



## NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ORGAN

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**Abstract:** This article provides an in-depth analysis of the role and significance of the mahalla — as a social self-government body — in Uzbek society. The mahalla is considered an important social institution that ensures the direct participation of citizens in the governance of the state and society. The article provides information about the historical roots of the mahalla, modern stages of development, legal and regulatory framework, the structure of citizens' assemblies, their functions, and the work they carry out with the population. The role of the mahalla in youth education, social assistance, family relations, and crime prevention is also analyzed. Best practices and future plans for the development of the mahalla system are also covered.

**Keywords:** neighborhood, self-government, citizens' assembly, civil society, social institution, local government, legal framework, social activism, youth education, social assistance, crime prevention, working with the population, neighborhood chairman, society, tradition, cooperation, family relations, development strategy, local initiative, social protection.



In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the mahalla system plays an important role in ensuring the active participation of citizens in socio-economic and spiritual processes that directly affect their lives. The mahalla is not only a place of residence, but also a social institution that has formed as the most important link in society, where citizens cooperate with each other, solve problems together. It has a long history, has been deeply rooted in the way of life of the people for centuries, and today it functions as an integral part of the modern social management system.

As a result of the reforms being carried out in our country, the status of the mahalla system has increased and its legal foundations are being strengthened. In particular, based on the principle put forward by our President "Mahalla - the pillar of society", the functions of this institution have been expanded, and it is actively involved in fulfilling such urgent tasks as protecting the interests of citizens, finding solutions to their problems, providing social assistance, engaging in youth education, and resolving family conflicts.

This article analyzes the formation, stages of development, current importance and future tasks of the mahalla institution. It also highlights the role of the mahalla in society and its specific features in the social governance system.

The mahalla system has existed in the history of Uzbekistan for many years and is considered one of the oldest forms of social governance. Initially, the mahalla operated on a religious and traditional basis, but today it has become a legally strengthened, modern civil institution. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Mahalla", presidential decrees and government resolutions constitute the legal basis for the activities of the mahalla. This allows for a clear and systematic organization of the activities of citizens' assemblies.

A mahalla is a form of self-government of citizens, which plays an important role in increasing their social activity, solving problems in their area, and providing social protection to the population. In a mahalla, there are such positions as a chairman (or elder), a preventive inspector, a women's activist, and a youth leader, who work together with



different categories of the population. In particular, working with families in need of social assistance, single elderly people, people with disabilities, minors, and youth, and finding solutions to their problems based on an individual approach are among the priorities of the mahalla's activities.

The mahalla system is also important as a means of social control. It performs such tasks as preventing crime, resolving family conflicts, educating young people in the spirit of patriotism, hard work and respect for national values. Also, through various events, spiritual and educational meetings, improvement and environmental projects in the mahalla, the sense of community and solidarity of the population is strengthened. Another important aspect is that the mahalla serves as an intermediary between state bodies and citizens. It has the right to directly convey citizens' appeals to higher organizations, discuss them, and make proposals and initiatives on behalf of the population. Through this, the mahalla actively participates in the implementation of the principles of democratic governance. In recent years, great work has been carried out to strengthen the material and technical base of the mahalla institute, increase human resources, and introduce modern information technologies. Neighborhood offices are being equipped with computers and the Internet, and an electronic database is being created, which increases the efficiency of providing services to citizens. At the same time, the socio-economic situation of each neighborhood is being studied in depth based on the "Neighborhood-based Work" system, and practical measures are being determined based on real needs. This approach ensures a targeted approach to the development of neighborhoods and creates an opportunity to be attentive to each citizen.

One of the main functions of a mahalla is to protect the interests of citizens and involve them in public life. The mahalla citizens' assembly works in several main areas:

1. Socio-economic issues: Measures are being taken to improve the living standards of the neighborhood population, reduce unemployment, and develop small businesses and



entrepreneurship. In order to ensure employment in the neighborhoods, jobs are being created in cooperation with "People's Employment Assistance Centers".

2. Social assistance and social protection: Providing assistance to needy segments of the population, such as people with disabilities, single elderly people, low-income families, and orphans, is one of the main tasks of the mahalla. Mahalla activists identify their problems on the spot and provide assistance in cooperation with relevant organizations.

3. Spiritual and educational education: Various events, talks and meetings are organized in neighborhoods to develop national values, traditions, patriotism, and the culture of family life. The effectiveness of the work carried out to attract young people to a healthy lifestyle and protect them from foreign ideas is especially appreciated.

4. Crime Prevention: Cooperation with the mahalla prevention inspector and other competent authorities plays an important role in maintaining public order, preventing crime and crime in the mahalla area. In particular, based on the "Safe Neighborhood" concept, the situation of each household and each citizen is being monitored.

5. Working with women and youth: Social positions such as women's activists and youth leaders have been introduced in the mahalla system. Effective work is being carried out to ensure women's employment, train them in crafts, eliminate family problems, and adapt young people to society. A social assistance system has been formed based on the "Women's Notebook" and "Youth Notebook".

6. Transition to a digital mahalla system: In recent years, work has been underway to transfer mahalla activities to an electronic form based on the "Digital Mahalla" concept. This system increases transparency and speed in providing services to the population. For example, the possibilities of receiving applications electronically, maintaining online databases, and working with statistics are expanding.

7. Improvement and environmental initiatives: Attention is being paid to the living environment, environmental conditions, and infrastructure in each neighborhood. Through



tree planting, waste collection, road repair, and the construction of playgrounds, the neighborhood is being transformed into a prosperous and livable place.

8. Developing a spirit of cooperation and teamwork: Creating a mutual respect, solidarity, and friendly environment among residents within the neighborhood is one of the most important advantages of the system. This increases the responsibility of citizens to their country, society, and each other.

Another strength of the mahalla system is that it is an example of decentralized governance, ensuring direct citizen participation, which is considered an important factor in building a democratic society.

In conclusion, the mahalla system is a unique and effective form of social governance in Uzbek society, one of the main institutions that ensure the active participation of citizens in the life of the state and society. Through the mahalla, the interests of citizens are protected, social equality and solidarity are strengthened, and important tasks such as youth education, social protection, and prevention of crimes are performed. In recent years, reforms have been implemented to strengthen the legal basis of the mahalla system, digitize its activities, develop its material and technical base, and provide it with qualified personnel, further strengthening the potential of this institution. The principle of “mahalla is the pillar of society” is being confirmed in practice and will remain a solid foundation of civil society in the future. Therefore, ensuring the further development of the mahalla institution, expanding its powers, and increasing the social activity of the population are of great importance on the path to building a democratic and progressive society.

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