



THE PLACE AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE SOCIETY OF UZBEKISTAN

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: This article scientifically analyzes the content and essence of the implemented fundamental reforms, regulatory documents adopted at the new stage of development of Uzbekistan in order to increase the place and role of women and girls in the life of society.

O'ZBEKISTON JAMIYATIDA AYOLLARNING O'RNI VA ROLI

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MAQOLA HAQIDA

Kalit so'zlar: jamiyat, taraqqiyot, O'zbekiston, ayollar, oila, gender tengligi.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada O'zbekiston taraqqiyotining yangi bosqichida ayollar va qizlarning jamiyat hayotidagi o'rni va rolini oshirish maqsadida amalga oshirilgan tub islohotlar, qabul qilingan me'yoriy-huquqiy hujjatlarning mazmun-mohiyati ilmiy tahlil etilgan.

МЕСТО И РОЛЬ ЖЕНЩИНЫ В ОБЩЕСТВЕ УЗБЕКИСТАНА

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О СТАТЬЕ

Ключевые слова: общество, развитие, Узбекистан, женщины, семья, гендерное равенство.

Аннотация: В данной статье научно анализируется содержание и сущность реализованных фундаментальных реформ,

нормативных документов, принятых на новом этапе развития Узбекистана в целях повышения места и роли женщин и девушек в жизни общества.

INTRODUCTION

Social development and political processes cannot be evaluated without taking into account the participation of women, who make up more than half of the country's population. It is known from history that every society and every state forms its own attitude and policy towards women. There are many facts about the special honor and respect given to women in the peoples of Central Asia from the earliest times.

At all stages of the development of society, women had a high place. Women have made a worthy contribution to the development of the political, socio-economic and cultural life of the society with their work, talent and enthusiasm.

The study of women's issues is closely related to human society, social relations, nations and states, cultures and civilizations. Because the issue of women:

Firstly, at all stages of the historical development of human society, women had their place in the sphere of management, in the family and its culture, in raising children.

Secondly, the theme of women is expressed in the work of all philosophers, thinkers, statesmen, poets who left a certain mark in the history of thought.

Even in the years of independence, attention has been paid to the issue of treatment of women as one of the important priorities of state policy. In particular, large-scale reforms are being implemented in terms of social protection, employment, creating the necessary conditions for women to engage in business activities, providing them with housing. Because the level of development of society is determined by its attitude towards women.

At this point, it is appropriate to quote the following comments of President Sh. Mirziyoyev: "...I would like to quote an opinion of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which was held on March 11-17 this year and was attended by the delegation of our country. "Where women actively participate in political and social life, the economy grows, stability is strengthened, and the well-being of citizens increases," A. Guterres said.

At the new stage of Uzbekistan's development, the world community, including the United Nations, the International Labor Organization, UNICEF, and the international community, including the United Nations, the International Labor Organization, and the United Nations, is highly evaluated by prestigious international specialized institutions such as the World Health Organization.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The research work is covered on the basis of generally accepted historical methods - historicity, comparative-logical analysis, sequence, impartiality principles, and it scientifically analyzes the state policy regarding the treatment of women in the new Uzbekistan and fundamental reforms in this regard.

In the first years of Uzbekistan's independence, protection of women's rights and interests was carried out in the following directions:

- in the processes of creating a new statehood and national revival, specific principles for implementing the foundations were developed democracy based on national characteristics;
- the progressive principles of protecting women's rights were preserved, which were inherited from the Soviet Union;
- progressive modern principles were implemented, existing in world practice.

In the new stage of Uzbekistan's development, ensuring the rights and interests of women, realizing their dreams and aspirations has been defined as a priority for the state and society, and fundamental reforms are being implemented in this regard. As the Head of State Sh.Mirziyoev noted: "Ensuring the rights and interests of women, increasing their economic, social and political activity in Uzbekistan is defined as an important direction of the state policy. Considerable work has been done in this field in the past years, but an effective mechanism for the realization of women's interests has not been created. The women's committee, neighborhood and other public organizations were limited to holding various events and meetings over the years, and did not carry out effective work on providing practical assistance to families, women and girls in difficult social situations. As a result, many problems have accumulated in the localities, and specific measures have not been taken to solve them."

At the meeting held on February 7, 2018, President Sh. Mirziyoev gave this assessment of the work in the field of protection of women's rights and interests in Uzbekistan. This event was dedicated to strengthening the family institution. At the meeting, the head of the country gave a negative assessment of the activities of women's committees ("unsatisfactory"), and it was noted that work on preventing early marriages, divorces and crime among women is not being carried out.

"The fact that the number of divorces is growing annually by 10-11% in recent years is alarming. More than 31 thousand divorces were recorded in 2017 alone. Cases of crimes committed by women are increasing."

Despite the aforementioned practical criticism and the analysis of the work done on the "women's issue", it must be recognized that during the years of independence, the leadership of the country did a lot of work to improve the condition and quality of life of women in the country at the level of the legal framework.

At the same time, the issue of women is still waiting for its solution in a number of directions. A large number of facts from the lives of our compatriots speak openly about this. Girls and women are victims of sexual violence, domestic violence, early and consanguineous marriage, hard labor and labor migration, human trafficking and drug trafficking.

“Domestic violence is not directly prohibited by law and is still as common as ever. Despite the fact that physical violence is punishable by law, the police discouraged women from filing complaints, including against abusive husbands, and rarely removed or arrested such domestic abusers. In society, physical violence against women is considered more of a private matter than a criminal one. However, human rights activists say that local police and authorities have begun to deal with domestic violence, including in the Jizzakh region and the traditionally conservative Fergana region. As a rule, such cases were handled by family members or elders, and only in rare cases did they go to court. The local authorities were more interested in the reconciliation of the couple than in the fact of the offense.

The report of the US State Department "On human rights in Uzbekistan in 2016".

In fact, domestic/domestic violence cases rarely go to trial. There are many factors and reasons for this. The first reason is the extreme dependence of people on public opinion and the basis of conditions accepted in society, sometimes completely contrary to human rights and even common sense. The second is education received from representatives of both sexes in childhood, in the birth family. Taking into account all the positive aspects of traditional education, it must be said that it is not aimed at the formation of a free, independent and self-confident person. If society recognizes this fact, it will be possible for women to realize their dreams, aspirations and hopes.

Director of the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights S. Khojaeva stated: "Despite certain achievements in ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women, the process of achieving gender equality is slow. Unfortunately, Uzbek women do not have enough representatives at all levels of legislative, executive and judicial power of the country. In addition, there is a big difference in the living conditions of urban and rural families, they have completely different lifestyles and relationships between spouses, children and parents.

It is impossible not to confirm these words. It is especially true about the great difference in the way of life of urban and rural families, the status of women in them, as well as the

influence of stereotypes, myths and superstitions on public opinion - this influence, unfortunately, still prevails over the concept of human rights and in many cases leading to domestic violence, divorce, and even death.

In 2019, as a result of the deepening and development of democratic reforms and the improvement of the principles of an open civil society, more than 40 legal and regulatory measures aimed at protecting women from various oppression and violence, eliminating all types of discrimination and ensuring the free development of the individual, which is one of the most important socio-cultural tasks documents, in particular, new laws "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men", "On protection of women from oppression and violence" and "On protection of reproductive health of citizens". In Uzbekistan, priority is given to the issue of gender equality, and protection of women from various forms of harassment and violence has become one of the important directions of state policy. Uzbekistan has joined international agreements that provide for legal, social and economic protection of women from all forms of discrimination and harassment. Additions and changes were made to the Labor Code and other related normative legal documents aimed at reducing the areas of professional activity prohibited for women, and eliminating gender-asymmetric provisions in the legislation. In particular, efforts to protect women from various oppressions and violence, to ensure their rights and legal interests in this regard, to satisfy them in social life, and in general to create a healthy environment for women in the family, play an important role in the implementation of related documents.

Also, the Strategy of Actions on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, the development strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, the National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Human Rights, the strategy of achieving gender equality in Uzbekistan until 2030, national goals and objectives in the field of sustainable development its adoption fundamentally strengthened the legal foundations of this field and serves to establish the appropriate systematic activity.

The institutional basis for ensuring the protection of women's rights, freedoms and legal interests has been further strengthened. In particular, the commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan on ensuring gender equality, a special committee in the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, and the state committee for family and women were newly established and started their activities.

According to the Law "On Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence" announced in September 2019, the regulation "On Issuing, Ensuring Execution and Monitoring of Protection Warrants for Women Victims of Harassment and Violence" was approved.

According to this regulation, the protection warrant is a document that has the appropriate series and number, is kept strictly accountable, and is a document for recording the restrictions imposed only on persons who have committed oppression and violence or are prone to commit it".

Such measures express the important directions of the state policy towards women, ensuring gender equality, women's rights and interests, providing socio-legal, medical, psychological and material assistance to women in need. According to the Women's Committee, in 2019, about a thousand women suffered from domestic violence. The leadership of the committee stated that this figure does not reflect the real situation, because not all women who are oppressed openly speak about it. In 2020, 966 protection warrants were issued to women in the city of Tashkent alone. Of these, 850 women were subjected to domestic violence, 813 cases were due to family disagreements, 69 cases were due to lack of financial resources, 45 cases were due to jealousy, and 40 cases were due to the interference of a third person in the family (mother-in-law, mother-in-law, returning sisters). A warrant has been issued. 556 of these violences were caused by the pressure caused by a spouse, that is, a man, 54 by a mother-in-law, 46 by daughters-in-law against their sisters-in-law, and 310 by other persons against women. Of these, 423 warrants were issued for physical, 8 sexual, 13 economic, and 664 mental violence. Issuance of protection orders serves to preserve the sanctity of the family, prevent children from becoming living orphans and its negative consequences. As a logical continuation of the work in this regard, in order to fundamentally improve the institutional and legal foundations of the reliable protection of the rights, freedoms and legal interests of women and children from oppression and violence, "In connection with the further improvement of the system of reliable protection of the rights, freedoms and legal interests of women and children On April 11, 2023, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. ORQ-829 "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted. This new law does not establish proportional sanctions for criminal acts affecting the rights of women and children in the practice of law enforcement, there are no legal guarantees to protect women from harassment and violence, the validity period of a warrant providing state protection to a person affected by harassment and violence (thirty days)) solve a number of problems related to the reliable protection of women's rights, freedoms and legal interests, such as the fact that it does not allow to ensure adequate protection of women's rights and legal interests, and the fact that fines are imposed as a punishment for non-payment of alimony causes more financial difficulties serves.

The adoption of Presidential Decree No. PF-5938 dated February 18, 2020 "On measures to improve the socio-spiritual environment in society, further support the neighborhood institution, and bring the system of work with family and women to a new level" is the rationale of the work in this regard. was continued. This document has become very important in order to support the social activity of women, to strengthen their position in society, to strengthen the guarantees of protection of their rights and legal interests. On the basis of the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the organization of the activities of the Ministry of Neighborhood and Family Support of the Republic of Uzbekistan" No. PQ-4602 of February 18, 2020 [40], to ensure the effective implementation of the state policy on the support of women, their rights and legal protection of interests, increasing the role and activity in the country's socio-political life, guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for women and men was defined as one of the main tasks of the Ministry. As a result of the reforms carried out to increase the role of women in state administration, the position of adviser on women's issues was introduced to regional, city and district governors. The Republican Women's Public Council was established in order to increase the role and influence of women in society and create new opportunities for them. The activities of local women's councils were led by the governors' advisers on these issues. While putting forward the proposal to establish a women's council, the president made it clear that the increase in the standard of living of the society depends on women.

Decree No. PF-60 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022 "On the development strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026" was adopted. Ensuring the legal rights and interests of women, increasing their economic, social and political activity is one of the important directions of the development strategy of New Uzbekistan. The 69th goal of Uzbekistan's development strategy, which is called "Equity social policy, development of human capital", is aimed at supporting women and ensuring their active participation in society.

On March 1, 2022, the head of state defined a new system in the field of women's support at the video selector chaired by President Sh. The State Committee for Family and Women was established in Uzbekistan. The chairman of the new Committee is also the Deputy Prime Minister and a member of the Senate. Regional, district and city heads of the committee will be deputy mayors. The new committee manages the Women's Support Fund and the Women's Notebook fund itself.

On March 7, 2022, the Decree No. PF-87 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further accelerate work on systematic support of families and women and girls" was adopted[45]. In accordance with this Decree, a number of privileges aimed at protecting the interests of women were defined. In particular: the national program for increasing the activity of

women in all aspects of the country's economic, political and social life in 2022-2026 was approved. In accordance with the "Program for increasing the activity of women in public administration" of women, organizing special training courses for the training of women leaders at the Academy of Public Administration and training at least 100 women every year; By January 1, 2024, the share of women among the employees of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Finance and the State Tax Committee and organizations within their system should be increased to at least 30%, all state bodies and organizations, the state share in the authorized capital of 50 to appoint at least 1 deputy head of the organizations and organizations in their system from among women, and it was determined that this requirement is not mandatory when the head of the relevant organization is appointed from among women or if there is only one deputy. After all, as the head of state noted: "It is no secret that order, justice, honesty, and culture are high in places where women work and lead. Therefore, every ministry, state company, bank and other agencies will train women in their system to be leaders in one or two years and appoint at least 1 female deputy". Today, about 1,400 women are working in leadership positions in the system of state and public organizations of the republic.

Chairman of the Citizens' Assembly instead of the deputy for family, women and social-spiritual issues, the position of neighborhood women's activist was established. From May 1, 2022, the monthly salary of a female activist in a neighborhood with up to 500 households will be 3.5 times the minimum wage (2 million 877 thousand soums). This is stated in the decision of the President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev "On organizing the activities of the State Committee for Family and Women". According to the decision, candidates for the positions of women's activists in the neighborhoods will be recruited on the basis of open competitions. Candidates who have experience of working with families and women, who have set an example with their personal qualities, selfless and loyal candidates will be appointed to this position. A women's officer is responsible for working with women's issues and their concerns. From May 1, 2022, the monthly salary of a female activist in the neighborhood will be determined in proportion to the number of households in the neighborhood to which she is attached as follows:

- in a neighborhood with up to 500 households - in the amount of 3.5 times the minimum wage (2 million 877 thousand soums);
- in the neighborhood with the number of households from 501 to 1,000 - in the amount of 4 times the minimum wage (3 million 288 thousand soums);
- in a neighborhood with more than 1,000 households - in the amount of 4.5 times the minimum wage (3 million 699 thousand soums).

The decision also established a department of supervision over the implementation of legislation in the areas of ensuring the rights of women and protecting them from oppression and violence within the structure of the General Prosecutor's Office.

In accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-14 dated January 25, 2023, the Family and Women's Committee operated as part of the Poverty Reduction and Employment Committee, while the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 21, 2023 "On improving the activities of the Family and Women's Committee" In accordance with the decree No. PF-208 "on additional measures" and the decision No. PQ-401 "On additional measures to strengthen families and increase the activity of women", Family and women was transferred from the Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment to the Cabinet of Ministers. Also, the Family and Gender Research Institute was established.

In order to effectively organize the activities of the committee, the post of Deputy Prime Minister - Chairman of the Family and Women's Committee was introduced in the Cabinet of Ministers.

Also, in agreement with the chairman of the Committee, the following are appointed and dismissed:

- Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan - the position of Chairman of the Family and Women's Committee of the Republic of Karakalpakstan;
- the position of deputy mayors of regions and Tashkent city - heads of family and women's departments of regions and Tashkent city;
- the position of district (city) deputy governors — heads of district (city) family and women's departments was introduced.

On the basis of the Research Institute of Family and Women, the Research Institute of Family and Gender was established.

CONCLUSION

In general, due to the great opportunities and conditions created for women in the country by the initiative of the head of the state, women are actively participating in the life of the state and society. The implemented state policy creates ample opportunities for women to ensure their rights and freedoms, for their intellectual and spiritual growth, and for fulfilling their professional and family obligations in a harmonious manner. The participation of women in the decision-making process affecting the life of the country has increased significantly. As a result, their share in management areas reached 33%, 35% in entrepreneurship, 44% in political parties, and 46% in higher education. The social status of women in the family and society is increasing.

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