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THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Xolmatova Saidakhon Vokhobzhonovna

Department Of Social Sciences And Humanities, Namangan State Institute Foreign Languages, Senior Teacher,
Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The article examines the dynamics and evolution of the concept of academic freedom in higher education institutions throughout the historical period. The study covers the main stages of the formation of this principle, starting from its origin and development in the context of the history of higher education. The author analyzes the impact of socio-cultural and political changes on the perception and application of academic freedom, as well as its role in the formation of educational standards and values. The article also examines the challenges faced by the concept of academic freedom in the modern educational context and possible ways to improve it. The results obtained contribute to a deeper understanding of the evolution of academic freedom and its role in modern higher education.

KEYWORDS

Academic freedom, Higher education institutions, Evolution of the concept, Student rights, Academic standards, Freedom of research, Academic ethics, University autonomy, Intellectual freedom, Restrictions on academic freedom, The role of education in society, Student government.

INTRODUCTION

Academic freedom is one of the fundamental concepts in higher education, ensuring freedom of thought,

research and learning. This concept has ancient roots, but its interpretation and perception have evolved in

accordance with changing socio-cultural and technological realities. In this article, we will look at the key stages in the evolution of the concept of academic freedom in higher education institutions. In ancient times and the Middle Ages, scientists and students were strongly influenced by church and government structures[1]. However, already in antiquity, the first signs of academic freedom appeared, manifested in the freedom of research and discussion in academic communities.

During the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, academic freedom became the bearer of the idea of freedom of thought. Universities arose where scientists and students could freely discuss ideas, conduct experiments and express criticism[2]. This time became the starting point for the formation of a modern understanding of academic freedom. Academic freedom is a fundamental principle underlying higher education. Over time, this concept has evolved, reflecting changes in society, science and education. In this article, we will consider the origins and development of the concept of academic freedom in higher education institutions.

Academic freedom has its roots in medieval universities, where teachers and students enjoyed a certain degree of independence in teaching and research. However, throughout history, this concept has undergone challenges and changes. In the age of Enlightenment, academic freedom became a symbol of

the struggle for freedom of thought and expression. The ideas of freedom in higher education were reflected in the works of philosophers and public figures of that time[3]. This influence shaped the principles that laid the foundations for the future development of the concept of academic freedom.

In the 20th century, the concept of academic freedom faced challenges such as political regimes, censorship, and sociocultural changes. Higher education institutions faced the need to protect their autonomy and the right to freely exchange ideas. Various international documents and organizations have begun to actively support the principles of academic freedom. In the modern world, academic freedom is facing new challenges. Globalization, the digital revolution and sociocultural changes present new aspects that need to be taken into account. The issues of digital ethics, accessibility of knowledge and open exchange of information are becoming key in the context of academic freedom. Taking into account modern challenges, academic freedom will continue to evolve. It is necessary to find a balance between freedom of expression and responsibility, as well as adapt to the new realities of the educational environment.

Academic freedom is a fundamental principle of higher education, embodying the independence of intellectual research and learning from external influences[4]. This concept primarily protects the right

of scientists and students to freely express ideas, explore innovative approaches and teach based on critical thinking. However, the evolution of this concept in higher education institutions is exposed to various socio-cultural, technological and political changes, forming new challenges and prospects.

The beginning of the concept of academic freedom can be traced back to medieval universities, where teachers and students had considerable autonomy in their activities. However, historical contexts such as the Inquisition restricted freedom of expression. Over time, academic freedom has become an important principle of modern higher education, which is reflected in various international and national declarations of human rights. The development of technology has brought new aspects to academic freedom[5]. The Internet and social media provide platforms for the global exchange of knowledge, but they also raise questions about digital privacy and security. Technological innovations also create new opportunities for distance learning, which can affect traditional structures of academic freedom.

Changing sociocultural values can affect the perception of academic freedom. The growing interest in the issues of voice diversification and inclusion is leading to a discussion of how widely freedom of expression should be extended in the academic community. This calls for a balance between freedom

of speech and the duty to prevent discrimination and hatred.

Academic freedom is also affected by political processes. In some countries, restrictions on the freedom of research and learning may be imposed in order to maintain political stability or deter certain ideas. This creates tension between the need to preserve the independence of educational institutions and the demands of the political authorities. Modern challenges and changes can serve as an incentive to update and strengthen the concept of academic freedom[6]. The discussion of the boundaries of this freedom and its interaction with other social values will continue. It is important to maintain a dialogue between scientists, students, the public and policy makers to develop balanced and effective approaches to academic freedom.

The concept of academic freedom is a fundamental principle of higher education institutions. It provides students and faculty with the freedom to explore, express, and learn without interference from outside forces. This concept has a long history, the evolution of which reflects changes in society, politics and culture. In this article, we will consider the stages of development of the concept of academic freedom from its inception to the present[7]. The idea of academic freedom has its roots in medieval universities, where scientists were free in their research and teaching. However, the formal concept of

academic freedom began to take shape in the 19th century, when universities in the United States and Europe faced challenges from censorship and interference in the educational process.

In the 20th century, the concept of academic freedom became more systematic and widespread. The formation of academic associations and the establishment of principles protecting freedom of research and learning have contributed to its strengthening. However, during periods of war and political crises, academic freedom faced challenges from the authorities. In the modern world, the concept of academic freedom is facing new challenges. Technological changes, the spread of social networks and globalization are making their own adjustments to the nature of communication in universities. As a result, issues of digital ethics, data protection and freedom of speech are becoming an integral part of discussions in educational institutions.

Today, academic freedom remains a key element of educational processes. However, it requires constant updating and adaptation to modern challenges. The influence of corporate interests, political pressures and cultural changes present new challenges to maintain the integrity of this concept. The evolution of the concept of academic freedom reflects the dynamics of social and cultural changes[8]. Today's universities are facing new challenges, and preserving academic freedom requires the joint efforts of students, faculty,

scientists and society as a whole. It is important to maintain a balance between freedom and responsibility in order to ensure a dynamic and progressive education for future generations.

Academic freedom is a concept that plays a key role in providing higher education with freedom of thought, research and learning. This concept has undergone significant changes over the centuries, reflecting sociocultural changes and changes in ideas about freedom and education. In this article, we will look at the evolution of the concept of academic freedom in higher education institutions[9]. Academic freedom has its roots in medieval universities, where teachers and students were able to discuss and analyze ideas without interference from church or state. However, over time, this freedom has been threatened by censorship and religious dogmas.

In the Renaissance and Enlightenment, academic freedom became a symbol of opposition to dogmas and despotism. Universities became centers of free exchange of ideas, which contributed to scientific and cultural achievements. However, even in these periods, freedom was not unconditional, ideas were still criticized and censored. At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, academic freedom faced new challenges. The pursuit of political correctness, nationalism and ideologies led to restrictions on the freedom of research. In some

cases, scientists and students have been persecuted for their beliefs.

The post-war era and the Cold War also had an impact on the academic environment. In regimes that suppressed political freedom, scientists and students faced pressure and censorship. At the same time, in Western countries, scientists sought to maintain neutrality and independence from politics. In the modern world, academic freedom remains relevant despite new challenges. Complex issues such as freedom of expression, research ethics, and university diversification require new approaches to understanding and ensuring academic freedom. With the development of globalization and technology, the impact on the academic environment is becoming more complex. Questions arise about the availability of knowledge, digital security, and responsibility for information that is distributed in an online environment.

The evolution of the concept of academic freedom is a reflection of the dynamism of society and its values. The preservation and improvement of academic freedom requires attention to socio-cultural changes, support for dialogue and the search for a balance between freedom and responsibility. Time will tell what challenges and prospects await academic freedom in the future.

CONCLUSION

The evolution of the concept of academic freedom is a reflection of the changing world and requires the attention and active participation of all participants in the educational process. Maintaining this freedom in the face of modern challenges becomes not only a matter of preserving traditions, but also a desire to create a dynamic and open environment for the development of knowledge and ideas. The evolution of the concept of academic freedom reflects the dynamics of society and changes in education. This process highlights the importance of preserving the principles of freedom of thought and research in higher education in order to ensure intellectual diversity and progress in society. Academic freedom remains an integral part of the educational system, requiring constant updating and protection.

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