

Problems Of Ensuring Gender Equality

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Annotation: "The issues of ensuring gender equality are one of the urgent directions of social policy in Uzbekistan. Although legal and institutional frameworks for the development of gender equality have been established in the country, certain challenges remain in practice. This article analyzes the existing problems in ensuring gender equality in Uzbekistan, particularly the protection of women's rights, the creation of equal opportunities in education and the labor market. Moreover, it examines ways to overcome social barriers stemming from gender stereotypes."

Keywords: Gender equality, women's rights, educational opportunities, labor market, gender stereotypes, social barriers, legal frameworks, Uzbekistan.

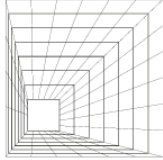
Recognizing the issue of maintaining gender equality as an important condition for sustainable social development in the world, in turn, caused priority attention to be paid to scientific research on this topic. In a number of influential countries of the world, including America, Europe, Asia, scientists, researchers, non-governmental non-profit organizations, mass media are conducting studies aimed at ensuring gender equality in order to expand the perspectives of social policy. In this regard, special attention is paid to scientific research on ensuring gender equality in all spheres of public life and public administration, improving the system of international institutions related to gender issues. In particular, this issue has been put on the agenda in Uzbekistan.

Article 46 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan guarantees the equal rights of men and women and Article 117 guarantees their right to vote and be elected. The inclusion of this constitutional provision aimed at ensuring equal rights of women and men in the constitution ensured that women could get education, acquire a profession, work, and actively participate in political, economic, and cultural life. It is especially important for the expansion of women's participation in all aspects of social life in the country.

In 1992, more than 10 million (50.6%) of the population of Uzbekistan were women. In 1997, the population was 23,867, of which 12,008 were women. In 2002, the population was 25,523, of which 12,700, in 2007 the total population 27,167 thousand, of which 13,593 thousand were women.

In Uzbekistan, about 20 regulatory and legal documents aimed at protecting the rights and interests of women, including 2 laws, 1 Presidential Decree, 4 Presidential Decrees, and 13 Cabinet Decisions have been adopted. On the basis of these legal and regulatory documents, the place and role of women in the life of the state and society is increasingly strengthened. In particular, on September 2, 2019, the Law "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" was adopted, and for the first time, the concepts of "direct discrimination based on gender" and "indirect discrimination based on gender" were strengthened by law.

Ensuring gender equality, expanding the rights and opportunities of women was defined as one of the main goals and objectives of Uzbekistan in the field of sustainable development until 2030. The Committee on Women and Girls and Gender Equality Issues was established in the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men" No. ORQ-562 and "On protection of women from oppression and violence" No. O'RQ-561 are another important way to ensure women's rights and interests it was a step.

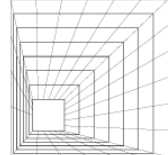


On September 23, 2020, the President of Uzbekistan, Sh. Mirziyoyev, in his first speech in Uzbek at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, expressed his opinion that the democratic changes in the new Uzbekistan have taken an irreversible form, "Gender equality policy has become a priority issue for us. The role of women in public administration is getting stronger." "The number of women in our new parliament has doubled," he said.

According to the information service of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on December 22, 2019, based on the results of the elections to the Oliy Majlis and local councils, 48 women were elected to the lower house of the parliament. This is 32% of the total number of deputies, 25% in the Senate (only 46 countries in the world have a 30% share of women in at least one chamber of parliament), and 25.6% of women in local councils. 41 percent of the candidates nominated in the 2019 elections are women, and their number has increased from the 30 percent quota set by the Election Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. For the first time in the history of Uzbekistan, the number of women in the national parliament reached a level consistent with the recommendations set by the UN. The parliament of Uzbekistan has risen to the 37th place among 190 parliaments in the world in terms of the number of women. As a result, she took the 45th place in the international ranking of "Women in politics" in 2021. The share of women in management positions reached 27%, in parties 44%, in higher education 40%, in entrepreneurship 35%. Also, in the National Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Committee on Women and Gender Equality, the Commission on Ensuring Gender Equality, Advisory Councils on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, and the Republican Women's Public Council were established.

According to the proposal made by the President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev at the plenary session of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on June 21, 2019, the Women and Girls and Gender Equality Committee was established in the Senate. Also, for the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan, a woman was nominated for the presidency of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis. The unanimous approval of this proposal by the deputies was an important political step towards ensuring gender equality in the country. As a result of the election of Tanzila Norboeva to the presidency of the Senate, Uzbekistan became one of the 56 countries in the world where the head of the chamber is a woman. Also to a number of districts, including Dilfuza Uralova (Boyovut district of Syrdarya region), Nargiza Ne'matova (Olot district of Bukhara region), Sadbarkhan Mamitova (Boston district of Andijan region), Maqsuda Mustafoeva (Karshi district of Kashkadarya region), Zulayho Mahkamova (Toragorgan of Namangan region) district), Gavhar Alimova (Kattakurgan district of Samarkand region) was appointed governor. 2020 Feruza Makhmudova was approved for the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan to Israel. She entered history as the first female ambassador of independent Uzbekistan. Also, today Shin Agrippina is the Minister of Preschool Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Gulchehra Rikhsieva is the only female rector among HEIs. Talented young scientist Aziza Shonazarova was appointed a professor at Columbia University in the USA at the age of 32. Based on the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 10, 1999, the State Award named after Zulfiya has been awarded since 2000. Every year, 28 talented girls are awarded with the state award named Zulfia, and now the number of recipients of this award has reached 339.

Women's rights are recognized as an integral part of human rights. Ensuring women's rights is one of the 17 goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda. In particular, the 5th goal of Sustainable Development states "Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls". The issues of ensuring women's rights are reflected in the constitutions of almost all countries of the world, in their legal documents, and this goal occupies an important place in national state programs and development strategies. However, women's rights are not adequately implemented in any country in the world. The gap between the stated equality and



the practical implementation of this principle remains. The legislation of many countries still does not meet international standards. This requires further improvement of monitoring mechanisms. This issue is of special importance for our country. After gaining independence, in recent years, the Republic of Uzbekistan joined the main international documents in the field of human rights, including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1979. The equal rights of women and men are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan⁵.

In the Action Strategy for 2017-2021, special attention is paid to improving the situation of women⁶. In particular, "increasing the socio-political activity of women, strengthening their role in the state and society" is considered one of the priority tasks facing the state. Based on the global goals of sustainable development, national goals and objectives for the period up to 2030 were approved in the region, in which goal 5 "ensure gender equality and ensure the rights and opportunities of all women and girls"⁷. At the same time, the analysis of national legislation, the review of the recommendations of the UN human rights agencies and the place of Uzbekistan in the global gender indices show that there is still a lot of work to be done. This, in turn, requires the continuation of research in this direction. Gender issues are gaining importance in the justice system.

Thus, ensuring gender equality in all spheres of society is becoming one of the central directions of state policy in all countries. In particular, important work is being done in this regard in Uzbekistan.

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