



THE ROLE AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

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Annotation: *This paper examines the concept of an information society, its stages of development, the role of information in social life, and the importance of information freedom. It also discusses the reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan to ensure freedom of information and the legal framework that supports it. In conclusion, recommendations are given to strengthen information security and improve information culture in society.*

Keywords: *information, information society, freedom, mass media, internet, information security, transparency.*

Today, humanity has entered a new stage of development — the information society. All areas of life — politics, economy, education, and culture — are now inseparable from information technologies. Information plays an essential role in everyone's daily life because it helps people make decisions, express opinions, and participate actively in society.

1. The concept and essence of the information society An information society is one in which the creation, processing, and distribution of information become the most important economic, political, and cultural resources. In such a society, information technologies, the internet, and digital systems play a key role. Today, many countries, including Uzbekistan, are moving steadily toward building an information society. The “Digital Uzbekistan – 2030” strategy serves as an important roadmap in this process.

2. The role of information in society Information is a vital resource that expands human knowledge and stimulates action. In modern society, information



has become an economic asset that often surpasses material production in importance. In public administration, openness of information strengthens public trust; In education, information technologies make learning more accessible; In the economy, digital services accelerate productivity and innovation. Thus, information ensures development, progress, and social awareness.

3. Freedom of information and its importance Freedom of information means every person's right to seek, receive, and distribute information and to express their opinions freely. This right is also recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. In Uzbekistan, several laws ensure freedom of information, such as: "On Informatization", "On the Principles and Guarantees of Freedom of Information", and "On Mass Media". Freedom of information not only enables free expression but also strengthens transparency and accountability in governance. However, this freedom must go hand in hand with responsibility — spreading false or misleading information can destabilize society.

4. Information security and responsibility Alongside freedom of information, ensuring information security is equally important. The spread of fake news, cyberattacks, or unauthorized access to personal data poses serious threats. Therefore, both the state and citizens must act together to protect the digital environment. Developing information culture and critical thinking, especially among youth, is a key part of maintaining information security.

5. Efforts to ensure information freedom in Uzbekistan In recent years, the President of Uzbekistan has implemented several reforms aimed at liberalizing media policy, expanding freedom of speech, and developing civil society. For example, the Open Data Portal (data.gov.uz) allows citizens to access public information about government institutions, promoting transparency and public trust. These reforms show that information openness is a cornerstone of democratic development.

CONCLUSION: The information society represents a new stage of human progress, where information has become the most valuable asset. Freedom of information is an integral part of human rights and the foundation of democracy and



development. Every citizen must therefore use information wisely, responsibly, and ethically.

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