

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND THEIR STATUS IN SOCIETY ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY

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Annotatsion: This article analyzes the necessity of strengthening women's rights and their status in society based on the principles of equality. As outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, every individual—regardless of gender, race, or social background—must be entitled to equal rights. The article explores and evaluates ways to achieve gender equality between men and women within families and in society at large. It also discusses various legal norms and legislative measures aimed at preventing violence and ensuring equal rights for both genders.

Keywords: Gender equality, Women's rights, Women's role in society, Gender policy in Uzbekistan, Women's registry, Social activism, Education and healthcare, Economic independence, Human rights, Case study of Fergana region, Women's leadership.

“Ensuring human rights and gender equality is one of the priorities of state policy. It is necessary to create a solid legal framework to further enhance the position of women in society.”

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the country's supreme law, guarantees the legal equality of both sexes in society. This norm is recognized as a constitutional norm for ensuring gender equality and creates an important basis for realizing equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the social, political and economic spheres.

In recent years, the number of women holding senior leadership positions in our country has been increasing significantly. The signing of the Law "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on September 2, 2019 was an important step in raising gender policy to the level of state policy. This regulatory

legal act serves to strengthen the principle of gender equality, eliminate sexual discrimination, and ensure the achievement of true equality between women and men.

In accordance with the law, the main executors of the state policy on ensuring gender equality are the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Special Commission on Ensuring Gender Equality, and relevant state bodies. They are engaged in the formation and implementation of gender policy, control and monitoring within their competence.

Temporary special measures have been established to ensure gender equality in society, expand the participation of women and men in public life, as well as eliminate all forms of sexual discrimination. These measures serve to promote the interests of women for a certain period of time, develop their potential and increase their activity in the decision-making process.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”, which entered into force on September 2, 2019, is an important legal document aimed at ensuring gender equality in society. As stated in Article 1 of this law, the main goal is to regulate relations related to ensuring equal rights and opportunities between women and men.

These legal norms have become not only a declarative statement, but also a practical policy. For example, increasing the number of women in civil service, introducing quotas for women in higher education institutions are among the practical results of the law.

Article 2 defines the components of the legislation. The law recognizes the primacy of international treaties, along with national legal acts. This means that Uzbekistan has joined the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In 2022, Uzbekistan adopted the “Strategy for Ensuring Gender Equality”. This strategy was developed based on international experience and includes increasing women's political participation, expanding their economic opportunities, and combating violence. International experience shows that countries with gender equality achieve faster economic growth, stronger social stability, and more democracy. Uzbekistan is also making significant progress in this area, but more needs to be done to achieve full gender equality. Thus, it is important to conduct a thorough analysis of international and national experiences in gender equality, continue reforms aimed at strengthening women's rights, and reduce gender stereotypes. Scientific research and analytical work play an important role in this process. In 2023, the “Most Active Innovator Woman” competition for women was held at Uzkimyosanoat JSC. This event is aimed at stimulating the innovative potential of women and is a vivid example of the practical application of gender equality. The participants of the competition presented a total of 22 innovative ideas that are energy-efficient, provide

solutions to environmental problems, improve production processes, replace imports, save enterprise costs, and create additional jobs and income. It is important that in some enterprises, the proposals and developments made by these women have been considered and are at the implementation stage. In recent years, gender policy in Uzbekistan has been actively developed, and a number of measures have been implemented to protect women's rights and strengthen their role in society. In particular, through the "Women's Notebook" initiative, thousands of women have been provided with practical assistance in the fields of healthcare, education, employment, and entrepreneurship. The cooperative of artisan women in the Rishton district of Fergana region is an exemplary example of this - they have not only achieved economic independence, but also demonstrate social activity and leadership in their neighborhood.

From a scientific point of view, gender equality and the strengthening of women's rights are considered by the World Bank and the UN as a factor accelerating the development of society. For example, according to UNESCO reports, when women are widely involved in education, the labor market, and governance systems, poverty levels in countries decrease, and health and well-being indicators increase.

Therefore, this article analyzes the work being done to strengthen women's rights in Uzbekistan, their position in society, and the problems they face. The goal is to deeply illuminate the principle of equality and reflect on its role in social development.

Women's education is one of the most important foundations of social development. If we look back, in the past, women were forced to give up their favorite professions or jobs after getting married or having children. After marriage, women were often forced to devote themselves entirely to household chores, which hindered their personal and physical development. More women devoted themselves to the family and could not express their inner feelings. As a result, domestic violence and aggression were common. Nowadays, the role of women in society, their attitude to knowledge, and their approaches to raising children have changed significantly. The attention paid to women in the Republic of Uzbekistan has been increasing significantly in recent years. This is clearly visible not only at the legislative level, but also in practical life. Additional grants are being allocated to women, especially women from needy families. Women from low-income families are provided with housing, additional benefits, and additional assistance is provided to women with children with disabilities. This attention not only improves the quality of life of women, but also strengthens the intellectual and economic potential of society. Women are the backbone of society, and their development is the development of the entire nation.

If a woman is educated, the whole society becomes educated. This idea is not only wisdom, but also truth. A woman's being educated, conscious, and legally literate directly affects the cultural, economic, and spiritual development of society. However, unfortunately, in some cases, violence, oppression, and aggression against women violate the principles of their equal rights and prevent women from finding their place in society. Violence against women is an unlawful act that manifests itself in physical, psychological, sexual or economic forms, violating their honor, dignity, health and freedom. These situations often occur in the family, at work, on the street or even in educational institutions. It is no coincidence that in 2019 the Law "On the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence" was adopted in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which was an important step in protecting women's rights.

Women who are victims of violence are often forced to remain silent. The reason for this is stereotypes in society, accusations, lack of economic independence, concern for the fate of children, or simply the fear that "there will be gossip". This further limits their rights and violates the principles of equality. Gender equality is the equality of men and women in rights and opportunities. Violence denies this equality, puts women in a weak, defenseless position.

Although the state has introduced mechanisms such as rehabilitation centers, hotlines, and protection orders, not only laws but also a conscious approach of society are important in combating this problem. Every citizen must not be indifferent to violence, respect women's rights, and support them. Women are the support, educators, and source of knowledge of society. If their rights are violated, the foundation of society is weakened.

Therefore, violence and oppression against women should be viewed not only as crimes, but also as a threat to the development of society. If a woman is educated, she knows her rights. If a woman knows her rights, she can protect them. If a woman is protected, society will be strong. Therefore, legal, economic, social, and psychological support for women is the most important condition for ensuring equality.

Men's attitudes towards gender equality vary. Most men see this principle as essential to building a just society. They see women's participation in education, work, politics, and leadership as an important factor in progress. Such men see respect for women's rights as a sign of humanity and culture. At the same time, there are different views on gender equality among some men. Some misunderstand this idea and perceive it as a threat to the status of masculinity. Traditional stereotypes, such as the concept of "man is the boss, woman is the submissive," still persist among some groups.

Fortunately, a positive attitude is gaining ground among the modern generation. Young men are striving to work equally with women, support them, and make important decisions together. Active participation in raising children as fathers is a practical manifestation of gender equality. State policy also sees men as important subjects in ensuring gender equality. Through legislation, advocacy, and educational programs, men's conscious approach to this issue is being encouraged. In general, men can be strong allies in gender equality. Because this is not just a women's issue, but a necessary principle for the development and stability of the entire society.

CONCLUSION

The Law "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" is a strategic legal document aimed at ensuring gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan. This law introduces not only declarative statements, but also specific social, political and economic mechanisms. In the future, strengthening legal expertise on gender equality, monitoring practical results and applying international experience will serve the sustainable development of this area. Strengthening women's rights and their position in society on the basis of equality is an integral part of the development of modern society. In recent years, Uzbekistan has taken significant steps to strengthen gender policy, involve women in social, economic and political spheres, and realize their potential. Local projects such as women's notebooks, craft cooperatives, and leadership training initiatives not only ensure women's economic independence, but also increase their activity in public life. Scientific analysis and global experience show that gender equality strengthens justice and stability in society, and gives a powerful impetus to national development through education, health care, and labor market participation. Therefore, supporting policies and initiatives aimed at strengthening women's rights and their position in society is an important strategic direction for the well-being of today and future generations. A woman occupies an important place in society in such areas as politics, education, and science. If she is strong, purposeful, and educated, she can work on an equal footing with men. Nevertheless, her feminine essence - such qualities as tenderness, patience, and kindness - makes her even more perfect. As women strengthen their position in society, they not only fight for equality, but also retain their unique strength, wisdom, and feminine beauty.

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