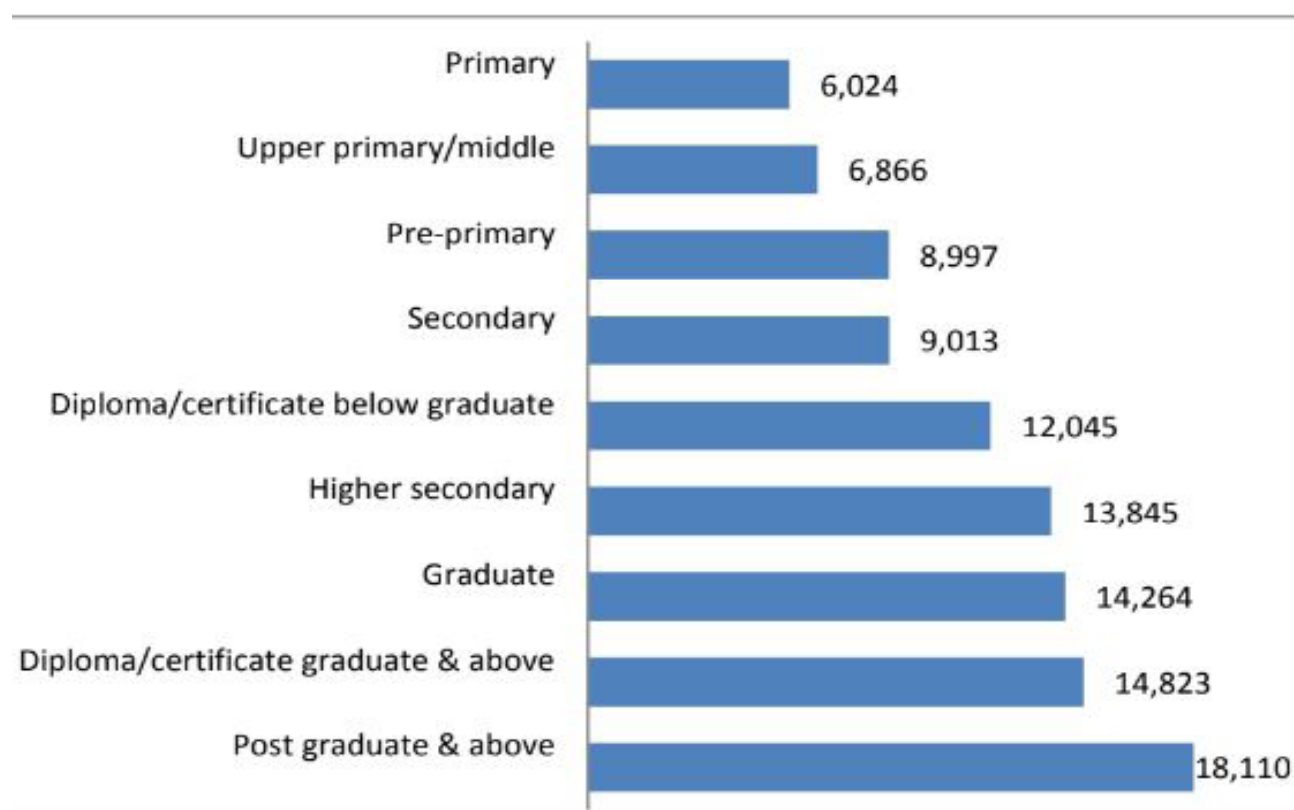


Figure 1. Average income by educational attainment level

Average expenditure (in Rs.) relating to basic course per student pursuing a general course. (Image: [CARE Ratings](#)) What does it take to enrol a child in engineering courses? An average amount of 63,280 per year plus accommodation and other charges. In India, the average per capita income is about 10,500 per month.

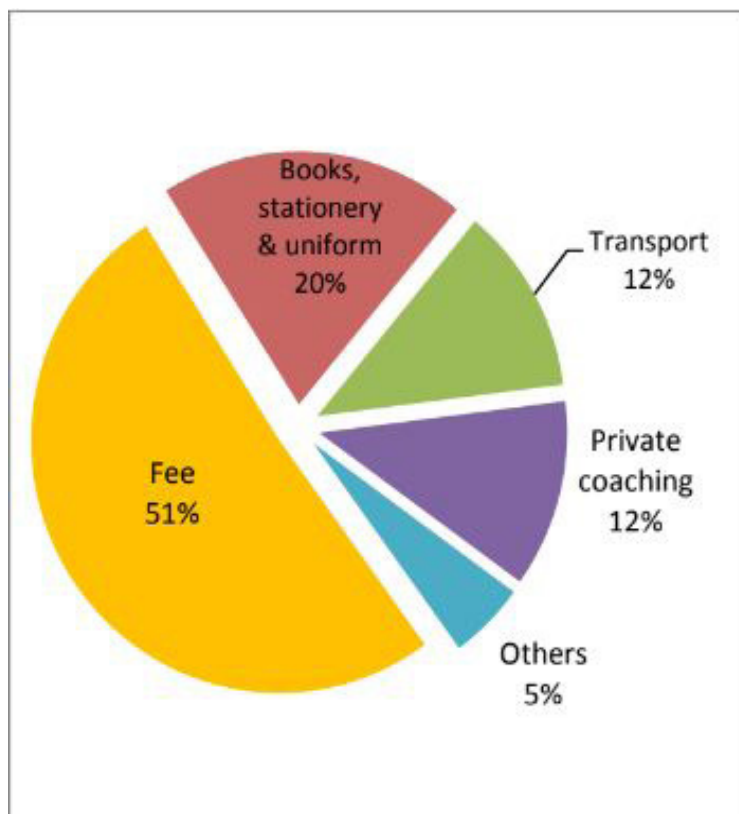


Figure 2. Breakdown of educational expenditures by category.

A major chunk of total educational expenditure is of fee for tuition, Books, stationery and other costs are there as well. (Image: CARE Ratings)

The following chart depicts the share of the Indian population that has completed certain level of education. Only 11% of the population or roughly one in every 10 individuals has a graduate degree and above. Every one in four persons is not literate. In 2022, more money will be spent on higher education and public education than last year. It is expected that funds will be allocated from the budget in several areas for youth and education. At the next session of the Legislative Chamber, the draft law “On the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan” was adopted in the first reading. The state budget revenues for 2022 are planned to amount to 200 trillion soums, and expenditures to 215.4 trillion soums.

The difference in the funds allocated for education and youth in the coming year compared to 2021 was analyzed. More funds will be allocated to higher education than last year. In 2022, 4.1 trillion soums will be allocated to the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education. This amount amounted to 2.9 trillion soums in 2021. It is expected that 1.1 trillion soums more will be spent on higher education in the coming year. Funds for student housing and the “Youth Notebook”:

In 202, the Higher Education Fund allocated 178 billion soums for subsidies to the budget for the construction of student housing based on the order of the state-private partnership and the state higher education system; “14.6 billion soums are allocated for monthly subsidies in the amount of twice the base amount for young people during their internship.” It should be noted that 72 billion soums were allocated from the 202 budget law for subsidies for monthly rent for students who received housing and received it on the basis of a lease in a house. Rent subsidies are not taken into account in 2022.

More will be spent on public education compared to the previous year. In 2022, 25.8 trillion soums will be allocated to the Ministry of Public Education. In 2021, this amount amounted to 22.1 trillion soums. This year, 98 billion soums were allocated to connect schools to the Internet, while 198 billion soums will be spent in 2022. In the coming year, 600 billion soums are expected to be allocated for transfers to the Republican Targeted Book Fund. In 2021, this amount was 208 billion soums.

Funds for preschool education will remain unchanged. While 6.5 trillion soums were allocated to the Ministry of Preschool Education in 2021, this amount will remain unchanged in 2022. Other expenses for youth and education: In 2022, 4.7 billion soums will be allocated from the funds allocated to the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan to cover part of the costs of obtaining international “IT” certificates for young people; Also, 212 billion soums will be spent on the Youth

Affairs Agency, of which 50 billion will be spent on development programs, and 50 billion soums on subsidies to promote youth employment and strengthen their social protection. In 2021, 317.9 billion soums were allocated to the agency.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Dormitory Fees- Dormitory services are often necessary for students in higher education, especially for students from other cities or provinces. Some universities of Uzbekistan provide students with a room, but for some places they pay for a dormitory. Dormitory prices vary by university and region. A room for students who are far from the place of study can be a big burden. **Books, Textbooks and Study Materials.** In higher education, the cost of books, textbooks and other educational materials is of particular importance for students.

In some higher education institutions of Uzbekistan, it will be necessary to purchase study materials for students, because study materials are not provided free of charge in some universities. Books, academic articles, internet services and other necessary resources incur additional costs for students. Transportation and Accommodation Expenses for a student entering higher education, transportation costs also play an important role. If a student is studying in another city, transportation costs can be a significant financial burden.

Monthly costs for commuting to the university by car or public transport vary depending on the student's place of residence. Also, accommodation costs are important. Students have to rent their own house, which increases the monthly cost.

Education is essential as it forms the cornerstone of personal, social, and economic growth. It equips individuals with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities necessary to navigate life's challenges and actively contribute to society (Spring, 2000). Education not only helps individuals fulfill their basic needs but also empowers them to improve their quality of life and seize new opportunities for personal and professional advancement (McCowan, 2011).

Additional Courses and Trainings. Students in higher education often enrol in additional courses and training to advance their skills and obtain specializations. Such courses, seminars, or trainings may also be viewed as tuition. All require additional courses and experience programs for some professionals, which creates additional security for students.

The Uzbek government and higher education provide a variety of grants and scholarships to support students in their learning experience. Scholarships Public and private higher education offers various scholarships and grants to students. These scholarships are mainly intended for students with higher education levels and support the quality of studies.

Social Assistance and Subsidies Provide assistance to students from low-income families through social assistance programs. This support helps to make students more interested in reading and improve their skills. **Credits** Higher education institutions offer some students the opportunity to receive loans for their studies. These loans allow students to pay for their education in the short term, but they will have to repay the loan later.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a descriptive research method. This method is used to determine the picture and condition of something by describing it in as much detail as possible based on existing facts (Varismoradi et al, 2013). This study conducted an in-depth analysis of the content of the Ministry of Education of Uzbekistan's website, with an observation period of 2023 and 2024. Researchers used the keyword advanced studies to identify government programs and activities to increase the number of people continuing their studies.

RESULTS

The Uzbekistan government has implemented several key programs and activities aimed at reducing the obstacles that prevent many individuals from pursuing higher education. These initiatives focus on addressing financial constraints, improving access to educational institutions, and motivating students and parents to prioritize education. The government's efforts are vital in tackling issues like economic barriers, regional disparities, and limited access to higher education institutions. Below is a detailed explanation of these programs and their impact on the educational landscape of Uzbekistan.

Financial Assistance Programs

One of the main barriers to continuing education in Uzbekistan is the cost associated with higher education. Recognizing this, the government has implemented a series of financial assistance programs designed to alleviate the economic burden on students and their families. These programs include:

Scholarships and Grants: In 2023, the Uzbekistan government increased funding for scholarships and grants by 25%, providing financial support to over 300,000 students (Ministry of Education, 2024). This initiative

specifically targets students from low-income families and rural areas, ensuring that they are not left behind due to financial difficulties.

Tuition Fee Subsidies: The government has introduced tuition fee subsidies that cover between 50% to 100% of the total cost of education for eligible students. This subsidy applies not only to undergraduate programs but also to vocational and technical training, further broadening the scope of opportunities available to students (Ministry of Education, 2023).

Loans with Low Interest: Another important initiative is the provision of educational loans with minimal interest rates. These loans are structured to allow students to repay them after completing their studies and securing employment, reducing immediate financial pressure on both students and their families (Roser & Ortiz-Ospina, 2023).

Table 1. Government support programs for higher education in Uzbekistan.

Program	Number of Beneficiaries	Total Funding (UZS)	Coverage Percentage
Scholarships and Grants	300,000	500 billion	100%
Tuition Fee Subsidies	150,000	350 billion	50-100%
Educational Loans	50,000	200 billion	Loan with low interest

CONCLUSION

The rising cost of higher education in Uzbekistan poses a growing challenge to equitable access for students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Expenses related to tuition, accommodation, transportation, and extracurricular activities contribute to the overall financial burden on students and their families. Despite these challenges, the government's provision of scholarships, tuition subsidies, and educational loans plays a significant role in mitigating the cost barrier and supporting continued enrollment. However, to ensure long-term sustainability and inclusiveness, it is essential to develop more efficient financial aid mechanisms, reduce out-of-pocket tuition expenses, and expand funding coverage. Strategic reforms aimed at increasing financial accessibility will not only alleviate economic pressure but also contribute to the advancement of human capital and the overall socio-economic development of the country.

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