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A Synergic Approach to Studying the Essence of the Phenomenon "Radicalization of Youth" and the Factors Contributing to its Development

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Abstract:

The socio-economic transformation of our society, the transition of the country's economy to market relations, changes in social relations make it urgent to formulate the task of a complete and comprehensive study of the radicalization of young people and the factors affecting their development from the standpoint of using "synergetic" analysis. In this context, "unemployment" and "poverty" as a social phenomenon, in one form or another, can become a starting point for the transition of young people from moderate to radical positions.

Modern youth unemployment and poverty in Uzbekistan have specific features. They are conditioned, on the one hand, by the unstable situation in the market, and on the other hand, by processes in the socio-economic sphere, leading to the impossibility of young people realizing their labor potential. The study conducted by the author made it possible to identify the features of the social portrait of unemployment and poverty at the present stage of development and its causes. The article also defines the concepts, essence and measures to combat "unemployment" and "poverty".

The relevance of the study in this area is necessary for the analysis and subsequent timely identification of the noted factors of radicalization in order to prevent their further escalation, as well as timely suppression at the stage of their development [1, p.923-924].

Keywords: Synergetics, factors, research, unemployment, youth radicalism, employment, labor market, jobs, poverty, strategy, education, economy.

Introduction

First, it is necessary to briefly define the term "Synergetics" as a science and explain the reason for studying "youth radicalization" through the lens of this science. The term "Synergetics" was

proposed by Professor H. Haken in the mid-20th century as a result of generalizing works on mathematical modeling of processes in physics, chemistry, biology, economics, sociology, and history. It was noted that although the sciences are different, the models are the same.

The terminology "synergetics" comes from the Greek "synergeia," which means the theory of "joint" or "cooperative" action. This science studies the joint action of individual parts of some disordered system, resulting in "self-organization"—i.e., the emergence of spatial, temporal, or spatiotemporal structures. The reverse phenomenon, the transition from an ordered state to a disordered one, i.e., "chaos," is also studied [2, pp. 4-5].

The process of self-organization is an automatic process in which combinations beneficial from the point of view of the adaptation of the entire species survive, and in this case, self-organization necessarily involves a large number of objects. However, if we consider non-biological processes, in this case, it develops under the direct influence of "internal" or "external" factors, which is the research area of this article.

One of the most striking phenomena and intriguing problems scientists (the scientific community) face is the phenomenon of spontaneous formation of ordered structures and its reverse process. In everyday life, we often encounter such phenomena but do not pay special attention to them.

Along with attempts to understand or, in some sense, explain these phenomena, the question naturally arises about the possibility of detecting self-organization processes in unexplored areas of science, such as social, collective, and public relations and connections, the behavior of certain categories of people, or groups of people, etc.

Today, the "synergetic" approach to studying the processes of youth transitioning to radical positions remains relevant, as only by consistently studying this phenomenon can comprehensive and complete information be provided about the conditions, causes, and factors contributing to its development and possible ways and methods of solving them.

The author studies the area of "youth radicalization" from the perspective of "synergetics" not without reason, as the aim of the research is to identify the starting point at which "youth" transitions from a moderate (ordered-passive) state to an active "disordered-radical" state or the reverse process from "radical" to "moderate" and to identify the causal components of this phenomenon, under what conditions the self-organization of radical behavior (radicalization) occurs [2, pp. 9-14].

Main Part

So, having studied the materials of a number of researchers in this area, the author believes that there are factors contributing to the radicalization of youth, one of which is "unemployment," as this category of people is more susceptible to various "external" influences due to the presence of "internal" psycho-emotional and financial problems.

The socio-economic transformation of society, the transition of the country's economy to market relations, and changes in social relations make it relevant to set the task of a complete and comprehensive study of "unemployment" as a social phenomenon.

Unemployment is a socio-economic phenomenon in which part of the able-bodied, economically active population does not find application in society and production. Unemployment can result from changes in the sectoral structure of the economy, production cuts, increased production efficiency, and other socio-economic processes, resulting in a certain amount of labor being released. (literature)

Modern economic science distinguishes various forms of unemployment: natural (frictional, institutional, voluntary), open (technological, structural, regional, cyclical), hidden.

One of the most important features of the modern labor market is hidden unemployment. The overall demand for jobs does not cover their supply. In addition to the actions of demographic factors (an increase in the number of able-bodied population is expected), the supply of labor is also increasing for socio-economic reasons, such as:

- ➤ Mass layoffs from enterprises due to the introduction of new technologies and the closure of morally obsolete ones;
- ➤ The need for work for older citizens with limited working capacity;
- Artificial reduction of jobs;
- Saturation of the labor market with graduates of various educational institutions, demobilized servicemen, released from places of deprivation of liberty, etc.

Conducted sociological studies have revealed the characteristics of the social portrait of the unemployed. Among the unemployed, youth predominates, as employers are more inclined to hire ready-made specialists with certain work experience or with higher or incomplete higher professional education, at minimal wages.

In Uzbekistan, the first to become unemployed are unskilled and low-skilled workers who are not ready for retraining, employees of unprofitable enterprises, and "weak" demographic groups (youth, elderly people, women with children).

Researcher Yu.E. Krivonos, in his work, introduces concepts such as "unemployment rate"—the ratio of officially registered unemployed to the total labor force, and "natural unemployment rate"—the level of unemployment that corresponds to the advisable level of full employment in the economy (6-8%) [8]. It should be noted that full employment does not mean the absence of unemployed people, but rather the most advantageous use of labor and abilities of the working population.

Another researcher, M.G. Nazarov, in his work, distinguishes two types of unemployment: structural and cyclical. According to him, structural unemployment is among those whose professions have become "obsolete" or are not in demand in the market [9]. Workers in these industries, who fall victim to structural unemployment, find themselves in a difficult position, losing not only their jobs but also their professions.

Cyclical unemployment, according to B.A. Raizberg, is the release of labor due to a general reduction in production during an economic downturn [10]. Such production cuts typically lead to mass layoffs, causing significant harm to society. For instance, in the Navoi region (AO "Kizilkumcement," AO "NavoiAzot," and OAO "Navoi TPP"), there have been staff reductions due to the sale of the state's shares to the private sector.

One of the most important levers of socio-economic development in any country is undoubtedly the employment of young people as the most crucial strategic and innovative resource of society. In modern Uzbekistan, youth unemployment has specific features. These are due, on one hand, to the unstable position of the problem-bearers—unemployed young people—on the labor market, and on the other hand, to the socio-economic processes that prevent youth from realizing their labor potential.

According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Employment of the Population," unemployed are recognized as able-bodied citizens who do not have a job and income, are registered with the employment service for the purpose of finding suitable work, are looking for work, and are ready to start working.

Youth unemployment is a type of marginal unemployment, which is a key indicator of the social status of the younger generation. The younger generation in the labor market can be conditionally divided into three categories: aged 16-20 years; 20-25 years; and 25-30 years.

As a rule, young people in the first age group are not officially employed. They mainly work in conditions of temporary employment (seasonal work or hourly jobs), do not receive qualifications, and are less competitive in the labor market. The social attitudes of the middle age category, who have mostly managed to obtain secondary specialized or higher professional education, are more pronounced. Specific employer requirements for the quality of education and qualifications of applicants create employment difficulties for young people in this category. Due to their age characteristics, the majority of the youth in the third age category typically have families, work experience, and professional skills. The material component is considered the determining factor when choosing a job for this category of young people [3, p. 50]. This problem affects not only the economy but also primarily the individual.

Currently, youth make up approximately 35.2% of the working-age population in Uzbekistan. Considering that the age range of 16-30 years covers only a third of a person's working life, it can be said that the labor resources in Uzbekistan are relatively young.

Looking back at history, during the USSR period, unemployment was minimized. Education was followed by job placement for graduates, with three years of mandatory work and substantial legislative protection of young specialists, their rights, and interests. In post-Soviet Uzbekistan, the situation did not cause much concern for a while. However, since the late 1990s, the cessation of large enterprises and the closure of industrial facilities, combined with an underdeveloped private sector, led to a complete lack of jobs. This resulted in the unemployment of growing generations and the beginning of labor migration to seasonal jobs abroad or the joining of some youth to various religious, opposition, and other negative and destructive organizations.

High youth unemployment means lost human potential for the national economy and provokes social instability: increased crime rates, societal instability, loss of interest in labor as a type of human activity, and the social capital of society.

For this category of the population, "unemployment" has negative effects for several reasons, including:

- 1. Worsening of the already weak financial situation of young families;
- 2. Unwillingness of young people to plan families, leading to demographic problems for the country;
- 3. The mindset of "social dependency" due to prolonged unemployment among young people;
- 4. Increased social differentiation;
- 5. Growth in social tension, etc.;
- 6. Emergence of protest sentiments and a complete willingness to participate in open dissatisfaction, rallies, marches, and more [3, p. 221].

Additional causes of high youth unemployment include:

- Lack of (need for) a system of job placement for graduates from secondary specialized and higher education institutions according to their acquired specialties;
- Mismatch between labor market demand and supply for certain specialties at specific times;
- Low competitiveness of young people due to high adaptation costs and risks for employers when hiring them;
- Insufficient motivation of young people for labor activity;

- ➤ High wage expectations of young people;
- ➤ Changes in ideals and life principles (some youth strive to become so-called "online" heroes with high earnings);
- ➤ Bureaucracy in government bodies and corruption in employment processes;
- Insufficient programmatic and financial foundation in the activities of the employment service for employing young people [4].

However, the fundamental cause of youth unemployment remains the lack of jobs. Graduates of secondary specialized and higher education institutions do not have sufficient work experience at the time they receive their diplomas (even student internships do not adequately prepare them for their future profession), and because of this, they are reluctant to be hired or not hired at all. As a result, young specialists find themselves in a vicious circle: work requires experience, and experience requires work [5].

In search of a way out of this situation, youth are forced to go abroad for work, regardless of working and living conditions, or they become targets of interest for various negative elements and destructive structures, which find it easier to work with this category, as they can be used for their purposes by addressing their financial needs.

According to official information from the U.S. Immigration Service, in 2023, over 50,000 people from Central Asia illegally crossed the America-Mexico border to enter the U.S., with about 17,000 being citizens of Uzbekistan. This includes the working-age population from 17 to 50 years old. Of the total number of labor migrants, 65-68% are youth, i.e., people under 30 years old.

Currently, youth unemployment in the labor market is one of the main socio-economic problems in modern Uzbekistan.

The lack of permanent employment among young people leads to the following negative consequences:

- ✓ Disruption of personal development;
- ✓ Breakdown of marriages, which leads to decreased birth rates and child neglect;
- ✓ Increase in various offenses and crimes;
- ✓ Joining various destructive elements and movements;
- ✓ Spread of drug addiction and various diseases;
- ✓ Alcoholism [6, pp. 18-25].

The absence or loss of a job leads to feelings of frustration, personal uselessness, and inferiority. These feelings intensify if a young person is unable to find employment for a long time. The depressed state of the unemployed results in worsening relationships with those around them, within the family, conflicts, and so on. Therefore, unemployment also leads to serious psychological, emotional, and social problems [7, p. 64].

Unemployed individuals behave differently. Some withdraw into themselves, losing interest in life around them, while others become excessively talkative. There are also those who perceive life as a total failure and decide to end it, but these are all manifestations of the same condition—"unemployment neurosis."

The concept of "unemployment neurosis" was introduced by the Austrian psychologist V. Frankl, the symptom of which is "apathy." This condition leads to feelings of disappointment in life, uncertainty about the future, and intensification of negative emotions (anger, rage, resentment, etc.) [7, p. 183].

It is in this state that many (mostly youth) make ambiguous decisions, where age often plays a significant role. Young people aged 17 to 26 try to express their so-called "resentment" through open, demonstrative actions, often publicly. This group is more susceptible to external influences and can become tools in the hands of various elements for selfish purposes.

The main goal of modern youth employment policy is to enhance the country's labor potential by identifying unused human abilities and involving them in a more efficient and comprehensive division of labor system. New categories of the working population should be encouraged, not restricted, in entering the labor market.

In the fight against "unemployment," the focus should shift from passive to active measures. "Passive" regulation refers to efforts mainly aimed at addressing the problems of "surplus" labor. "Active" regulation involves the state's efforts to positively impact the current employment level by creating necessary conditions for increasing the number of jobs, including through the improvement of workforce skills. Employment services are meant to help reduce the number of unemployed. Specifically, unemployment benefits should be linked to active measures to enhance their suitability for the labor market. A significant role is given to local initiatives in employment, stimulating innovation, and entrepreneurial activities. To encourage regional mobility, expenses for relocation and living at a new place of work and residence are compensated [7, p. 183].

Employment policy is crucial for the formation of a civilized market and the prevention of social unrest and tension, making it clear that its further improvement and activation are necessary. It should be closely linked with other programs, structural restructuring, transformation of property forms, and the overall strategy for human resource development. A systematic approach is required to solve unemployment issues both at the national and local levels.

It is important to ensure the linkage of material support for the unemployed with measures to involve them in active productive activities, creating new jobs, and removing all obstacles to the development of small and medium-sized businesses, providing legislative and financial support to them.

In January 2021, under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a meeting was held dedicated to "discussing measures to ensure employment and meaningful organization of youth leisure." At that time, the population under the age of 30 in Uzbekistan was more than 18 million people, which is about 55% of the total population of the republic.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the need to organize work in two important areas. The first involves supporting youth entrepreneurship and providing jobs through vocational training, and the second involves organizing meaningful leisure activities for youth.

In 2021, the official unemployment rate among citizens aged 18-30 was 17%. For a systematic solution to the unemployment issue, a republican working group conducted studies and found that there are many shortcomings in vocational training, employment, and lending to young people. There are also many problems in the system of organizing meaningful leisure time for young people. The material and technical base of most cultural centers, parks, and sports complexes is unsatisfactory, and clubs and sections work "for show."

The meeting outlined priorities for addressing this problem at the district and city levels. The responsibilities were assigned as follows:

- ➤ Deputy khokims for economy, investments, and agriculture are responsible for employment issues;
- ➤ Heads of territorial divisions of the State Tax Committee, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and commercial banks are responsible for attracting youth to entrepreneurship;

- > Deputy khokims for youth issues are responsible for the meaningful organization of youth leisure:
- ➤ District prosecutors, heads of internal affairs departments, and defense departments are responsible for working with unorganized youth, preventing crime, and fostering patriotism.

It was also noted that in 2021, it is necessary to train 500,000 young people in professions and entrepreneurship. Instructions were given to increase the number of traditional or distance courses in districts and cities, to train unemployed youth in professional and entrepreneurial skills through this system, and to ensure their employment.

Tasks were defined for equipping "Ishga Marhamat" monocenters and vocational colleges, developing professional standards, and improving the qualifications of trainers.

It was emphasized that within the framework of the "Youth: 1+1" program, it is necessary to assign young people to entrepreneurs, develop their business skills, provide them with preferential loans, and help them start their own businesses. The Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade was instructed to create local youth industrial and business zones.

The country's policy is aimed at reducing "unemployment" among the population, especially among the youth.

Another factor contributing to the emergence of radical sentiments among young people is "poverty."

Poverty is a state where a person is deprived of basic material means for life and is forced to live in destitution. Poverty is often associated with a lack of housing, food, clothing, and access to medical services.

The causes of poverty can be varied. One of the main reasons is economic inequality in society. When the gap between the rich and the poor becomes too great, it often leads to poverty among the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Systematic discrimination, barriers to social mobility, and corruption are also factors of poverty. These problems lead to a lack of justice in society and create conditions where certain groups are excluded from accessing resources and opportunities [11].

The absence of social protection and adequate social assistance measures is another cause of poverty. If the state does not provide necessary services and support to low-income people, they end up on the brink of survival and are at risk of becoming destitute. This includes access to healthcare, education, social benefits, employment support programs, and housing services.

Poverty can also be associated with physical or psychological problems. For example, disability or chronic illness can create barriers to employment and lead to poverty. Some people also fall into poverty due to a lack of education or skills needed to earn a decent wage.

Another cause of poverty can be job loss. Unemployment can be caused by various factors such as technological progress, changing market conditions, or economic crises. As a result, people lose their source of income and end up in poverty.

Poverty has serious consequences not only for individuals but also for society as a whole. Poor people are usually vulnerable and face difficulties in accessing education, healthcare, and other services needed to improve their situation. Combating poverty requires not only assistance from the state and charitable organizations but also changes in economic and social policies aimed at ensuring justice and equal opportunities for all [11].

This category of people tends to seek any work regardless of its type and consequences and is even ready to commit crimes since they are on the edge, and their primary goal is to find means for

subsistence. This category becomes the focus of destructive elements, who find it easier to work with them and use them for their purposes.

Economic Causes of Poverty:

Poverty, as a social phenomenon, often has its roots in the economic sphere. Numerous factors and processes can contribute to the emergence and deepening of poverty, namely:

- ➤ Uneven regional development: One of the main sources of poverty is the uneven distribution of economic opportunities among different regions. In underdeveloped areas, where there is no access to quality education and healthcare services, people face limited employment opportunities and prospects for a better life.
- ➤ Unemployment and low wages: The absence of stable and well-paid jobs is one of the significant economic causes of poverty. Unemployment and low wages prevent people from meeting their basic needs and ensuring an acceptable standard of living.
- ➤ Uneven distribution of the country's natural wealth among its population and the lack of socioeconomic protection for the population.
- ➤ Unequal distribution of wealth: In the modern world, it is not uncommon for a significant portion of wealth to be concentrated in the hands of a small group of people. Such an unequal distribution of resources leads to social stratification and the emergence of poverty, exacerbating social inequalities in society
- ➤ Inefficient economic management: Poor economic policies, corruption, bureaucracy, and other forms of inefficient economic management can contribute to increasing poverty. A lack of investment in the social sphere and low investments in education and healthcare negatively affect the well-being of the population and sustain poverty.
- ➤ **High prices for essential goods and services:** Rising prices for food, housing, energy, and other basic goods and services can also cause poverty. When prices exceed the affordability for most citizens, they face limitations in meeting their basic needs.

The interaction of these economic factors and processes contributes to the emergence and deepening of poverty in society. Solving the problem of poverty requires a comprehensive approach and joint efforts by the state and civil society [11].

It is important to note that when a person faces economic and socio-humanitarian problems and is unable to solve them, along with the state's and society's unwillingness to assist in solving them, it leads the person to a so-called "state of degradation." The "bifurcation point" occurs at the moment when a person crosses the line after which they are ready to make any decisions regardless of the consequences, in an attempt to somehow influence their situation.

Social Consequences of Poverty:

- 1. **Deterioration in quality of life**: Individuals in a state of poverty face limitations in accessing basic life necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. They may experience hunger, live in unfavorable conditions, lack access to medical care and education, leading to a deterioration in their quality of life.
- 2. **Social isolation:** People experiencing poverty often encounter social isolation and alienation. They may be excluded from society, becoming targets of stigma and discrimination. This can lead to a loss of self-esteem and confidence, as well as feelings of helplessness and despair.
- 3. **Negative impact on health:** Poverty can have a significant negative impact on people's health. They may suffer from malnutrition, lack access to medical care, and live in unfavorable conditions, increasing the risk of developing various illnesses and worsening overall physical and mental health.

- 4. **Increase in social tension:** Poverty can lead to an increase in social tension and conflicts in society. Inequality and poverty can cause dissatisfaction and negative emotions among people, leading to social protests, unrest, and disruption of public stability.
- 5. **Loss of potential:** Poverty can lead to a loss of societal potential. Individuals in poverty may lack the opportunity to develop their abilities and talents, receive education, and achieve their goals and dreams. This can result in missed opportunities for societal development as a whole.

Overall, poverty has serious social consequences that require attention and the timely implementation of necessary measures by both society and the government to address them. [11].

Psychological Aspects of Poverty:

Poverty also has serious psychological consequences for those who find themselves in such a state. Experiences of poverty may include constant anxiety, shame, helplessness, and loss of self-esteem.

One of the primary psychological issues related to poverty is constant anxiety. People facing poverty often lack sufficient money for basic life necessities, leading to constant tension and fear about the future.

Helplessness is also a common psychological reaction to poverty. Individuals in poverty may feel powerless to change their situation, leading to a sense of hopelessness and despair. This state occurs when the government fails to pay due attention to solving issues related to improving citizens' financial status. Instead, focusing efforts on enacting regulations that protect the interests of the "elite," thereby creating and exacerbating a situation where negative consequences may occur.

Poverty can also lead to a loss of self-esteem. People facing poverty may feel rejected by society and doubt their own worth. The lack of financial stability and opportunities creates conditions where people begin to lose confidence in their own abilities and achievements.

Overall, the psychological aspects of poverty create complex conditions for those in such circumstances. Additional research and specialized support programs are needed to help people cope with the psychological consequences of poverty and restore their self-esteem and confidence. [11].

Poverty and Education:

Poverty and education are closely intertwined. Lack of education can be another cause of poverty, and poverty, in turn, can be a barrier to obtaining education (primary, secondary, and higher).

A lack of financial means and access to education often hinder the ability of poor people to receive quality education. The high cost of education, additional expenses for textbooks, clothing, accommodation, and food can be overwhelming for families in poverty.

Another important factor influencing education is access to educational resources and services. In countries where the education system is not sufficiently developed or there are only limited opportunities for learning, chances of obtaining an education are restricted for everyone, especially for those living in poverty.

Education is crucial for overcoming poverty. Educated individuals have more opportunities for employment and career advancement, which contributes to increasing income levels and lifting people out of poverty. They are also better equipped with knowledge and skills that enable them to make more informed decisions regarding financial matters and managing their resources.

To address the problem of poverty, attention must be paid to education. It is important to improve the accessibility of educational resources, provide financial support for education regardless of social status, create equal opportunities for all, and improve the education system in countries with high levels of poverty. [11, p. 2].

Complex of Organizational Measures Aimed at Preventing and Combating Unemployment and Poverty:

- 1. **Social Programs and Government Assistance**: Developing and implementing social programs and government assistance measures is one of the primary strategies to combat unemployment and poverty. Such programs may include creating private sector opportunities, providing loans for small businesses, offering financial aid, free medical care, educational programs, vocational training courses, employment programs, and other measures aimed at assisting people.
- 2. Economic Development and Creation of New Jobs: One of the main causes of poverty is the lack of stable employment and sufficient income. Therefore, economic development and the creation of new jobs are crucial strategies in the fight against unemployment and poverty. This may involve supporting small and medium-sized businesses, infrastructure development, investments in education and vocational training to increase people's chances of obtaining decent pay and stable employment.
- 3. Improving Education Accessibility: Education is a key factor that can help people lift themselves out of poverty. Therefore, one of the strategies to combat poverty is to improve the accessibility and quality of education. This may include providing free or low-cost education, organizing support programs and scholarships for students from low-income families, as well as access to adult education and vocational training.
- 4. Support for the Unemployed and Impoverished and Their Socialization: Individual support and socialization of the unemployed and impoverished individuals are important strategies in combating these factors. It may involve providing specific assistance such as creating new job opportunities, assisting in starting their own businesses or production, providing food, clothing, housing, medical care, and other services, as well as social support, facilitating integration into society, and implementing projects aimed at helping the unemployed and impoverished individuals in their social rehabilitation.

Each of these strategies is important and interconnected with others. A comprehensive approach allows for more effective addressing of this problem and reducing its scale.

Conclusion:

Thus, in this material, it is noted that "unemployment" and "poverty" are also factors of "radicalization," as having these elements makes it easy for a person to be recruited into various movements and directions. Desperation and hopelessness lead people to seek an easy way to improve their already difficult socio-economic situation, eventually making them potential targets for various destructive elements who, through promises and perhaps financial support, use them for their mercenary interests. In most cases, these include religious, opposition, criminal organizations, and movements. Some of them are financed from abroad, and sometimes these elements aim to change the existing social, governmental, and constitutional structure, political course, or even overthrow the political elite through active actions.

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