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## FORMATION AND PROSPECTS OF THE UZBEK MAHALLA IN MODERN SOCIETY

Jurayev Luqmon Narzullayevich

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy

Doctor of Sciences (DSc) in Philosophy

Sharof Rashidov Samarkand State University

Taniqulov Jonibek Ashirkulovich

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy

Sharof Rashidov Samarkand State University

[jtaniqulov140@mail.ru](mailto:jtaniqulov140@mail.ru)

ORCID ID: 0009-0002-5192-3975

+998933461313

### Abstract

This article analyzes the formation processes of the Uzbek mahalla in modern society, its role in social life, and its prospects. In particular, it highlights priority directions in the current development strategy aimed at supporting the mahalla institution, expanding its powers, and developing a people-centered governance system. The study substantiates the importance of the mahalla in strengthening civil society, resolving social problems, and increasing public activity. As a result, general conclusions are drawn regarding the role of the mahalla institution in modern development.

**Keywords:** Mahalla, modern society, development, strategy, state, people, collectivism, progress, youth, entrepreneurship.

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### Main Body

The mahalla is one of the historically formed important social institutions of Uzbek society. It is not only a territorial unit but also an environment that regulates social relations among people. It embodies national values, customs, and traditions, and serves as a place where the principles of solidarity and mutual assistance are strengthened. Through the mahalla, people communicate with one another, jointly resolve problems, and ensure social cohesion.

Today, the mahalla system, under the influence of modern reforms, is acquiring new meaning and is becoming an important institution in the development of civil society. It plays a significant role in expanding citizens' participation in public administration, resolving social issues at the local level, and educating the younger generation. In this regard, the mahalla is not only a historical heritage but also an integral part of modern social development.

The respected President Sh. Mirziyoyev's statement that "*the mahalla should be a bridge between the people and the state*" carries a deep philosophical meaning. This idea reflects the interconnection between society and governance. In philosophy, it is emphasized that the relationship between the state and society must be based on balance, trust, and mutual dialogue. The mahalla functions as a mediator in this process, bringing state decisions closer to the life of the people and conveying citizens' needs and interests to the state.

The mahalla as a "social space" shortens the distance between the individual and the system. In this environment, a person is not left alone with their problems but engages with the state through the community. As a result, values such as social justice, solidarity, and trust are strengthened. This idea also corresponds to the principles of civil society, where the state is not only a top-down governing structure but a system in continuous interaction with the people. The mahalla is a living expression of this interaction. Therefore, the idea of the mahalla as a bridge represents harmony, cooperation, and sustainable development between society and the state.

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Article 127 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan specifically regulates the mahalla system. It states that citizens' self-governing bodies in towns, villages, and mahallas are institutions of self-government that elect their chairpersons. These bodies are not part of the system of state authorities and are entitled to independently resolve local issues based on citizens' interests, historical development features, national values, and local customs and traditions, in accordance with the law. The state creates necessary conditions for their functioning and supports them in exercising their legally defined powers. The procedure for elections and the organization of their activities are determined by law.

The mahalla serves as an effective mechanism in addressing social problems at the local level and in educating the younger generation. In this regard, the mahalla is not only a historical heritage but also an inseparable component of the development of modern society.

The respected President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev's statement that "*the mahalla should be a bridge between the people and the state*" carries a profound philosophical meaning. This idea primarily signifies the intrinsic connection between society and governance. In philosophy, it is emphasized that the relationship between the state and society must be based on balance, trust, and mutual dialogue. The mahalla acts precisely as a mediator in this process, bringing top-down decisions closer to the daily life of the people and, in turn, conveying the needs and interests of the population to the state.

As a "social space," the mahalla reduces the distance between the individual and the system. Within this environment, individuals are not left alone with their problems but instead interact with the state through the community. As a result, values such as social justice, solidarity, and mutual trust are strengthened. This idea also corresponds to the principles of civil society, where the state is not merely a top-down governing force but a system in continuous interaction with the people. The mahalla serves as a living expression of this interaction.

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Therefore, the concept of the mahalla as a bridge represents harmony, cooperation, and a key condition for sustainable development between society and the state.

Article 127 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan is specifically dedicated to the mahalla system. It states that citizens' assemblies in towns, villages, and rural settlements, as well as mahallas in cities, towns, villages, and rural settlements, are self-governing bodies that elect their chairpersons. These self-governing bodies are not included in the system of state authorities and have the right to independently resolve issues of local significance based on citizens' interests, the historical characteristics of development, as well as national values, local customs, and traditions, in accordance with the law.

The state creates necessary conditions for the functioning of citizens' self-governing bodies and assists them in exercising their legally defined powers. The procedure for the election of these bodies, their organization, and their activities is regulated by law.

The organization and powers of these bodies are determined by law.

The constitutional consolidation of the mahalla demonstrates its unparalleled importance in the life of society. Being enshrined at the constitutional level gives the mahalla a legal basis as a self-governing body of citizens, while its activities are supported and protected by the state. From a philosophical point of view, this approach serves to ensure harmony between society and the state. Through the mahalla, the interests, needs, and initiatives of citizens directly enter the system of social governance. This, in turn, creates a foundation for the practical implementation of democratic principles. In addition, the inclusion of the mahalla in the Constitution can be regarded as the legal recognition of national values at the state level. As a result, the mahalla further strengthens its position not only as a historical and cultural heritage, but also as an important supporting pillar in the development of modern society.

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Mahallas, as “cradles of values,” also play a very important role in the upbringing of youth. The education of the younger generation in a healthy moral environment—particularly in terms of respecting parents and elders—is carried out through cooperation between mahallas and families. Ensuring that children grow into well-rounded, highly moral, and mature individuals is considered one of the key responsibilities not only of parents but also of mahallas.

In this regard, it is necessary to organize various cultural and national events in mahallas aimed at fostering high moral values among young people. It is well known that family and mahalla are closely interconnected. In our society, there is a widely used saying: “*It takes seven mahallas to raise one child.*” This expression carries profound meaning. It clearly shows how important the role of the mahalla is in social life.

The social upbringing of youth, mutual respect among people, and cooperation between family, school, and mahalla constitute the primary foundations of spiritual development. That is why it is rightly said that the mahalla is a center of education and upbringing. Historically, mahallas have been the first cradle of upbringing, the golden key of compassion and kindness, and a center of peace. People living in one mahalla know each other well, are aware of each other’s lives, and are ready to help one another in any situation. This clearly demonstrates one of the strongest features of the mahalla system.

In our country, there are approximately more than 10,000 self-governing bodies, that is, mahalla institutions. One may ask how the Head of State can manage all these mahallas through a unified policy that is suitable for each of them and does not lead to dissatisfaction or objections. The answer to this question lies in the wise decrees and resolutions of the President regarding the mahalla system. In particular, the newly developed “Uzbekistan–2030” Strategy is designed with numerous decisions aimed at the development of mahallas. Among them, the declaration of 2026 as the “Year of Developing Mahallas – Raising Society” serves as a clear example of this approach.

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Within the “Uzbekistan–2030” Strategy, the issue of prospects for mahalla development has gained special importance in terms of modernizing society and strengthening civil institutions. In this strategy, the mahalla system is viewed not only as the lowest level of social governance but also as an important bridge between the state and society. Therefore, improving its activities, expanding its powers, and strengthening its material and technical base have been defined as key priorities.

First of all, the “Uzbekistan–2030” Strategy envisages further strengthening the mahalla institution as the closest form of governance to the population. This approach contributes to expanding citizens’ participation in decision-making processes, resolving problems at the local level, and enhancing social control.

In the development strategy of New Uzbekistan, the mahalla is recognized as one of the key pillars of societal development. In particular, expanding the powers of the mahalla, solving citizens’ problems on the spot, and bringing public services closer to the population have been defined as priority tasks. Through this approach, the mahalla is transforming not only into a structure providing social assistance, but also into an important institution that increases civic activity and involves citizens more actively in public life.

The strategy considers the development of the mahalla and the progress of society as interrelated processes. This is because the standard of living, social justice, and stability are first and foremost ensured at the level of the mahalla. Through the mahalla system, issues such as youth support, employment creation, and assistance to vulnerable groups are being systematically implemented. This, in turn, strengthens trust, solidarity, and social responsibility within society.

Therefore, in the context of New Uzbekistan, the development of the mahalla is becoming an important factor in societal progress. The more active and effective the mahalla functions, the greater the level of stability and development observed in society.

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We know that nothing happens on its own. In order to achieve something, one must work with sincerity and dedication. Things that are achieved easily usually do not last long. Likewise, in the process of our country's development toward becoming one of the most advanced countries in the world and taking leading positions in all fields and sectors, we will inevitably face many challenges and difficulties. The most important thing, however, is that our goal is a noble one.

If we surrender or fail to contribute to the development of our country due to lack of courage or determination, both we and future generations may lose our dignity and value. However, if we unite from the smallest social units—namely the family and the mahalla—and work toward a common goal, our country will undoubtedly reach a bright future. We will certainly achieve everything through dedication, activity, and solidarity.

The following words of our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev inspire us in moving toward this goal: “Today, the rapid pace of life itself calls all of us toward even greater goals. Strengthening the independent state and free society that we have built with our own strength, making it more powerful, more beautiful, and more prosperous has become our main task. This is such a high goal that it is worth any amount of effort. It is such a great and honorable mission that it deserves us to dedicate our entire being to it.”

The President's attention to listening to every individual's opinion, hearing their hopes and aspirations, and holding direct meetings with the population further increases the people's trust and respect for the state and its leadership.

The development of entrepreneurship in mahallas is currently recognized as one of the most important directions of socio-economic life. This process not only expands the population's sources of income but also contributes to increasing employment and strengthening social stability at the mahalla level.

One of the most important positive aspects of entrepreneurship in mahallas is the creation of new jobs. As small business and family entrepreneurship develop, employment opportunities for local residents—especially young people and the

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unemployed—expand significantly. This, in turn, reduces migration and helps people secure stable income within their own communities.

The leadership of our country is creating broad opportunities for working with youth, supporting their entrepreneurial initiatives, and establishing services that correspond to their interests. The establishment of commercial centers in each mahalla and the expansion of educational and training centers contribute to the further development of both the population and the mahalla itself.

### Conclusion

In modern society, the Uzbek mahalla is developing as an important social institution formed through the harmony of traditional values and modern governance principles. It plays a significant role not only in addressing the problems of the population, but also in increasing civic engagement and strengthening social cohesion within society.

In the future, the prospects of the mahalla will depend on the extent to which it embraces openness, efficiency, and innovative approaches. This process serves the stability and development of society. In general, under modern conditions, the Uzbek mahalla is being renewed as an integral part of social life and is continuously expanding its functions.

It plays an important role in ensuring social stability, strengthening cooperation among people, and reinforcing the connection between the state and society. The future development of the mahalla is determined by its continuous improvement in line with modern requirements and its reliance on active participation of citizens.

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