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## FEATURES OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND NETWORK FORMS OF ORGANIZING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**Kim Larisa Antonovna\* ; Mirzaeva Elena Innokentievna\*\***

\*Senior lecturer of the department  
 "Social and humanitarian disciplines" of the Almalyk branch  
 Tashkent Technical University of the Republic of UZBEKISTAN

\*\*Associate Professor,  
 Department of Mathematical and Natural Sciences of the Almalyk Branch of the National,  
 Research Technological University,  
 "MISiS" of the Republic of UZBEKISTAN

### ABSTRACT

*The article analyzes the sphere of civic activity, as well as the network form of its organization. The features of this sphere of public life, which are significant for predicting its development, are revealed. Theories of social movements are considered. The factors and reasons for the activation of network civic activity, the conditions for its implementation in modern society are noted.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Civil Society, Civic Engagement, Social Movement, Network Analysis, Network Organizations, Social Actors, Social Structure.*

### INTRODUCTORY PART

In modern civil society, great importance is attached to personal and informal relationships aimed at achieving a common result and public good. Citizens begin to resolve issues of concern to them, going out into the public space, attracting the attention of the public. As a result, there is a development of social mechanisms that spread in the horizontal environment of activists. In such movements, subjects on equal terms try to form a joint decision on issues of interest to them. They begin to use the resources at their disposal as openly as possible. One can observe a picture in which individuals seek solutions to their problems through social movements formed around them or other forms of activity created on a common interest.

Socio-political changes in modern Uzbek society over the past five years have changed significantly, as a result of which civic activity has received a new impetus for development. In various spheres of public relations, there is an increase in the involvement of citizens and social groups in solving urgent social problems.

One of the features of civic engagement is the increasing use of the network principle for its organization. Network mobilization of the population in civil campaigns, actions and movements effectively affects the achievement of results and allows private initiatives to reach a new level. The network organization attracts by the presence of informal horizontal connections, openness, as well as the problems of the movement. Many social movements are networked and often involve issues of concern to the general population. Such movements are formed in the field of human rights protection, education, ecology, politics and the social sphere.

The motivation for participation in civic campaigns can be of different nature, but for the most part it is an expression of one's position. In addition, there are opportunities for the inclusion of activists in public activities without significant expenditure of resources. First of all, such opportunities are provided by the Internet.

Civil activity becomes an influencing mechanism of influence on the formalized structures of society and the state, as well as on ordinary citizens. It often happens that the state itself implements them, and tries to make the networked civic activity manageable. It often happens that civic activity comes from state institutions and various political forces.

### **Research methodology and methods**

The study uses a range of sources, which include the fundamental works of researchers in the field of civil society and the network approach in the theory of organization. The analysis of civil movements in modern Uzbekistan is based on the criteria of network forms of organization formulated in the works of M. Castells, W. Mastenbrook and other scientists.

The methodological basis of the work was formed by the method of network analysis, used to study specific civic movements, methods of political analysis are also used, such as event analysis and content analysis, as well as situational analysis and case-study. General scientific methods were used: comparative and logical methods, methods of induction and deduction, as well as structural-functional and systems approaches. In addition, an expert survey method was applied to collect empirical data.

### **Research results and discussion**

The term "organization" can be viewed from several angles. [1, p. 632; 7; nine].

The relationship in the organization between its elements can be built vertically and horizontally, in each case, the dominance of the type of management communication will determine the type of organizational structure. In this aspect, two types of organizations can be distinguished - network and hierarchical or non-network. A hierarchical structure is a multilevel form of organization of objects with a strict correlation of lower-level objects to a specific upper-level object. The most common form of hierarchical organizations is government agencies and structures, which, in turn, control political organizations, commercial and non-profit structures. Networked organizations are organizations that use networked connections, relationships, and

technologies in manufacturing management. These are associations that are built on a common goal, on certain rules of cooperation in groups.

The organization of civic engagement can be expressed through both forms of organization - both through the network and through the hierarchical one. Now there is an active discussion of the development of network forms of organization and the shift of priorities from a hierarchical form of management to a network one.

Constant changes in various spheres of public life lead to an increase in civic engagement and the need to apply new forms of organizing activities. At present, the heated discussion of problems in society, the holding of various actions in the country shows an increase in the number of civil movements. They are becoming more and more dissatisfied with the rules of the game, the prevailing norms, the environment, etc. Against the background of all these problems, we see the creation of new movements and organizations that in various ways are trying to assist in meeting the legitimate rights and interests of citizens. Basically, they all start with local stocks. The effective use of mass media helps such movements to find supporters in other regions and cities, which ultimately turns them into large-scale campaigns.

There are many approaches to defining the concept of "social movement", the interpretation of which depends on the choice of the basic concept and key concepts. There are four main approaches to the study of social movements: the theory of "collective behavior" (Turner, Killian); the theory of "resource mobilization" (Zald, McCarthy); the theory of the "political process" (Tilly); theory of "new social movements" (Touraine, Melucci) [8, P.47].

The first three refer to the results of American studies, the last one to European ones. The theory of collective behavior connects the essence of a social movement with the public, its social base. G. Bloomer considered collective behavior as any group activity in which individuals act together in such a way that between them there is a certain division of labor and a certain mutual adaptation of various lines of individual behavior, identifies elementary collective groupings (crowd, panic, riot, riots, etc.) and more complex, organized forms of collective behavior, which include social movements, social organization, institutions [8, P.43].

Elementary collective groups are spontaneous and natural, function with the help of primitive mechanisms of collective behavior, and arise under certain conditions and circumstances. Social movements, according to G. Bloomer, in the process of their activities are formed from a poorly organized form, gradually assuming the character of society, social organization. Turner and Killian define a social movement as some kind of collective entity that acts with some consistency to promote or prevent change in the society or organization of which they are a part. [5, P.9].

The English researcher E. Giddens defines social movements as active subjects of the social structure of society. The author notes the meaningfulness of human action and behavior in movements, which refers this knowledge to an element of the structure of social action. In accordance with this theory, social movements are "social practices ordered in space and time", which "are not created by social actors, but only constantly reproduced by them" [8, p. 126].

Melucci argues that social movements do not coincide with "visible" political conflicts. Even when they are not involved in campaigns and mobilizations, social movements can be active in

the area of cultural production. Melucci introduces the concept of "sphere of movement", defined by him as social networks of groups and individuals,

Russian sociologist O. Yanitskiy understands social movement as a stable collective social subject that has its own ideology, leader and organizational structure, capable of mobilizing resources and achieving through a sequence of collective actions social (political) changes in the interests of society or its partindependent and self-sufficient cells, which are not always, but quite often, build up into a more global movement structure. The public activity of these communities is focused on the social problems of private and everyday life, it is little politicized, specific (objective) and rejects abstractions, but at the same time does not exclude possible transitions to generalizing activities. [4, p.82].

It is possible to identify some characteristics of network organizational forms: the formation of a flat hierarchy, in which all departments are equal from the point of view of the main processes; minimization of the number of hierarchical constructions; equality and cooperation of divisions of the organization; the formation of a close and open relationship between the organization and its elements with the environment.

Note that the relationship in the organization between its elements can be built both vertically and horizontally. And one of the key aspects of the network is its contractual structure, voluntary participation and the general idea that brings people together.

## CONCLUSIONS

Modern trends in the development of social movements are to increase the openness and publicity of collective action through social media.

Network forms of organizing civic engagement are successfully developing mechanisms of self-organization of citizens in modern society, allowing its organizers to achieve significant results.

Let us emphasize several characteristics of networks that allow them to exist in the field of public administration. First, networks link the state and civil society. This structure is empirically observable and is theoretically described as a multitude of diverse public, private, public organizations and institutions that have some common interest. Second, the network is formed to develop agreements in the process of exchanging the resources available to its actors. This means that there is a mutual interest of network participants in each other. Resources can be unevenly distributed, but regardless of the degree of their concentration and a certain dominance of a number of network participants, the latter are forced to interact. There is a resource dependence between network participants. Third, the common cooperative interest is an important characteristic of the network. This distinguishes this regulatory system from the market, where each participant pursues, first of all, his own interests. Fourth, from the point of view of making decisions, network participants do not line up in a certain hierarchy, where any organization has an advantage due to its position of power. All network participants are equal in terms of the possibility of forming a joint decision on an issue of interest. Here, not vertical, but horizontal relationships are observed. Fifth, the network is a contractual structure consisting of a set of contacts arising from agreed formal and informal rules of communication. The actions carried out by network organizations have an impact on the socio-political situation in society, especially in resolving acute social problems that require resources and costs.

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