

Uzbek Teacher of Mathematics Contributes to New Curriculum and Books



Photo: Hamdam Sharahmedov

**Iroda Saibova and Nilufar Azamova
working on the new curriculum,
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Ms. Iroda Saibova is a mathematics teacher at Muhammad al Khorazmiy Information Technology school. She has worked with various curriculum programs, taught students of different grades and cultural backgrounds, and used several teaching methods. She believed there was an opportunity to improve students' mathematics abilities by adapting the teaching methods, improving teaching and learning materials, and changing the general perception of the educational process. Therefore, she was delighted to be selected as one of seven authors for the Uzbekistan Education for Excellence Program.

Although she teaches in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, Ms. Saibova was also concerned about the situation in smaller cities. She wanted to contribute to improving education throughout the country. In her experience, some children are afraid of mathematics because of the lack of interest and vision regarding its application. They are not interested in mathematics because they think it is boring. The new methods leverage student-centered teaching, which enhances creative and critical thinking. In fact, after starting to work on the new books, Ms. Saibova changed her own perception of teaching.

At the beginning of the work, she understood that the authors should develop age-appropriate requirements and standards for students first and then, once those are set, write teacher guides and student textbooks. Therefore, before starting work on the teacher guide, the Program developed the topic scopes and sequences. The teacher guides were then designed to give teachers clear instructions on the lessons. With help of the teacher guides, the teachers will know how to begin the lesson, how to connect the topics, how to continue, what problems or unexpected questions may occur, and how to guide and assist students. Additionally, they incorporated more practical examples and problem-solving tools. To ensure the teacher guides would have the expected impact, in collaboration with the Program's technical team, she and the other authors prepared samples for field testing and trained teachers.

Notably, the development of international-level educational materials on such a large scale is new for Uzbekistan. Ms. Saibova expressed that she is proud to be a part of this important work. She says that it is a great new experience for her, and she is very excited about the new books, which the Ministry of Public Education will print and use across Uzbekistan.

Prepared by:
Tamila Kurmakaeva and Geri Burkholder
RTI International, 29 Nukus St, Mirabad District, Tashkent City, Uzbekistan

Contact Information:
Email Address: tkurmakaeva@ueep.rti.org
Mobile Number: +998 933885581