

**ANALYZING THE ROLE OF FEMALE EDUCATION IN ADVANCING GENDER
EQUALITY****Radjabova Aziza Matlubovna,**

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This article examines the significance of harnessing women's potential in promoting gender equality, which is essential for the country's development. It argues that supporting and encouraging women in science and education not only enhances their economic and social status but also positively contributes to the well-being of society as a whole. The article also analyzes state policies regarding women's education in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Keywords: United Nations (UN), sustainable development, gender equality, international conventions, higher education, science, female leadership.

**GENDER TENGLIGINI TA'MINLASHDA XOTIN-QIZLARNING TA'LIMIGA OID
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Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada gender tengligini ta'minlashda xotin-qizlar salohiyatidan unumli foydalanish mamlakat taraqqiyoti yo'lida muhim ahamiyat kasb etishi tahlil qilingan. Bunda ilm-fan va ta'limda xotin-qizlarni qo'llab-quvvatlash va ularni rag'batlantirish nafaqat ularning iqtisodiy va ijtimoiy mavqeyini mustahkamlashga xizmat qilishi, balki jamiyat farovonligi yo'lida muhim omillardan biri bo'lib xizmat qilishi asoslab berilgan. O'zbekiston Respublikasida xotin-qizlar ta'limiga oid davlat siyosati tahlil qilingan.

Kalit so'zlar: Birlashgan Millatlar Tashkiloti (BMT), barqaror rivojlanish, gender tengligi, xalqaro konvensiyalar, oliy ta'lim, ilm-fan, rahbar ayol.

АНАЛИЗ АСПЕКТОВ ЖЕНСКОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ В ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИИ ГЕНДЕРНОГО РАВЕНСТВА

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АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье рассматривается значение использования потенциала женщин в достижении гендерного равенства, что необходимо для развития страны. В статье утверждается, что поддержка и поощрение женщин в науке и образовании не только повышает их экономический и социальный статус, но и вносит позитивный вклад в благосостояние общества в целом. В статье также анализируется государственная политика в отношении женского образования в Республике Узбекистан.

Ключевые слова: Организация Объединенных Наций (ООН), устойчивое развитие, гендерное равенство, международные конвенции, высшее образование, наука, женщина-лидер.

In the 21st century, we are facing an expanding range of problems, including poverty, the feminization of poverty, unemployment, growing environmental risks, and an increase in violence against women. Additionally, the limitations of power and governing bodies highlight the urgent need to address the situation of women, who make up half of the world's population. Sustainable development, ensuring peace and security, and prioritizing the interests of individuals are essential for a healthy society. Cooperation among governments and peoples, a radical change in international socio-economic relationships, and the establishment of full and equal partnerships between women and men are becoming increasingly important for societal progress.

Given the ongoing population growth, predominantly driven by developing countries and a significant percentage of women, it is crucial that policies prioritizing gender equality are implemented at all levels. According to UN estimates, by 2025, the population aged over 60, half

of whom will be women, will primarily reside in developing countries¹. Therefore, the global community must adopt a serious approach to ensure sustainable economic growth in these regions and mitigate the negative impacts of global challenges on the lives of their populations. Moreover, the rise in labor migration can be attributed to the unequal distribution of economic resources and ongoing economic instability. Notably, the number of women migrants working in the informal sector is also increasing. This situation underscores the urgent need for states to thoroughly reform the enforcement of gender equality, not only within their borders but also in their foreign policies.

Despite the world community's efforts to implement effective reforms for sustainable development, access to equal education, active participation in political and public life, freedom to choose one's profession and workplace, and the right to create a family remains limited. The norms, standards, rules, and criteria established at birth continue to influence individuals throughout their lives. Boys and girls are often educated in different directions, and their biological differences lead to distinct social roles, which creates a landscape of gender relations. This is where the idea of one sex being superior to the other begins to take shape. Boys are typically raised to be strong, fearless, assertive, persistent, active, purpose-driven, and to assume leadership roles, which boosts their self-confidence. In contrast, girls are often nurtured in a passive, emotional, and domestic manner, with their interests and desires rarely taken into consideration. This disparity undermines their self-confidence and cultivates an instinct to adapt to decisions made by others. In this context, gender plays a crucial role in the socialization processes of men and women. It encompasses a set of social relations that reflect how interactions between genders are shaped by established moral norms and cultural values.

As a member of the international community, the Republic of Uzbekistan is actively enhancing its state policies on gender issues, increasing the effectiveness of gender aspects in international cooperation, and implementing gender-sensitive policies as a key component of national development. Supporting women and girls is regarded as a priority area for executing the national strategy aimed at achieving gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals². In this context, several important decrees and strategies have been established. The President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, issued Decree No. PF-4947 on February 7, 2017, regarding the

¹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2023). World Population Ageing 2023: Challenges and opportunities of population ageing in the least developed countries. UN DESA/POP/2023/TR/NO.5

² SDGs, U. N. "United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. 17 Goals to Transform our World." (2019).

Action Strategy for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan³. Furthermore, Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 841, adopted on October 20, 2017, outlines measures for implementing national goals and objectives in sustainable development until 2030⁴. Additional significant actions include Decree No. PF-5325, issued on February 2, 2018, which focuses on radically improving support for women and strengthening the institution of the family⁵. On September 2, 2019, further provisions were made regarding guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, leading to the adoption of the Law on the Protection of Women and Girls from Harassment and Violence by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis on May 28, 2021⁶. Additionally, the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved Resolution No. PS-297-IV, validating the Strategy for achieving gender equality in Uzbekistan until 2030⁷. The President of Uzbekistan reaffirmed his commitment through Decree No. PF-60 on January 28, 2022, and further advanced the initiative with Decree No. PF-87 on March 7, 2022, which outlines the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026. These decrees constitute the legal foundation for the country's commitment to gender equality and support for women and families.

At the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Sh. Mirziyoyev⁸ stated from the podium: "We will resolutely continue our efforts to significantly increase the role of women in the socio-political life of our country as well as in the business sphere, particularly from the perspective of gender policy issues."⁸ This declaration reflects the current political will of Uzbekistan. The country's gender policy focuses on supporting women, creating equal opportunities for them, and fostering an open approach to international cooperation based on gender considerations. Efforts are being made to enhance the social and political participation of

³ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, or 07.02.2017 r. № DP-4947.
<https://lex.uz/en/docs/7186952?ONDATE=08.02.2017>

⁴ [Governmental Decree No. 841 on measures for the implementation of goals and tasks in the field of sustainable development for the period until 2030](https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC197247/). 2018-10-20. <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC197247/>

⁵ Decree PF-5325 "On measures to radically improve the activities in the field of support of women and strengthening the institution of the family" // National Database of Legislation, 03.02.2018, 06/18/5325/0653 -last

⁶ Sixth periodic report submitted by Uzbekistan under article 18 of the Convention, due in 2019 <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPFPRiCAqhKb7yhsvglKm%2F71Q4iogAZSMgJYVs60KRy5crJ6kEiuYr%2BMf3kQZOR7xy6os%2FgfVi6U8SWJyPdXstO1OxzL6OUntGaW7CwybNjFCtq%2FK%2FieKSvU651>

⁷ [Resolution of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PS-297-IV validating the Strategy for achieving gender equality in Uzbekistan until 2030](https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/uzb208957.pdf). <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/uzb208957.pdf>

⁸ Speech by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 46th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Monday, 22 February 2021. <https://www.un.int/uzbekistan/news/speech-president-republic-uzbekistan-shavkat-mirziyoyev-46th-session-united-nations-human>

women in Uzbekistan, ensuring their rights and interests, promoting gender equality, and safeguarding family, motherhood, and childhood. Additionally, initiatives are being taken to develop entrepreneurship among women, create new job opportunities⁹, improve working and living conditions, and encourage their active involvement in public life.

In light of ongoing reforms and the increasing relevance of management issues, the promotion of women leaders has become a state policy priority. To this end, the government has taken the initial step of studying and applying international best practices. As part of this effort, Uzbekistan has signed over 80 international conventions, agreements, and treaties, ratified 69 international human rights instruments—including 6 core UN conventions—and adopted more than 700 laws governing human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, mechanisms to support women and girls have been established, along with a robust institutional framework. Significant and effective work has been undertaken in the fields of women's education and healthcare. Efforts are being made to provide high-tech medical care for women with serious illnesses, while women with disabilities receive rehabilitation equipment. Various screening exams are conducted, vaccinations are provided, and free medicines and vitamins are available.

In education, initiatives are in place to ensure women have access to all levels of education. Financial support is offered after they complete higher education, which includes encouraging them to pursue studies abroad. For girls from low-income families, preferential education opportunities are being created. Starting this academic year, for the first time, interest-free loans will be provided for seven years to cover educational contracts. This year, banks will be allocated 1 trillion soums, with plans for 8 trillion soums over the next five years.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has initiated extensive socio-economic reforms, especially in the education sector. Key initiatives include the establishment of the Ministry of Preschool Education (now known as the Agency for Preschool Education), the enhancement of the school curriculum based on best practices from developed countries, and the introduction of a free meal program in schools. Notably, access to preschool education has increased from 27% to 70%, participation in higher education has risen from 8% to 38%, and the number of schools and universities has grown to 10,000 and 186, respectively.

Additionally, beginning next academic year, the state will compensate the educational contracts for female students in master's programs from the national budget. The local budget will cover training contracts for students from low-income families and for those who have lost a

⁹ Women and the World of Work in Uzbekistan Towards Gender Equality and Decent Work for All 2nd edition updated in 2023. ILO. https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@europe/@ro-geneva/@sro-moscow/documents/publication/wcms_907344.pdf

parent. To increase the representation of women in science, at least 300 quota places for doctoral admissions will be allocated annually. A new procedure will also allow for state payment of maternity benefits to women formally employed in the private sector, starting September 1, 2022, with 200 billion soums allocated and 1.7 trillion soums for 2023.

For reference, in 2021, 2,000 girls were admitted to higher education institutions based on a special grant, resulting in women making up 60% of new university students. The results of activities in 2023 indicate that 13 regulatory legal documents were adopted, including three laws, four decrees, and six government resolutions. Amendments have been introduced to various regulatory documents to further improve the protection of the rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of women and children. Notably, changes to the Electoral Code now require political parties to nominate at least 40% of women among candidates for deputy positions, up from the previous minimum of 30%¹⁰.

The reforms outlined emphasize a strong commitment to addressing women's issues in the country. Their main goals are to reduce unemployment by creating job opportunities, stimulate women's interest in education, encourage participation in scientific activities, and support innovative ideas to boost the economy. By increasing women's political engagement, these reforms can lead to more appealing solutions, ultimately enhancing overall happiness and well-being in society.

Five key aspects are particularly important:

1. It is essential to foster an interest in science across the country by creating an environment where women can compete while taking into consideration their economic and social needs.
2. We must ensure effective oversight of the implementation of the adopted regulatory documents.
3. Creating an environment that facilitates the integration of local personnel and specialists with those studying abroad is vital for promoting cooperation across all sectors.
4. We need to focus on training management personnel and specialists by offering mentoring and enhancing training programs.
5. Lastly, raising public awareness about decision-making processes and the effective and rational use of scientific achievements is crucial.

¹⁰ <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/bright-partnership-quality-education-uzbekistan-uzbekistan-and-unescos-joint-efforts>

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