

EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES - A CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT

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АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье подчеркивается важная роль гендерного равенства и прав женщин в развитии общества. Анализируются вопросы образования женщин, их трудоустройства и повышения их активности в политической и общественной жизни. Также рассматривается возможность достижения справедливости, стабильности и развития общества путем защиты прав и интересов женщин. Обосновывается, что обеспечение гендерного равенства является одной из неотложных задач современности.

Ключевые слова:

гендерное равенство, права женщин, женщины, социальное развитие, равные возможности, права человека, женский активизм, гендерная политика, социальная защита, демократическое общество, образование женщин, женщины и общество, правовая защита, социальное развитие, интересы женщин.

ANNOTATION

This article highlights the important role of gender equality and women's rights in the development of society. The issues of women's education, work, and increasing their activity in political and social life are analyzed. It also considers the possibility of achieving justice, stability, and development in society by protecting the rights and interests of women. It is substantiated that ensuring gender equality is one of the urgent tasks of today.

Keywords;

Gender equality, women's rights, women, social development, equal opportunities, human rights, women's activism, gender policy, social protection, democratic society, women's education, women and society, legal protection, social development, women's interests.

GENDER EQUALITY IN TODAY'S MODERN WORLD

In today's modern world, the level of development of states is measured not only by economic indicators, but also by the degree to which gender equality is ensured in society. Gender equality is not simply a privilege granted to women, but means creating equal rights and opportunities for every member of society. Viewing gender equality as the foundation of human rights is entirely appropriate and holds a special place in the development and progress of today's society. The concept of gender equality means that women and men have equal dignity and worth. This principle also occupies a special place in international documents, particularly in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, women's access to education, acquisition of professions, and active participation in social life doubles the intellectual potential of any state.

For instance: **An Enlightened Woman — An Enlightened Society**. The knowledge of a woman, who is the foundation of the family, directly influences the upbringing of future generations. When a woman is educated, a healthy family environment is formed. Attention to

children's education and upbringing increases. Social and economic stability is ensured in society. The existence of obstacles during development processes significantly ensures the level of advancement in the field. Unfortunately, stereotypes regarding women's education or employment still persist in some parts of the world. However, in the era of modern technologies and the digital economy, the role of women has fundamentally changed. Today, women are achieving outstanding results not only in education and healthcare, but also in IT, entrepreneurship and management.

To achieve gender equality, it is not enough merely to adopt laws — it is necessary to change people's worldview. Increasing girls' confidence in their own abilities and directing them toward STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is the most effective investment for society's tomorrow. Gender equality is a measure of justice. Giving women opportunities means elevating the nation. Every girl deserves to realize her dreams and to be an equal member of society. Specifically, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men aims to regulate relations in the field of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

The law defines legal, organizational and institutional measures to be taken by state bodies to eliminate gender inequality and to achieve specific goals of ensuring genuine or foundational equality of women and men. Gender — as the social aspect of relations between women and men manifesting in all spheres of social life and activity, including politics, economics, law, ideology and culture, education and science — is known to all of us. State statistics contain data shown separately for each sex regarding the situation of women and men in all spheres of social life and activity, reflecting the relevant situation of persons of different sexes in all spheres of socio-political life, regulating gender issues and relations in society. Gender legal analysis refers to the work carried out on regulatory legal documents and their drafts regarding compliance with the principles of ensuring guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Direct discrimination on the basis of sex refers to any form of distinction, exclusion or restriction aimed at denying the rights and freedoms of women and men in all spheres of social life and activity, including discrimination due to marital status, pregnancy or family obligations, as well as sexual harassment and unequal pay for equal work and qualifications. Indirect discrimination on the basis of sex refers to the creation of situations, conditions or criteria that place persons of one sex in a less favorable position compared to persons of the other sex, including the promotion of gender inequality through mass media, education and culture, and the establishment of conditions or requirements that may lead to negative consequences for persons of a particular sex.

The fundamental principles of ensuring guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men — legality, democracy, equality of women and men, non-discrimination on the basis of sex, openness and transparency — are protected through the Law "On Protection of Women from Pressure and Violence." As an example, the share of female deputies in the Uzbek parliament is nearly 33%, which means women's voices are present in the decision-making process. Gender equality is not simply a social issue — it is economic growth. According to World Bank research, if women participate in the economy on an equal footing with men, global GDP could increase by 26%. Entrepreneur women tend to invest more in social sectors (education, healthcare).

In our historical heritage, female figures such as **Tomyris** and **Qurbonjon Dodxoh** symbolize women's courage in state governance and strategic decision-making. **The Jadid perspective:** Jadid forefathers such as Abdurauf Fitrat and Mahmudkhoja Behbudiy promoted the idea that "A nation whose girls are uneducated is doomed to decline."

Alongside development, the existence of problems is natural. Specifically, the disparity in household work: data shows that women spend on average 3 times more time on household chores than men. Stereotypes: outdated views such as "a woman's place is in the kitchen" are limiting girls' potential. This is why equal distribution of family responsibilities between men and women and support for the "Women's Economy" is essential. Gender equality does not mean men and women being identical — it means their opportunities being equal. Respect for women in society is an indicator of culture and moral values. An educated girl is the future wise mother, qualified specialist and patriotic citizen.

The Current Situation in Uzbekistan

In recent years, major steps have been taken to enhance the role of women in society.

Legislation: In 2019, the Law "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" was adopted.

Political participation: Today, women make up nearly 33% of the deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis. This is a high indicator by international standards.

Protection: Criminal liability was established for domestic violence, which marked an important turning point in protecting women's rights.

2. The Status of Women in Islam and Hadiths

Islam has not only legally equalized women with men, but has also commanded special respect to be shown to them.

Equality in acquiring knowledge: Our Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim (male and female)" (narrated by Ibn Majah). This hadith is the foundation for women's active participation in social and intellectual life.

Family and respect: "The best among you are those who are best to their wives" (narrated by Tirmidhi). This establishes the principle of mutual equality and respect within the family.

3. Views of Our Thinkers

Central Asian thinkers regarded the relationship between women and men as the foundation of society.

Abu Nasr Farabi considered it essential that women, like men, receive education and acquire professions for society to be prosperous.

Alisher Navoi: "Let the people of the world know that the female gender is sacred." In his works, he glorified the images of wise, resourceful and courageous women (for example, Dilorom, Shirin).



Abdurauf Fitrat: In his work "Oila" (Family), he proved that the education and progress of the nation is directly linked to the level of knowledge of women.

In modern Uzbekistan, a woman's place is not limited only to the household; she is a scholar, entrepreneur, politician and, most importantly, an equal member of society.

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