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CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF WOMEN'S ISSUES IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: In the post-independence period, the country has implemented significant reforms to ensure gender equality and women's rights. At the same time, this process was carried out based on the national values of the Uzbek people. The conceptual foundations of the women's issue include not only legislative reforms, but also socio-economic, cultural and spiritual factors. This article is devoted to analyzing the conceptual foundations of the women's issue in Uzbekistan, considering their historical and modern development, and discussing future prospects.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, post-independence period, women, social equality, sustainable development, strategic importance, Uzbek people.

Introduction:

Historical context: The development of women's rights in Uzbekistan

The formation of the women's issue in Uzbekistan has a long history. At the beginning of the 20th century, especially during the Soviet era, the participation of women in public life increased significantly. The "Attack" campaign (1920s) was an important step towards women's exit from the closed lifestyle, their education and involvement in labor activities. However, these processes often contradicted the traditional values of the local people and caused social conflicts. This led to a tragic end to the lives of many women.

During the years of independence, Uzbekistan took a new approach to women's issues. Since 1991, a number of laws have been adopted in the country to expand the rights and opportunities of women. For example, in 1995, the principles of gender equality were enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This document guaranteed equal rights and opportunities for women and men. At the same time, respect for the national mentality and traditional values of the Uzbek people remained an important factor.

Gender equality and legal framework

The conceptual framework for women's issues in Uzbekistan is based on the principles

of gender equality. Gender equality means not only that women and men have equal rights, but also that they enjoy equal opportunities. Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan stipulates that citizens shall not be discriminated against on the basis of their gender, race, nationality, and other factors.

The Law “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”, adopted in 2019, further strengthened these principles. This law aims to prevent violence against women, increase their economic activity, and encourage their participation in political life. Uzbekistan is also a party to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and remains committed to fulfilling its international obligations.

Economic opportunities and women's activism

One of the important aspects of the women's issue is increasing their economic activity. In Uzbekistan, women play an important role in various sectors of the economy, in particular, in education, healthcare, services and entrepreneurship. In recent years, special programs have been introduced to develop women's entrepreneurship. For example, through the "Women's Notebook" initiative, women in need of social protection are provided with financial assistance, education and professional skills. According to statistics, as of 2024, women will make up about 45 percent of the economically active population of Uzbekistan. At the same time, the unemployment rate among women is higher than that of men, which indicates that much more needs to be done to ensure gender equality. To increase women's economic activity, the state is expanding support for small businesses, credit programs and vocational training opportunities.

Education and skills development

The education sector is an important component of the conceptual framework for women's issues. Women's educational opportunities in Uzbekistan have expanded significantly. Today, the share of female students in higher education institutions is more than 40 percent. At the same time, special programs are being introduced to increase the participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Despite the successes in the field of education, opportunities for women living in rural areas to acquire higher education and professional skills remain limited. This can be attributed to economic difficulties, infrastructure problems and traditional social norms. In this regard, the state is implementing a number of initiatives to involve rural women in educational and professional development programs.

Gender roles and social norms in the family

The family is considered an important social institution in Uzbek society. In the traditional Uzbek family, women often take on responsibilities related to the family and raising children. However, in modern conditions, the increasing social and economic activity of women requires a reconsideration of gender roles in the family.

The state is taking a number of measures to prevent domestic violence and protect women's rights. In 2021, the Law "On Protection from Domestic Violence" was adopted, introducing mechanisms to protect women and children from violence. At the same time, propaganda work is being carried out through the media and the education system to change social consciousness and eliminate gender stereotypes.

Political participation and leadership

The participation of women in political life is one of the important areas of women's issues. The share of women in parliament in Uzbekistan has increased significantly since

2019. Currently, about 32 percent of the deputies of the Oliy Majlis are women, which is a high figure compared to other countries in the region. At the same time, the participation of women in local councils is also increasing.

However, the participation of women in senior leadership positions is still limited. To address this issue, the state is introducing programs to support women's leadership. For example, through the "Women's Leadership" program, training is being organized for young girls and women to increase political and social activity.

Future prospects

The development of women's issues in Uzbekistan will continue in a number of important areas in the future. First, expanding economic opportunities and supporting women's entrepreneurship will remain one of the priorities of state policy. Second, attention will be paid to increasing women's competitiveness through the development of education and professional skills. Third, advocacy work to change social norms and eliminate gender stereotypes will be further intensified.

International cooperation will also remain an important factor. Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the UN, the World Bank and other international organizations, is implementing projects to ensure gender equality. These projects serve to increase the economic and social activity of women.

Conclusion

The conceptual foundations of women's issues in Uzbekistan are based on a harmonious combination of national values and modern development principles. During the years of independence, significant steps have been taken to expand women's rights and opportunities in the country. Legislative reforms, economic programs, achievements in the field of education and increased political participation demonstrate Uzbekistan's progress towards gender equality. At the same time, additional measures are required to empower women living in rural areas, eliminate social stereotypes and encourage women's leadership. Uzbekistan will achieve significant progress towards building a stable and equal society by further developing women's issues in the future.

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