

Elevating the Status of Women is a Crucial Factor in the Reforms Being Implemented in our State

*Ergasheva Makhsuda Pulatovna*¹

Abstract: This article analyzes in detail the issues of women's participation in society, raising their status, strengthening their position in state and community management, as well as ensuring the effective implementation of the state policy to support women.

Key words: Socially active woman, reform, political adaptation, morality, ethics, rights, freedom, initiative, public opinion, opportunity, progress, education, upbringing, competence.

In today's era, what aspects should women pay attention to in order to adapt to the demands of the times and become a leading part of society? The integration and activism of women in social and political life manifest in various ways.

As noted by the great representative of the Jadid movement, Abdullah Avloniy, education arises as a vital necessity, with upbringing coming first and then education. The importance of upbringing lies in the necessity for women to think freely, to uphold their dignity and values, and to preserve the delicacy and perfection of femininity. The significance of education is that women must fully understand their rights and be capable of defending their interests, which is one of the most critical qualities of modern women.

Today, the adaptation of women to political life is taking shape and developing within civil institutions such as political parties, community organizations, and non-profit organizations. This is characterized by the holding of various social, political, and spiritual events, women's participation in these events, their possession of independent opinions, their ability to draw conclusions, and most importantly, their understanding of political processes. As a result, their political awareness and worldview are steadily increasing.

To enhance the participation, status, and role of women in state and societal life, the foremost tasks include changing society's attitude towards women, especially shifting public opinion in a positive direction. "Special attention is being paid to the quality education and upbringing of women in our country." As the thinker and Jadid leader Abdurauf Fitrat stated, "Mothers are the educators of all humanity." Indeed, when a girl in a household is educated and possesses higher education and modern skills, the environment in the household transforms entirely," emphasizes our country's leader.

It should be noted that President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is giving priority to improving the living and working conditions of women and addressing social issues related to them. He has taken significant steps to elevate the status of women in state and societal life and to ensure their active participation in broad democratic changes and the development of New Uzbekistan. Thanks to the leader's efforts, there has been a strategic shift and change in shaping public opinion regarding the increasing role and place of women in society.

As a result of these efforts, today, many women in Uzbekistan are serving in the most important sectors of the state and society. We observe that a significant portion of the social and service sectors across the country is occupied by women, and their role and importance in the national parliament are increasing. The emergence of numerous entrepreneurial and property-owning women and their significant contributions to the formation of the private property institution, which is one of the

¹ Associate Professor of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University, Doctor of Philosophy in Sociological Science (PhD)



essential conditions of civil society, is evident. The image of socially active women is positively and clearly shaping public opinion in this regard.

It is known that today, women in Uzbekistan are not only emerging as subjects of political reform but also as active participants in legal policies. Each step towards the modernization of women in the country is being reinforced by legal norms, indicating their unique position in politics.

By comparing the experiences of countries that have implemented extensive reforms to enhance women's activism, it becomes clear that in many developed countries, women have achieved political rights through their struggles, often facing significant adversity. In Uzbekistan, however, their involvement in decision-making processes within national policy is facilitated by substantial privileges and rights created by the state. Such policies are increasingly being solidified as a crucial direction of the country's development strategy. Overall, one of the most important features of the development of New Uzbekistan is the creation and strengthening of opportunities for women in social life, which is remarkably unique and not found in other countries.

We can say that the measures undertaken by our government have fully shaped the public perception of socially active women.

To create more favorable conditions for women in Uzbekistan to pursue education and to systematically enhance their scientific potential and skills, the following measures have been established:

1. Annually allocating 1.8 trillion soums from the state budget to commercial banks to finance interest-free education loans for a period of seven years to cover the educational contracts of women studying at higher education institutions, technical schools, and colleges, including those studying through external and evening education formats.
2. Financing at least 200 billion soums annually from the state budget to cover the tuition fees of all women studying in the master's program at state higher education institutions without repayment conditions.
3. Annually providing additional grants through the "El-Yurt Umidi" foundation for 50 women in bachelor's programs and 10 women in master's programs at foreign higher education institutions.
4. Systematically allocating at least 300 targeted quotas each year for women in doctoral programs at state scientific organizations or higher education institutions.

The expansion and protection of women's economic and social rights, as well as their entrepreneurial and public initiatives, are consistently supported. Women interested in business have been granted preferential loans amounting to 6.9 trillion soums. To support initiatives and ease existing credit obligations, a guarantee fund of 6.8 billion soums has been provided to 8,919 women who have credit liabilities.

Within the framework of the "Five Important Initiatives," 21,500 women have been trained in short-term vocational courses. As a result, the number of those who started their own businesses has increased by nearly 45,000 within a year.

Today, our women are actively engaged in 27 areas of folk applied arts. Systematic master classes with the participation of experienced craftsmen are being conducted for them.

In our country, the grants provided for girls who have lost their parents or one of them, for single women without a provider, and for girls from low-income families to enter higher education institutions have been doubled.

The World Bank has announced the Women, Business, and Law Index. According to this index, Uzbekistan is among the 27 countries that implemented significant reforms regarding women's rights and gender equality by the end of 2020.

The participation of women in state governance is increasingly becoming active. Specifically, for the first time in Uzbekistan's history, the number of women in parliament has reached a level that aligns



with the recommendations set by the UN, with women's representation in parliament rising to nearly 32%. This places Uzbekistan 37th among 190 parliaments worldwide. The share of women in leadership positions has reached 27%, in political parties 44%, in higher education 40%, and in entrepreneurship 35%.

On June 15, 2021, at the international business forum held at Westminster University in Tashkent on the topic of "Economic Support for Women towards Sustainable Development in Central Asia and Afghanistan," the Chair of the Gender Equality Commission of Uzbekistan, Tanzila Norboeva, noted that the role of women in the governance of Central Asian countries is growing. She stated that over the past 20 years, the share of women in the parliaments of Central Asian countries has doubled. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which unites 190 national parliaments, Uzbekistan has improved its ranking from 128th place three to four years ago to 45th place in terms of women's participation in parliament and government, surpassing not only regional peers but also several developed Western countries, including the USA, Germany, Australia, and Canada.

The Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, as outlined by the President of Uzbekistan, emphasizes increasing the social and political activity of women, strengthening their role in state and societal governance, and reinforcing family values. It also includes objectives such as "...further enhancing social support for women and youth..."

Special attention is being paid in our country to the education of women and their development as professional and skilled specialists. Currently, 42% of students in higher education institutions are girls, and among those studying in master's programs, girls constitute 35%.

In our scientific and educational institutions, there are 11 female academics, nearly 700 female doctoral candidates, and over 5,000 female candidates of sciences, reflecting the significance of state policy in this area. Today, it is noteworthy that more than 10,000 women are actively working in higher education institutions.

In conclusion, increasing the social and political activity of women is a significant factor in the reforms being implemented in our country. This, in turn, is a clear indication that the ongoing attention and care for women are an integral part of the state policy being pursued in Uzbekistan.

REFERENCED LITERATURE AND WEBSITES.

1. Decree No. PF-4947 of February 7, 2017, of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the "Action Strategy for Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan."
2. Decree No. PF-5106 of July 5, 2017, on "Increasing the Effectiveness of State Policy for Youth and Supporting the Activities of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan."
3. Decree No. PF-5938 of February 18, 2020, on "Measures to Improve the Socio-Moral Environment in Society, Further Support the Mahalla Institution, and Enhance the System of Working with Families and Women."
4. <https://anarim.az/url?q=https://nasafziyo.uz/>
5. <https://www.gazeta.uz/uz/2023/03/07/womens/>
6. <https://xs.uz/uzkr/post/saj-harakatlarni-birlashtirib-salohiyatni-royobga-chiqaramiz>
7. Decision No. SC-297-IV of the Senate of the Supreme Assembly of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the "Approval of the Gender Equality Strategy until 2030" dated May 28, 2021. // <https://lex.uz>.
8. Podosinov A. V. *Lingua Latina: An Introduction to the Latin Language and Ancient Culture*.
9. Decree No. PF-60 of January 28, 2022, of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026."
10. Decree No. PF-60 of January 28, 2022, of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026."

