



 Research Article

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ENSURING SOCIAL STABILITY OF SOCIETY AND SPIRITUAL SECURITY

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ABSTRACT

In this article at the new stage of Uzbekistan's development the issue of increasing social and political activity of citizens, including the formation of gender equality in society, integration of gender culture as a value is analyzed. Consequently, the issue of ensuring that the female stratum, which constitutes half of our nation, understands, protects and utilizes its rights, privileges and guarantees is carefully considered, which is an important factor in achieving the strategic goal pursued in this regard. The role of women in ensuring stability, spiritual security of the society is analyzed on the basis of factual data. A number of suggestions and conclusions are made on the issue of improving political literacy and women's participation in building an inclusive society.

KEYWORDS

Social cooperation, gender equality, gender culture, values, society, political activism, social equality, inclusive society, political literacy, political participation, sector.

INTRODUCTION

The current global and regional socio-political situation, internal and external potential threats to the development of national independence make the issue of ensuring socio-political stable development of the country, social balance and peace extremely urgent. This issue is closely related to moral security. After all, social and political stability, spiritual security without peace and tranquility will make it difficult to determine the strategy of development in life. «Protection of the constitutional order, sovereignty, territorial integrity of our country from various threats, further strengthening of peace and stability – the main guarantee of all our achievements», says Shavkat Mirziyoyev [1].

The priorities of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan are the improvement of the state policy on youth and women, defined in the strategy «Uzbekistan – 2030», protection of their rights and interests, creation of conditions for their full adulthood and maturity. Introducing the principle of a healthy child and a healthy mother into the transformation of lifestyles is a priority of our President's policy. On this basis, a number of goals and objectives have been developed, including to interest young people in the arts, to physically train them, to enable them to make

effective use of innovative technologies, to raise the morale of young people, and to increase the literacy and activity of women in the life of society and the state. President Sh.M.Mirziyoyev's political views are based on the nation's gene pool, first of all on women's perfection, physical and spiritual maturity, attracting women to creativity and creative opportunities, the need to appreciate this and turn women into equal and active participants in society. After all, an active, agile, proactive, intellectually developed woman gives birth to a physically healthy, mentally mature child.

Therefore, it is extremely important to radically renew the nation, to give birth to a generation that meets the requirements of modern civilization, capable of making a significant contribution to the development of the country and the world, to make a steep turn in the life of society and to make a turn by offering innovative ideas, and to glorify the human factor. So, today, the most important goal of our life, expressed in our Constitution, which is the comprehensive provision of human interests, is an urgent task [3, b.14].

Since the importance of women in ensuring the social stability and spiritual security of the

country is high, we will try to analyze it as follows in terms of historical, religious, theoretical and practical bases:

First of all, if we turn to historical sources, we will see that along with men, the names of women with a capital letter are also mentioned in all spheres of social life. Prominent rulers, wise counselors, mature sages, excellent scientists, charming poets and genial art critics have grown up among women.

Some of them, Massaget ruler Tumaris, Sarai Mulkhanim, Gulbadan Begim, Nodira Begim, Jahan Otin Uvaisi, Dilshodi Barno, Anbar Otin, Zulfiya, Saida Zunununova [4, b. 27-28] can be listed famous women of their time. There are many famous, modern women in the world, including Margaret Thatcher, Hillary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice, Tansu Chiller, Benazir Bhutto, Indira Gandhi. These are mature, courageous and educated women of their time who contributed to the culture and enlightenment of the people, worried about peace and tranquility in the country, worked tirelessly on this path, and made a great contribution to the development of the motherland. In the East, a woman should be a friend, counselor and companion for her husband,

as well as responsible for the household and upbringing of children.

However, it should be remembered that in history, famous people, generals, statesmen, patriots and enlightened people were often accompanied by intelligent, resourceful and educated women. According to historical sources, the wife of Amir Temur, Sarai Mulk Khanim was extremely intelligent, with her wise advice, she took an active part in solving some of the problems that arose in the management of the kingdom. Of course, intelligence, wit, taste, maturity of thinking were her main factors. Mrs. Sarai Mulk was also a very shrewd, enterprising and intelligent woman of her time. Mrs. Sarai Mulk is mentioned as a humanist, patriot, well aware of the political, social, economic and cultural life of the country, participating in the affairs of the kingdom with her wise advice [5, b. 3-4]. There are many examples in historical literature about such women capable of taking on important tasks in the life of the state and society.

The book «Women of Uzbekistan» published jointly with the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the state scientific publishing house «National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan» was presented at the first international book fair held

in Tashkent in 2019 [11]. The book «Women of Uzbekistan» consists of such sections as «Women depicted in history», «Women in state administration», «Heroes of Uzbekistan», «holders of titles»; «Women scientists of Uzbekistan», «Women of Uzbekistan», «women working in various fields», «masters of culture and art» and «Sports women of Uzbekistan». The book includes information on more than one hundred of our leading mentor-leaders, scientists, poets, teachers, doctors and sportswomen working for the development of our homeland.

Secondly, the full realization of human rights and interests is the ultimate goal of the new stage of fundamental reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan. Here, special importance is attached to the protection of women's rights and freedoms. These include the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women's Rights Act, the Political Rights of Women Act, the Encouragement of Men and Women to Work Equally, and the Maternity Protection Act. It is no coincidence that it is included in such international documents as the Beijing Platform and Plan of Action, and that gender equality and the empowerment of women are included as one

of the national strategies and objectives for the sustainable development of Uzbekistan until 2030.

In turn, strengthening women's activity in the life of the State and society, creating equal opportunities for their participation at all stages of political, economic and social life and leading the adoption of normative documents, introducing the principles of gender equality in the adoption of State programs, at various stages, management reforms are being implemented consistently. In short, the national legal framework in this regard is developing in accordance with the universally recognized norms and requirements of international law and implemented step by step.

On September 2, 2019, for the first time in the history of the legislative mechanism on women's rights and opportunities, the laws «On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men» and «On Protection of Women from Oppression and Violence» entered into force in the Republic. These normative documents are aimed at creating decent working and living conditions for women, their social protection, increasing their socio-economic, political and legal activity, further strengthening their role and

influence in the life of the country, expanding the rights of the ranks of women leaders, making them an active layer of society, ensuring equal rights for women and men and regulating relations, such as providing them with opportunities, protecting women from harassment and violence in marriage, in the workplace and in other areas of society.

State policy provides for cooperation among State bodies, citizens' self-governance bodies, NGOs (Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations) and other civil society institutions to prevent violence against women (Protection of Women against Violence against Women Act, art. 5) [6, b. 7]. The legal documents listed above express the rights and freedoms and opportunities of women, while at the same time laying the foundation for their social and political activity on an equal basis. Unfortunately, the level of awareness of the population about their rights, legitimate interests and freedoms cannot be assessed satisfactorily. These normative documents begin to work in practice only if our women are able to deeply understand and utilize their rights and opportunities.

Otherwise, it will remain on paper..... For this purpose, it is recommended that human rights

and gender disciplines be introduced at the youngest levels of education. At a press conference on November 12, 2020, Tanzila Norboeva, Chairperson of the Senate of the Supreme Assembly and the Commission for Gender Equality, stated that sex education classes will be taught in all educational institutions, starting with kindergartens, as part of «sex education classes.» This reform aims to ensure that sex education is taught from childhood based on reliable sources and by specialized experts. Therefore, only a person who is fully aware of his rights and responsibilities can protect himself, his family, his children and his country. A deeply thinking, enlightened, conscious person is immune to alien influences, ignorance, religious extremist ideas, i.e. harmful influences, and can openly express his or her views and attitudes towards them.

Thirdly, the large-scale political and socio-economic reforms initiated in Uzbekistan at a new stage of development have determined the essence of building a new Uzbekistan. In this process, the main direction of our country's development is related to integration into the world community. In this connection, ensuring gender equality occupies a special place among

the values characteristic of a truly democratic State. Women make up half of our country's population. They work effectively and actively in all spheres of social, spiritual, political and economic life. It is natural that the period of rapid reforms in our country will serve not only to increase women's social and political activity, but also to develop the whole society. In other words, it will not be an exaggeration to say that women as an important stratum of society and the state are an unrivaled and valuable active force in the development and prosperity of the country, peace and security of the population, development of the economy, and an active role in international relations. It is enough for this if they have the necessary conditions for their activities, opportunities, legal grounds and mechanisms, the main thing is trust and encouragement.

One of the most important steps taken in this direction is the establishment of the Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Gender Equality in accordance with paragraph 5 of the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 7, 2019 «On measures to further strengthen the guarantee of women's labor rights and support entrepreneurship». The new structure includes representatives of legislative

and executive bodies, experts from non-governmental and non-profit organizations, law enforcement agencies and specialists from agencies involved in supporting entrepreneurship. An inventory of legislation has been made in terms of compliance with standards relating to discrimination of women's labor and entrepreneurial rights.

The Commission is working to implement the provisions of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action and the National Plan. It has also prepared a draft «Strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030», and all areas of this strategy are developed in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals until 2030. At the same time, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan has approved a regulation on gender expertise of each draft normative document planned for adoption in our country. The main focus of the commission's activities is to increase the social and political activity of women in society. To that end, a personnel reserve of more than 6,000 active women has been formed to increase women's participation in State administration.

Systematic training programs are being established to further increase this number. In order to ensure international cooperation in the field of gender equality, the Commission made working visits to the United States, the European Union, Korea, Japan, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Kenya. Links were established with international organizations such as UNICEF, UNFPA, UN, OTB, OSCE USAID, ETTB and joint plans were developed.

Over the past three years, more than 20 legal documents have been adopted to protect women's rights and interests, including 2 laws, 1 presidential decree, 4 presidential decrees and 13 Cabinet of Ministers decisions. The Advisory Council on Gender Equality has been set up in all ministries and departments, a commission on gender equality has been established, and a list of «jobs with unfavorable working conditions that prohibit the full or partial use of women's labor» has been introduced. The «Regulation on Issuance, Enforcement and Monitoring of Protection Orders for Girls» was approved, and protection orders have been issued to women in more than 6000 cases. A hotline service (1146) has been set up for their protection, with a view to popularizing the life experience of successful

women in Uzbekistan. A website has been created at www.genkom.uz.

It is an undeniable fact that women all over the world are subjected to various forms of oppression, domestic violence, sexual slavery and other forms of violence. In Uzbekistan, we are often confronted with such sad situations. Combating it, protecting rights and interests in this regard, and better understanding the scope of this global problem is an urgent task for all humankind. In this regard, every year November 25 is widely celebrated around the world as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, according to the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000.

Another notable aspect of the reforms being implemented in our country is that the number of women deputies in the country is 32% of the total number of deputies in the Legislative Chamber, women senators account for 25% of the members of the Senate, and the proportion of women in local councils is 25.6%. Also in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 16 women have taken up positions of leadership, 6 women governors and 1 woman ambassador. About 1,500 women work at various levels of leadership positions [12]. As can be seen from the above figures, Uzbekistan highly

values national interests and the human factor, determining its path of development based on national and universal values. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the implemented and planned reforms are a vivid example of this.

Fourthly, the upbringing of a child in the family, which is an important link in society, falls primarily on the woman. At the same time, it is desirable that a woman mother be healthy, educated, with a whole faith, mature worldview, well-mannered and intellectual. After all, an educated and resourceful, enlightened woman raises the generation that society needs and benefits from. In this regard, our President Sh.M.Mirziyoyev says: «an educated generation is the guarantee of a great future, enterprising people are the guarantee of a prosperous life, and friendly cooperation is the guarantee of progress» [2]. In his work «The Great Emptiness», a prominent American politician, philosopher Francis Fukuyama wrote: «one of the main sources of social capital in modern societies is the education system, which is provided as a social value» [7, p. 19]. Indeed, in the modern era of information globalization, it is natural that there is a high demand for people with innovative ideas, minds that regularly follow the news. The highest

form of informatization is knowledge. At the present stage of society's development, there is a growing need for creative, out-of-the-box thinking professional specialists who are able to offer new methods in their field. The solution to the problem goes back to the issue of continuous development of personal capabilities, acquisition of skills to live in a democratic state and civil society, formation of professional qualifications and competencies.

To that end, Presidential Decree No. 5325 of 2 February 2018 on measures to radically improve activities in the area of support for women and strengthening the institution of the family and Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 230 of 26 March 2018 on retraining in the area of strengthening the institution of the family were adopted on the basis of Decision No. 230 on the organization of special training courses for training and advanced training and the regulations approved by that decision. At present, special training courses have been organized by the «Family» scientific and practical research center with the participation of the akimats of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the provinces and the city of Tashkent. M. Kholikova (PhD, associate professor), coordinator of the activities of special training courses of the central

office of IATM «Family», notes that it is important to approve the concept of «Lifelong learning», that is, «lifelong learning [8]». Such a situation requires a person to constantly exchange new knowledge and information, to think and research widely. Of course, this concept will not remain without benefits in terms of improving the quality and competitiveness of human resources.

Fifth, since women and youth constitute the majority of the population, most social problems in the country are closely related to them. Today, the Uzbek family structure, internal environment, family behavior and relationships are based on national culture and spiritual values. There are different cultures, people and families in the world, but humanity is united as a society with common values, past and future. The Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, adopted by UNESCO on November 16, 1995, defines tolerance as follows: «We must respect, accept and rightly understand the rich diversity of the world's cultures, ways of expression and forms of human individuality» [9] . In the declaration, people differ in appearance, status, speech, behavior and values. They should be recognized the right to live in peace and preserve their individuality.

Therefore, each state and society determines its own path of development based on its capabilities and potentials

Therefore, in most Uzbek families based on the religion of Islam, tolerance, respect for the culture of other religions, races and nations, peaceful resolution of disputes, modesty, and humanity are the most important qualities that are formed in traditional families from childhood. Such national-cultural values are important for the social stability of society. The level of social stability of a society is the most important indicator of well-being. In the process of ensuring social stability and national security, the essence of such philosophical components as «tolerance» and national principles of «tolerance», «compromise» as universal criteria for increasing the culture of tolerance of the population and compromise» is revealed, in the principles of «compassion» and «patience» it is substantiated that getting rid of the evil of apathy and indifference by teaching the traditions of the youth council is the main leading factor in preventing various foreign trends.

Therefore, the welfare of the state and society directly depends on the foundation that forms it – family peace, integrity, religious views and socio-

economic balance. The foundation of the family is the consent and unity of a man and a woman legally united for good intentions and purposes. The institution of the family, which is an important link in society, occupies an important place in the culture and spirituality of the peoples of the East. When the family is strong, the society is strong and healthy. Along with the development of the mature generation, the role of the family institution in the formation of moral immunity against foreign influences is significant. It is not without reason that this issue has risen to the level of state policy. The family is a spiritual and social environment, a small society in which the future citizen is formed [10, b. 30]. In the minds and hearts of young people it is the family that is under the influence of the spiritual environment, in it the initial spiritual immunity is formed, the reflex of social values. The importance of the role of a woman – mother – grandmother as a social institution in this regard is leading.

In accordance with Presidential Decree PF-5325 of 2 February 2018 on measures to radically improve activities to support women and girls and strengthen the institution of the family, a research center entitled «Family» has been

established. In accordance with Presidential Decree No. PF-5938 of 18 February 2020 on measures to improve the social and spiritual environment in society, further support the institution of the mahalla and bring the system of work with families and women to a new level, a research institute entitled «Mahalla and Family» has been established under the Ministry of Support. Issues related to the identification, rooting and positive solution of problems characteristic of youth and family in society have been entrusted to the relevant district administration, the Youth Agency, neighborhood and family departments, as well as public receptions and trade unions. In order to provide social support to the population, lists of families in need of assistance, i.e. the «iron register», as well as the «youth register» and the «women's register», were established. The Deputy Governor for Social Affairs handles tasks related to the «youth directorate», the Deputy for Mahalla and Family Affairs handles the «women's directorate». It primarily serves to identify and address problems on the ground. In short, any support and care given to the family and its members serves the development of society, the development of the country and our national interests. The laws, rules and regulations adopted

will fully reflect the requirements of today and tomorrow, and the necessary amendments and additions to our existing legal documents will undoubtedly become a leading factor in making the family a solid pillar in our spiritual life.

The National Programme for 2022-2026 (March 2022), adopted on the initiative of the President, aims to increase women's activity in all spheres of economic, political and social life in our country, strengthen family institutions, ensure gender equality, improve education and professional skills, expand women's entrepreneurship, pay special attention to improving the quality of medical and social services, promote a healthy lifestyle, and create an environment of intolerance to oppression and rape

By decision of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, the adoption of the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 (May 2021) ensures that women in our society are granted equal rights and opportunities with men and that their social and legal protection, including protection from harassment and discrimination, is an important legal framework. Moreover, it is natural that this strategy will improve our country's image in the international arena along with eliminating the existing

inequality between women and men in a number of spheres of social life.

When it comes to ensuring social stability and moral security in society, it is important to strengthen the mechanism of family cooperation, neighborhood and social control, to ensure purposeful and useful communication between them. It should be noted that the role of the mahalla (neighborhood), which is considered a body of social governance, in exercising social control is increasingly increasing. Therefore, the role of the above three tasks in solving local issues with the help of the majority is important. It is desirable to support the activities of district women-activists in identifying, studying and solving socially significant problems.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that the concept of «Against Ignorance – Enlightenment» becomes the main goal of modern youth. For women it becomes relevant to acquire professional qualifications, innovative approaches to entrepreneurship and business, production of competitive products, in short, to become a person who brings benefit to the Motherland.

Raising the level of healthy lifestyle, education and spiritual culture among young people to combat public administration, corruption and organized crime, religious extremism and foreign influence by fostering an active civic position «enlightenment against ignorance». Especially for women, it is extremely important to inculcate from school age that the acquisition of professions is a requirement of the state and society. It is necessary to form immunity of national and religious tolerance through their education, elimination of gender stereotypes, and social employment.

As our enlightened thinker M. Behbudi said: «It is impossible to reform society and move it along the path of development without accepting women and girls as full-blooded members of society, correct solution of the family problem and correct upbringing of the young generation. After all, the fate of a nation is its women» and depends on the status of the family». Realizing the role of women as a social institution in ensuring social stability and moral security, we will try to summarize our findings below:

First, at the new stage of Uzbekistan's development, that is, in the era of the new Uzbekistan, historical work of national

significance is being carried out to strengthen the role and status of women in society. After all, the stability and development of the political, social and spiritual environment in society depend on the attitude, respect and attention to women, young people and the family. The President of our country highly appreciates the role and status of women in society, protects their rights and interests, creates the necessary conditions for them to become competent, modern specialists, qualified professionals, build a healthy and strong family, above all, the birth of a healthy child, and pays special attention to the fact that education, protection of the health of mother and child is the most important task that is in the constant attention of our state and society. Reforms implemented in this direction have begun to yield positive results, but there are areas that need to be focused on and reformed. In particular, during the pandemic, problems related to health care, economy, education, human services and many spheres, problems related to unemployment became evident. These problems are directly related not only to health and economic decline, but also to the rise in domestic violence.

Secondly, in recent years, more than twenty normative legal acts concerning women's rights

and opportunities have been adopted in our country. Along with legislative provision of rights and freedoms, opportunities for women, reforms aimed at increasing their status in the state, society and family are still ongoing. Relevant organizations are working effectively to eliminate gender stereotypes, achieve equal rights for men and women, and prevent forms of harassment and violence against women.

Thirdly, the role of women in the family is considered incomparable. In order to educate our children in the spirit of love for the Motherland, our rich history, and devotion to the holy religion of our ancestors, it is necessary to strengthen, so to speak, ideological immunity in their hearts and minds. So that our young people grow up to be people who understand their national identity, and at the same time, who keep up with the times. That is why neither the «call» of alien forces nor their ideas, which reject the concepts of ethics and are totally alien to us, can influence them. The education and upbringing of a child is a very delicate and serious matter, and the way he or she grows as a person in the future will directly determine the economic, political, social, cultural and spiritual development of the country.

Fourth, the above socio-political analysis has shown that women in society as a social institution serve as a leading force in ensuring social stability and spiritual security. Therefore, the strengthening of women's activity in the social, political, economic and cultural life of the state and society is also a requirement of time. In our country, the realization of the conceptual idea «a prosperous family is the basis for the prosperity of society», the implementation of comprehensive measures consistently applied to social life, the improvement of the institution of the family and the formation of the idea of the family as a value, is a requirement of the time. After all, today's prosperous life depends primarily on women, who are the backbone of the family and society.

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