

## WOMEN'S SOCIAL PROTECTION: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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**Abstract:** The article focuses on ensuring the rights and interests of women, creating for them decent working and living conditions, realizing their abilities and potential at the public policy level, and on this basis to protect motherhood and childhood, support the institution of the family and women, draw some scientific conclusions on the creation of good conditions for increasing women's prestige in public life, and protection of their socio-economic interests.

**Keywords:** women, family, public policy, law, ability, potential, motherhood, childhood, priority, reform.

During the years of independence, Uzbekistan has consistently carried out radical reforms in the legal, economic, political, spiritual and educational spheres of social life in order to ensure the rights and interests of the population, including women, in the process of transition to a market economy.

It is known that the transition from one economic system to another is a complex process, and any reform related to the introduction of market order, regardless of social orientation and field, will lead to changes in one or another indicator of living standards. Therefore, one of the important principles of the "Uzbek model" in the gradual transition to a market economy has been identified as a strong social policy.

This shows that the transition to a market economy is not the end goal, but that all economic, social and political reforms are aimed at creating decent living and working conditions for the population, including women. Therefore, in the process of implementing market reforms, the main strategic goals of the state in the social sphere are, first of all, to improve the living standards of the population, including women; social protection of low-income families who are in need; protection of motherhood and childhood and providing the necessary conditions for the full development of the younger generation.

In the first hard years of the transition period, a number of important decrees and resolutions were adopted and set as an important task at the government level to protect the social interests of large and low-income families, women, pensioners and the disabled during the market economy<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See: The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of March 17, 1999 "On preferential taxation of women income working in extremely harmful and difficult conditions" <http://lex.uz/docs/279136>; Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further improve and strengthen the system of social protection." // Khalq suzi, 2007. March 20; Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. - Tashkent: Adolat, 2010. - 276 p. (Article 224 provides for an additional 3 days of paid annual leave for women with 2 or more children, or for children with disabilities under the age of 16, due to pregnancy or having a child; According to Article 224, women are prohibited from deducting or reducing their salary when hiring due to their pregnancy or children; According to Article 225, it is prohibited to engage in unfavorable working conditions or underground work (except for certain domestic and medical work); Article 226 - Transfer of pregnant women to lighter work with payment of wages; Article 227 provides for the transfer of women with children under the age of 2 to lighter work with the retention of the previous salary; Article 233 leave during pregnancy; Granting parental leave under the age of 3 under Article 234;

Under Article 236, women with children under the age of 2 are entitled to a maternity leave for child feeding; According to Article 237, an employer cannot dismiss a woman who is pregnant or has a child under 3 years of age); Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 5, 2017 № 965 "On measures to further improve the procedure for determining the minimum number of jobs and reservation for employment of persons in need of social protection, having difficulty finding work and unable to compete on equal terms in the labor market."

Therefore, from the first days of independence, the issue of ensuring the rights and interests of women, creating decent working and living conditions for them, the realization of their abilities and potential have been focused on at the level of public policy. On this basis, good conditions have been created to protect motherhood and childhood, support the institution of the family, support women, increase their prestige in society and protect their socio-economic interests. The legal and regulatory framework for the social protection of women created in the country has formed mechanisms that serve to provide guarantees and benefits from the state for social support and assistance to the population<sup>2</sup>.

At the same time, the problems of women such as high level of unemployment, declining access to higher and vocational education, attempts to restore the system of patriarchal relations in some families, the emergence of various false religious movements alien to democracy had an impact on the socio-economic status of women in the society. In particular, according to the fact, on September 1, 1996, 17,680 of women out of 38,857 were unemployed. The regions with the highest unemployment rate among women are as follows: Navoi - 4904, Andijan - 1420, Tashkent - 1274, Kashkadarya - 1216, Samarkand - 1113, Surkhandarya - 346 etc<sup>3</sup>. Unemployment among women was 1.5 times higher than among men<sup>4</sup>. As a result of job cuts between 1991 and 1995, 65% of the unemployed in the country were women<sup>5</sup>. Unemployment among women remained high, especially in rural areas. The main reason for unemployment was that women did not have professional qualifications in the required specialties.

In the labor market, this has led to an increase in women's unemployment compared to men. Women were mainly engaged in domestic labor. In the early years of independence, state support for the appointment and payment of cash benefits to economically vulnerable families was provided through the mahalla system from October 1994. This was one of the first measures to restore the historical role, status and activity of the mahalla in solving the social problems of the population living in this territory. Since 1995, the transition from a system of massive social protection has taken place to a targeted and clearly targeted system of social support. The task of stabilizing the living conditions and living standards of the population, including women, and gradually improving them has become increasingly specific to this period. Emphasis was placed on improving the health of growing girls, women of childbearing age, and children. As a result, the number of maternity and children's hospitals in the country has increased, and the quality of services has improved.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 7, 1993, in accordance with the Regulations on the Order of the Republic of Uzbekistan "Soglom avlod uchun"<sup>6</sup> (For a Healthy Generation), the people who have made a significant contribution to the protection of motherhood and childhood will be awarded with this order<sup>7</sup>.

It is known that women make up more than half of the country's population. 52% of all women are of childbearing age (15-49 years). About 65 percent of women over the age of 16 are married, and only 10 percent of women over the age of 50 have never been married. The average age of married women is about 20 years. 60% of them get married between the ages of 20-24. About 32 percent of children are born from women of this age<sup>8</sup>. As a result of the gradual implementation of the national

<sup>2</sup> Y. Tursunov, M. Usmonova, G. 2008. Sattorova Prava sotsialnogo obespecheniye (The right to budgetary transfers), Tashkent. p 76

<sup>3</sup> O'zNA. M-37 Fund, List 1, Case 2565, Page 17.

<sup>4</sup> O'zNA. M-37 Fund, List 1, Case 2569, Page 12.

<sup>5</sup> O'zNA. M-37 Fund, List 1, Case 3487, Page 11.

<sup>6</sup> Bulletin of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1993 №6. Article 257

<sup>7</sup> M. Vosiqova. 1996. *Oila va qonun* (Family and law). - Tashkent: Adolat. p 73

<sup>8</sup> S. Gulyamova. 2019. *Discrimination of women as a sociological problem: the results of sociological research* // Collection of articles of the Republican scientific conference "Increasing women's socio-political activity is an important factor in the ongoing

state program "Soglom ona – soglom bola", (Healthy mother-healthy child) the maternal mortality rate decreased almost 2.5 times in 1991, that is from 65.3 to 24 from 100 thousand healthy births, and infant mortality has been reduced from 35 to 14 children from 1,000 live births<sup>9</sup>.

In 2005-2007, the Women's Committee, "Soglom avlod uchun" international non-governmental charity fund and "Oila" Medical and Social Center provided medical assistance to 23,050 families in remote villages of the country and 228. 884 people underwent medical examination. In particular, 122,626 (53.6%) of those examined were women, 100,626 (44%) of whom were women of childbearing age<sup>10</sup>.

A number of measures and meetings were also held regularly to improve the reproductive health of families, strengthen family values, and prevent early marriages and divorces. On December 22, 2014 at the Children's and Music School №3 in Kyzyltepa district, Navoi, was held a round table on topic "When the family is healthy the society is strong, when the society is strong the country is stable" where 178 people took active part. The roundtable was organized under the presence of Deputy of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis O. Tursunov, Director of the Regional Center for Maternal and Child Screening M. Khamroeva, Deputy Hokim of Kyzyltepa district, Chairman of the Women's Committee G. Urakova and a number of employees of medical and educational institutions and the representatives of local mass media<sup>11</sup>. On April 5, 2015 in the mahalla "Shurkul" of Konimeh district was organized a round table on the topic "If the mother and child are healthy, the family is happy, if the family is happy, the society will be strong." The round table was conducted by 52 representatives of different organizations such as employees of the UzLiDeP (Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party) regional party, the chairwoman of the district women's committee, the head of the Women's Wing of the UzLiDeP district branch K. Normuradova, deputies, deputies of the district council, entrepreneurs and activists. A number of activities and meetings in this direction were held in Navoi region, for example on September 21, 2015 in Karmana district khokimiyat with the active participation of Sh. Nosirova, a Deputy Chairman of the UzLiDeP Regional Council on Women's Issues, on January 11, 2016 at the secondary school №2 in Zarafshan by UzLiDeP Zarafshan City Council under the leadership of the Chairman of the Women's Committee of Zarafshan N. Akramova, Deputy Chairman of the Party for Women's Affairs N. Rakhmatova, on January 15 in Boymurot Citizens Council in Konimeh district on the topic "Paying attention to the family is caring about the future", on January 21 in Oltin vodi Citizens Council in Zarafshan (at school №2) on the topic "Negative consequences of incest and early marriages" under the guidance of S. Turaeva, a doctor of Zarafshan Medical Association and UzLiDeP Zarafshan City Council Deputy Chairman for Women's Affairs N. Rakhmatova, on January 22 in Sarjol Citizens Council in Konimeh district on the topic "Women's happiness is the happiness of the society", on January 26 in Nurata Agricultural Vocational College on the topic "Maternal and child health is the prosperity of the future", on February 2 in the center of Navbahor district "Health" on the topic "Healthy child is the foundation of a healthy and strong society", on February 3 in the conference hall of the Medical Association of Tomdi district on the topic "Healthy child is the foundation of a healthy and strong society", on February 11 in the Association of Medical Institutions of Kyzyltepa district on the theme "Healthy family is a strong family", on February 10 in the secondary school № 9 of Uchkuduk district, on February 24 in Mustaqillik Citizens Council in Uchkuduk district on the theme "Strong family is the foundation of

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reforms in our country" February 26, 2019. p 414 //// [tsue.uz/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Konferensiyasi-materiallari-to'plami-ko'chrib-olish.pdf](http://tsue.uz/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Konferensiyasi-materiallari-to'plami-ko'chrib-olish.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> M. Shamsieva. 2019. "The role of governmental and non-governmental non-profit organizations in the social protection of women in Uzbekistan (1991-2010)." The research abstract for awarding Ph.D in History Toshkent, p 13

<sup>10</sup> Questionnaire on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for the Women's Committee // Current archive of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, 2008

<sup>11</sup> Current archive of Navoi regional trade union association, data of 2015

society", on May 13 in Navruz Citizens Council in Konimeh district, on May 24 at school №7 of Kyzyltepa district, on May 16 in Shurtepa makhalla of Konimeh district, on June 3 at Kyzyltepa Vocational College of Consumer Services, on June 7 at School of Music and Arts №4 and secondary school №13 in Konimeh district, on June 16 in central medical association in Konimeh district, on October 3 in "Matonat" makhalla in Navoi city, on October 15 in "Mother and child" center of screening in Navoi city, on November 10 in the medical association of Khatirchi district, on November 11 in the medical and sanitary department of Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine, on November 14 in the medical association of Karmana district, on November 15 in the medical association of Navbakhor district, on November 22 in the medical association of Tomdi district, on November 16 in Buston rural medical center in Kyzyltepa, on November 21 at Zarafshan city medical association, on November 22 at Nurata district medical association, on November 22 at Uchkuduk district medical association, on November 23 at Konimeh district medical association, on December 13 in Navoi regional branch of the Republican Center for Advanced Training of Pharmacists, on December 21 in Tomdi district medical association on the topic "Healthy family - strong family" etc. During the campaign, all layers of the population, in cooperation with the Regional Health Department and the regional medical association, conducted an in-depth free medical examination in several areas with the participation of 11 qualified doctors. Recommendations and directions for the treatment of identified diseases were given based on the results of the medical examination. 2334 people underwent medical examinations in the region<sup>12</sup>.

On June 22, 2016 in the framework of the project "Healthy family - strong family" in "Uzbekistan" makhalla was organized a free medical examination under the motto "If mother and child are healthy, the family is happy, if the family is happy, the society is strong." 189 people attended the meeting, including doctors of the Children's and Adult Polyclinic №27 of Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine and doctors of the highest category of the Navoi Regional Maternal and Child Screening Center<sup>13</sup>.

In 2019, 176,712 women of childbearing age underwent medical examinations in Navoi region, and about 14,323 pregnant women underwent in-depth screening. 1,200 women and children from Saribel, Sarjal, Baymurat, Uch Tepa and Karagata citizens' councils from Konimeh district of Navoi region together with partner organizations also underwent free medical examinations<sup>14</sup>.

In order to promote a healthy lifestyle among women of the region and to improve their medical culture, 98,000 families, 44,600 women have been involved in sports competitions, 201,900 people in morning physical education<sup>15</sup>. Indeed, one of the priorities of the Women's Committee for 1991-2020 was reproductive health, with a special focus on improving the health of women of childbearing age.

The analysis shows that systematic work has been done on issues such as the protection of motherhood and childhood, the promotion of healthy lifestyles among the population, including women, the formation of healthy families, and creation of all conditions for the birth of children. There has been 68% to 47% reduction in extra genital diseases among women

In short, the legal guarantees of systematic work on social protection and strengthening of women's health, and targeted social solutions of women have been further strengthened.

<sup>12</sup> Current archive of Navoi regional council of UzLiDeP, data of 2014- 2016

<sup>13</sup> Current archive of Navoi regional Women's Committee, data of 2016

<sup>14</sup> Current archive of Navoi regional Women's Committee, data of 2019

<sup>15</sup> Current archive of Navoi regional Women's Committee, data of 2019