

Uzbekistan on the Way to Developing a Strong Social Policy

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Annotation:

In this scientific article, The People of Uzbekistan are intensively engaged in the processes of achieving independence, the implementation of modern reforms in the field of human rights. The beginning of the implementation of gross social policy for the purpose of social protection of the population.

Keywords: social policy, organizational and legal, social protection, state support of families with children, social policy.

On the eve of the independence years, the prevailing severe economic-social situation in the country (for reference: in the 1990s, 70% of the population's income was even lower than the lower level most needed to make a living) necessitated the conduct of social policy based on the "Uzbek model" of the transition to market relations. During the years of reform, the importance of improving the effectiveness of organizational and legal and economic measures of social policy was emphasized, and the directions of Social Protection began to change. The first president of Republic was I.A.Karimov noted: "a qualitatively new stage in the implementation of social policy, namely the deepening of the means of social protection, the need to adapt it to changing conditions, has truly matured. Social protection measures should be applied not to the entire population, but only to those who need such protection. The whole system should have been aimed at ending the mood of artificial equality and cunning to the willing"[1]. Thus, a gradual transition from the gross social protection system to targeted social protection was carried out, the system of state bodies and non-governmental organizations of social protection was completely reformed, new forms of social protection were introduced, the powers of state bodies implementing it were revised. A certain part of the powers were transferred to non-governmental organizations, neighborhoods. In organizing these events, the decree of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan "on measures to strengthen

the social protection of low-income families”, “on further strengthening the state cooling of families with children”, “on increasing the role of citizens' self-government bodies in providing the population with clearly oriented social support”, the Cabinet of Ministers “on issues of organizing social protection The peculiarity of the Uzbek model of social protection in the country was such that the directions and measures of social policy were changing in terms of meaning and content in accordance with the naming of each new calendar year in which they entered.

In particular, 2017 - “year of dialogue with the people and human interests”, 2019 - “year of active investments and social development”, 2020 - “year of development of Science and digital economy”, 2021-“Year of youth support and strengthening of Population Health”, 2022 – “year of glorification and active neighborhood of human value”, 2023-“Year of attention and quality education”, 2024 – “year of Youth and business support”. The approach "Man-society-state" became the main criterion, the second president of Republic. The general idea “Uzbekistan is a social state”, which was put forward at the initiative of Sh.Mirziyoyev, opened a new era in the conduct of Social Policy [2]. On the basis of this idea, at the present stage, Uzbekistan has moved towards the further development of a strong social policy. First of all, the norms of the Constitution were updated and radically changed. Articles 36-42 of the previous Old revision of the Basic Law on social rights were reflected in articles 41-53 of the updated constitution. The basic provisions regarding the socio-economic interests of citizens increased from 7 articles to 13 articles. Of this, 7 articles were expounded in a content-enriched edit, with the remaining 6 articles introduced entirely new. The new Constitution does not provide for previously important provisions of social protection on poverty reduction (Article 43); guarantees of citizens ' rights to housing (Article 47); introduction of Health and medical insurance, development of physical education and sports (Article 48); protection of the environment and ecology, public control of urban planning activities, development of the islet region (Article 49); increased status of higher education (Article 51) and finally enriched with new articles on protection of pedagogical teachers ' labor at the constitutional level (Article 52) [3]. The renaissance of strong social policy began from 2017. In particular, the Republic adopted the National Strategy and concept of social protection of the population, designed until the 2030s, re-listing of the population was carried out, the provision of pensions and benefits was improved, the forms of entrepreneurship and business activities were changed, and the possibilities of self-employment of the population were further increased. The outdated organizational-managerial and economically inefficient method-means of social protection, in a word, the “scattered system” is being liquidated and a unified social policy is being implemented. The National Agency for social protection was formed.

Currently, the reforms carried out on social policy are fully covering the supply of socially disadvantaged segments of the population, which make up a 14.1% share of the elderly. Since January 1, 2021, the information system “unified register of Social Protection” has been introduced into practice in order to automate the processes associated with the provision and assistance of social services by the state to disadvantaged segments of the population. The benefit supply system has been improved whole. For example, in order to provide a complete, fair and transparent coverage of the needy population with social benefits and material support, from 2024 it switched to an electronic online system that works in real time. In this regard, the decisions developed by the government “regulation on the procedure for the appointment and payment of benefits to certain categories of persons in need of Social Protection”, “on approval of certain administrative regulations for the provision of public services in the field of social protection of the population”, “on measures for the development of the state social insurance system” serve as a legal basis. In order to ensure targeted delivery of social services in the regions and to work closely with the population, "Human" Social Services Centers, sectors and "neighborhood seven" were established. With them, social assistance and services for disadvantaged and underprivileged families are organized. For example, about 50 types of social services are provided since 2023 through "human"

social services centers and social workers established directly in the districts[5]. The support of the “neighborhood seven” is used when conducting social policy directly in the neighborhood (a neighborhood is a collective form of government of the population in the lowest administrative microhood of the Uzbek people). It is attended by representatives of the state and public organization and provides 60 different types of social assistance measures to the inhabitants of the territory. In particular, benefits and relief measures for the population are carried out in such forms as grant, subsidy, interest-free loan, preferential loan, payment of a fee-contract, compensation for material assistance, tuition and rent, provision of rehabilitation tools, inpatient or outpatient treatment, involvement in paid public works, and even bail to allocate a loan without collateral. As many legal scholars and researchers noted in their scientific work, today the function of citizens' self-government bodies in the field of social protection is becoming more and more relevant, and together with other public organizations, the neighborhood citizens' assemblies are also actively helping to ensure the strength of families, social protection of young people, lonely elderly, disabled, families with many children . According to Q.Qodirov, since currently benefits and material assistance to the population are supplied only through Citizens' self-government bodies, the neighborhood is gaining a key position in the current system of social assistance[6]. Sh.Mahmudbekov argues that citizens' self-government is a leader in the social protection of the disadvantaged class of the population[7].

Ensuring the participation of local self-governing bodies and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate the implementation of State tasks for the social protection of the population is also present in the experience of such progressive countries as Japan, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy. In Particular, B.According to Strashun , while in Switzerland the issue of social security of the population is delegated to the authority of communities in places, in Switzerland local authorities are also responsible not only for the local economy and utilities, but also for social protection, education system, medical services and Health, which are part of the functions of the State[8]. There is no doubt that the “neighborhood seven” model, which reflects Uzbekistan's unique national experience in social protection, will lead to a further increase in the interest of foreign specialists in Uzbek neighborhoods. In recent years, much attention has also been paid to digitizing social policies. On a Republican scale, the Unified Register of Social Protection Information System has been launched with the aim of creating a database of women in need, young people, persons with disabilities or the elderly alone and delivering additional social services to them. In the world, "Iron notebook", "youth notebook" and "women's notebook" are kept, which do not have a similar analogue. On their basis, targeted social assistance to the population is being organized.

About 60 amendments were made to the pension legislation in order to improve the pension rights of the population. Measures are being taken to consistently increase the amount of pension of citizens in accordance with the economic indicators of the country. For example, at the end of 2022, the number of pensioners and persons receiving social benefits in the Republic exceeded 4,578,100, an increase of 107.6% compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. As of may 1, 2024, the number of citizens receiving a pension, standing at the expense of the pension fund for the Republic, is 3,998,966. The average monthly pension amount appointed and paid in the Republic was 1080.8 thousand[9]. It should be noted that the Uzbek government has developed impressive measures in the following years to reduce unemployment in the region and ensure employment of the population, complete termination of forced labor. In particular, as a result of the practical work done, forced labor inherited from the old former Union was terminated in Uzbekistan.

Labor resources in Uzbekistan are more than 19334.9 thousand, and the economically active population is more than 14980.7 thousand. In recent years, the employment population figure for the working population has been around 67-69%, with an average of 1,441.8,000 people found to be dependent on employment and not employed. The unemployment rate is setting an average of 9-10

percent [10]. In the following years, great importance is placed on international cooperation in the field of myehnat migration. The geopolitical map of migration has changed, and Uzbekistan is now cooperating not only with the CIS, but also with the countries of Europe, arab countries and the East Asian region. Currently, Uzbekistan also has bilateral agreements with several countries. In conclusion, a strong social policy and an increase in population activity are important factors in the social stability and development of the country. Today's Uzbekistan has come out to the world as an open country and continues its reforms with consistency.

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