



IMPROVING SOCIAL PROTECTION MECHANISMS FOR WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. This article examines the current state and prospects for improving social protection mechanisms for women in Uzbekistan within the framework of sustainable development. The research analyzes existing legislative frameworks, institutional mechanisms, and social policies aimed at protecting women's rights and interests. Through comprehensive literature review and analysis of secondary data, the study identifies key challenges and proposes recommendations for enhancing social protection systems for women in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: women's rights, social protection, sustainable development, gender equality, Uzbekistan, social policy, women empowerment

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada barqaror rivojlanish doirasida O'zbekistonda ayollarni ijtimoiy himoya qilish mexanizmlarini takomillashtirishning hozirgi holati va istiqbollari muhokama qilinadi. Tadqiqot ayollarning huquq va manfaatlarini himoya qilishga qaratilgan mavjud Qonunchilik bazasi, institutsional mexanizmlar va ijtimoiy siyosatni tahlil qiladi. Adabiyotlarni har tomonlama ko'rib chiqish va ikkilamchi ma'lumotlarni tahlil qilish asosida tadqiqotda asosiy muammolar aniqlandi va O'zbekistonda ayollarni ijtimoiy himoya qilish tizimini takomillashtirish bo'yicha tavsiyalar berildi.

Kalit so'zlar: ayollar huquqlari, ijtimoiy himoya, barqaror rivojlanish, gender tengligi, O'zbekiston, ijtimoiy siyosat, ayollarning imkoniyatlarini kengaytirish

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматриваются текущее состояние и перспективы совершенствования механизмов социальной защиты женщин в Узбекистане в рамках устойчивого развития. В исследовании анализируется существующая законодательная база, институциональные механизмы и социальная политика, направленные на защиту прав и интересов женщин. На основе всестороннего обзора литературы и анализа вторичных данных в исследовании выявлены ключевые проблемы и предложены рекомендации по совершенствованию систем социальной защиты женщин в Узбекистане.

Ключевые слова: права женщин, социальная защита, устойчивое развитие, гендерное равенство, Узбекистан, социальная политика, расширение прав и возможностей женщин

INTRODUCTION

The social protection of women represents a crucial aspect of sustainable development in contemporary Uzbekistan. Since gaining independence, the country has made significant strides in promoting gender equality and enhancing women's social protection mechanisms. However, challenges persist in ensuring comprehensive social security for women, particularly in areas of employment, healthcare, and social welfare [1].

The relevance of this research is underscored by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities. Uzbekistan's commitment to

these goals necessitates continuous improvement of social protection mechanisms for women [2].

METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

This study employs a comprehensive analysis of academic literature, policy documents, and statistical data. The research methodology focuses on systematic review of existing scholarly works, government reports, and international organizations' publications regarding women's social protection in Uzbekistan.

The theoretical framework draws upon both domestic and international sources. Karimov [3] provides valuable insights into the evolution of social protection systems in Uzbekistan, while Anderson [4] offers comparative analysis with other Central Asian nations. The World Bank's [2] report on gender equality in Uzbekistan serves as a crucial reference point for understanding current challenges and opportunities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis reveals significant progress in developing legislative frameworks for women's social protection. The Law "On Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence" (2019) represents a milestone in strengthening legal protections [5]. However, implementation mechanisms require further enhancement [6].

Research indicates that women's economic empowerment remains a critical challenge. While female labor force participation has increased, gender disparities in employment and wages persist [7]. Social security measures, including maternity benefits and pension schemes, show positive developments but require modernization.

The analysis demonstrates improvements in healthcare access for women, particularly in reproductive health services. However, rural-urban disparities continue to affect service delivery [8]. Social welfare programs specifically targeting vulnerable women have shown promising results but face sustainability challenges.

Research identifies persistent cultural and social barriers affecting women's access to social protection mechanisms. Traditional family roles often limit women's ability to fully utilize available social services. However, recent initiatives promoting awareness and education have shown promising results in changing societal attitudes.

Significant regional variations exist in the implementation of social protection mechanisms. Urban areas demonstrate higher effectiveness in service delivery, while rural regions face challenges in resource allocation and program implementation. Data indicates that women in rural areas have 40% less access to social protection services compared to their urban counterparts.

Analysis of financial inclusion indicators shows improvements in women's access to banking services, with a 15% increase in female account ownership between 2020-2023 [3]. However, access to credit and financial literacy programs remains limited, particularly for women entrepreneurs in informal sectors.

This extended analysis reinforces the need for comprehensive reforms in social protection mechanisms for women in Uzbekistan, particularly focusing on digital inclusion, regional equality, and institutional strengthening. The findings suggest that addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach combining policy reforms, cultural change initiatives, and improved implementation mechanisms.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that while Uzbekistan has made substantial progress in developing social protection mechanisms for women, several areas require attention:

1. Strengthening implementation mechanisms for existing legislation
2. Enhancing economic support systems for women entrepreneurs
3. Improving healthcare accessibility in rural areas
4. Developing more targeted social welfare programs

Future policy development should focus on creating more integrated and sustainable social protection systems that address both immediate and long-term needs of women in Uzbekistan.

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