

ROLE OF THE WOMEN OF UZBEKISTAN IN CARRYING OUT SOCIO-ECONOMICAL REFORMS

Sosyo-Ekonomik Reformların Uygulanmasında Özbekistan Kadınının Rolü

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Öz: Bağımsızlığın kazanılmasının ardından, sadece ülke ekonomisi değil ama aynı zamanda halkın yaşam tarzı da değişti. Yeni bir yaşam tarzı hayatı kolaylaştırdı. Bu geçiş dönemi bizden yeni fikirler üretmeyi ve yeni yaklaşımlar geliştirmeyi gerektiriyor. Günümüzde kadınlar, toplumda daha büyük rol oynuyor ve ekonominin bütün alanlarında bulunuyor. Onlar kurşun ve inşaat, fabrika, bahçecilik bitki ve tarım alanlarında, öğretmenlik, bilim adamları, liderler, ekonomistler, doktorlar, işçiler olarak ulusal ekonominin farklı alanlarında çalışıyor. Büyük ölçekli çalışma 25 Mayıs 2004 tarihinde yayınlanan "Özbekistan Kadınlar Komitesi işlevlerini desteklemek için ek önlemler hakkında" Cumhurbaşkanı I. Kerimov Kararnamesi çerçevesinde, kadınların çıkarlarının korunması için büyük fırsat teşkil ediyor ve kadının aile ve toplum içindeki statüsünü daha da arttırdı.

Bu kadınların etkinliğini artırmak için bizim devlet başkanı tarafından büyük bir dikkat ve özenle, sonuçları olan koşulları yaratmak için potansiyel ve yetenek ortaya koymak, ve onların haklarını korumak için büyük çaba harcanıyor.

Anahtar kelimeler: Özbekistan, kadınlar, ekonomik reformlar, öğrenme

Abstract: Having gained independence, not only the economy of the country changed, but also it facilitated a new lifestyle. This transient period requires from us new ideas and approaches to the upcoming and current programs. Nowadays, women play a great role in the society and they can be found in all spheres of the economy. They lead and work in different fields of the economy as teachers, scientists, leaders, economists, doctors, workers in construction, factories, horticulture and agriculture.

Large-scale work led within the frame of the Decree of the President I. Karimov "about additional measures to support the functions of the Committee of Women of Uzbekistan" issued on May 25, 2004, gives great opportunities for the protection of women's interests, by further increasing their status in the family and society.

These are the results of a great attention and care, paid by the head of our state in order to increase women's activity, to create conditions to reveals their potential and talent, and to protect their rights.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, women, economic reforms, learning

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INTRODUCTION

Women, who comprise 48,7 per cent¹ of the work force of the republic, played a great role in carrying out market reforms, step by step during the years of independence. Nowadays, they are contributing greatly to the development of the society by working as an active social power in all fields of the socio-economical sector. To be more exactly, the main part of the employed women in the republic works in the fields of industry (43%), agriculture (52%), construction (14%), transportation and communications (18,1%), public catering (54,7%), communal services (37,8%), healthcare, physical training and social services 78,4%), public education, culture, arts, science (69,3%), finance, crediting and insurance (46,5%) and in other fields (30,4%)².

The government of Uzbekistan is paying special attention to support the activities of our women, to create enough opportunities to them and to protect their rights and freedom. An economic policy is being carried out to encourage our women to work and to earn an income.

That's why President I. A. Karimov is stating that ensuring the economic independence of women is an important factor to guarantee their active participation in the social life of the country. Moreover, the President states that "nowadays it is impossible to imagine the development of the several fields and sectors, such as farm movement, small business and private industry, science, medicine, education and upbringing, culture and arts without women's participation."³

Decrees, laws, subordinate legislation on the issues of protection of the women's rights and interests which were adopted during the years of independence ensured women's participation in the production and created a completely new condition for their social status.

Particularly the following legal measures: the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Family Code, Labour Code, Law "on protecting labour" adopted on May 3 in 1993, the Presidential decree issued on March 2 in 1995 "on measures of increasing the role of the women in the state and social formation of the Republic of Uzbekistan", The Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers "on measures of increasing the role of the women in the formation of the family, state and society, development of the system of protection of their legal, social, economic and enlightenment interests, emphasizing the protection of the women's labour in the 222-237-Articles of the Labour Code adopted on April, 1995, approving by the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Justice the list of

¹ O'zbekiston ayollari va erkaklari (2000-2005). Statistik to'plam. -T.: O'zbekiston Respublikasi Davlat statistika qo'mitasi. 2007.P.20, 104.

² O'zbekiston ayollari va erkaklari (2000-2005). Statistik to'plam. -T.: O'zbekiston Respublikasi Davlat statistika qo'mitasi. 2007.P. 107.

³ Islom Karimov. O'zbekiston xotin-qizlariga bayram tabrigi. / Turkiston, 2010. 6 mart.

the hard works on May 28, 1996 where it is prohibited to use women's workforce⁴, the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "on the State Program for the year 1998 on measures of providing family interests" on the occasion of the proclamation of the year 1998 as "the Year of the Family". There is also the historical Decree on "additional measures on social protection of women" issued on March 17, in 1999 to protect their interests in "Women's Year", the 20% tax concession to the women's income who work in a dangerous or harmful labour conditions which was secured by Decree # 117 on "Tax concession to the women's income who work in a dangerous or harmful labour conditions" of the Cabinet of Ministers, preventing the award of privileges depending on the sex, race, nationality, social background, possessions, belonging to the public organizations, and not depending on the results of their work, and considering this issue as an offence⁵, Other legislation included the Decree # 171 of the Cabinet of Ministers on "Approving the normative documents necessary for the Family Code" on April 12, the law on "Additional privileges to women" adopted on April 14 (right to retire if a woman has a 20 year work experience, weekly 35 hour work day for those who has child under 3)⁶,

Decree # 212 of the Cabinet of Ministers⁷ includes "measures on supporting the production and marketing of the goods for children's and women's hygiene" issued on May 4, Decree # 32 of the Cabinet of Ministers on "additional measures on consolidating the health of women and young generation" issued on January 25, in 2002, Decree #242 of the Cabinet of Ministers on "measures on implementing main trends of the development of the medical culture in the family, consolidating women's health, birth of the healthy generation and its upbringing issued on July 5, in 2002, adoption of the State Programs on the occasion of the proclamation of the 2000 year as a "Year of the healthy generation", and 2001-year as a "Mothers' and children's year", Decree on "measures of reinforcing the State and social assistance to the families", Decree on "additional measures on supporting the activities of the Women's Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan" announced on May 25, in 2004, Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers on "measures program on ensuring the fulfilment of the Presidential Decree #3434 on "additional measures on supporting the activities of the Women's Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan" announced on May 25, 2004" issued on June 30, 2004, Decree on "additional measures on protection of the mother and child's health", and finally the Decree on "measures program on developing and increasing the effectiveness of the works on consolidating the reproductive health of the population, birth of the healthy

⁴ Mehnat kodeksi. – T.: Adolat, 1999. -254 P.

⁵ Onalik va bolalikni himoya qilish masalalari bo'yicha qonun hujjatlari to'plami. –T.: O'zbekiston Respublikasi Adliya vazirligi, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Bosh Prokuraturasi, 2004. –P.188.

⁶ Onalik va bolalikni himoya qilish masalalari bo'yicha qonun hujjatlari to'plami. – T.: O'zbekiston Respublikasi Adliya vazirligi, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Bosh Prokuraturasi, 2004. –P. 105.

⁷ Look: Onalik va bolalikni himoya qilish masalalari bo'yicha qonun hujjatlari to'plami. – T.: O'zbekiston Respublikasi Adliya vazirligi, O'zbekiston Respublikasi Bosh Prokuraturasi, 2004. –P. 105, 115, 117, 118, 188, 190.

child, upbringing of physically and spiritually mature generation and other measures” are bright examples

It is known that legislature of our country guarantees equal opportunities both to men and women to possess their economic rights. For the first time the Parliament adopted laws on micro financing, microcredit organizations, and made necessary amendments to the laws on the development of the credit unions, employment of the population, family business and out-of-work. It provided a legal basis for improving the welfare of families, who are important part of the society and created an opportunity for women to enter the economic relations. For example, in 2008 a total sum of 90 billion 87 million sums of credit were issued for businesswomen throughout the republic, which was 47 billion sums more than in 2007. Women who set up in business were issued 11 billion 76 million sums of credit, thus 12,332 new work places were created.⁸ Also, more than 32,000 women throughout the republic, who kept cattle at home were officially given work record books⁹. In 2008 to support steady growth in the development of the small business and private enterprises taxes were reduced, unified tax payment for small firms and enterprises was reduced into 8% instead of previous 10%, and from 2009 into 7%¹⁰, and tax calculation systems were upgraded.

At the same time, it is notable to say that because of the traditional imagination of the society about the work done by men and women, women do not enjoy the same rights as men do. Nevertheless, the market reforms being carried out are not only creating some difficulties for women in the working relations, but also they are discovering new areas where women can show their abilities. That’s why it is necessary to assist them practically to show their adaptation abilities and to support them comprehensively. Especially, it is reasonable to teach women who are going to set up in their business marketing skills and to support small business directly, namely to create a business project, to provide them with modern technologies, to assist them in raising micro credits.

Particularly, Republican Businessmen’s chamber, Business fund, Fund for assisting employment, TESIS program of the EU, Businesswomen’s union and other nongovernment organizations are aiming to achieve this goal.

But throughout the world, women’s issues are considered as an important part of the human development conception, and several organizations including United Nations Organization, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, EU, OSCE, US based USAID, ACCELS, IREX and others are pursuing the policy of increasing women’s participation

⁸ Sultonov A. Ayolning ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy hayotdagi o’rni. “Ayol-ma’naviyat gulshani” respublika ilmiy-amaliy konferenstiya materiallari –Jizzax, 2009. –P.44.

⁹ Akbarova F.Sh. Ayolga ehtirom – mustaqillik sharofatidan. “Ayol va mustaqillik ” respublika ilmiy-amaliy anjumani materiallari –Toshkent, 2010. B-7.

¹⁰ Yormatov F.“O‘zbekistonda aholini ijtimoiy himoyalash tizimi:holati, shakllanish jarayoni, rivojlanish istiqbollari (1991-2010 yillar. Janubiy viloyatlar misolida” mavzuidagi 07.00.01- “O‘zbekiston tarixi” ixtisosligi bo‘yicha tarix fanlari nomzodi ilmiy darajasini olish uchun tayyorlagan dissertatsiyasi.-T.: 2010 –P.47

in the social, economic, political and cultural development, preventing the cases of woman abuse in the families, increasing women's legal literacy, working out different projects in a close partnership with each other regarding women's issue as a common social problem, mutually assisting in holding conferences, seminars and trainings.

Therefore, the government is paying special attention to increase women's socio-political activities, their role and reputation in solving the tasks of family, society and state formation in accordance with the democratic transformation being carried out in our country.¹¹ It is reasonable to quote President I. Karimov's following words in this issue: "it is not necessary to state that, beginning from the first days of our independence, we have done a great deal of work strengthen women's position and reputation in the society, to support their rights and legal interests, to reveal their abilities and opportunities, that is to say, to make them equal, active and creative members of our society in building democratic state".¹²

The State programs aimed at women are worked out on the base of the universal values and national traditions. They include development of market-economy skills among women and advocating their rights, freedoms and opportunities. There are also, special projects being implemented, such as UNDP's sample project on providing rural women with credits, as an experiment which are aimed at supporting women directly to organize their entrepreneurship. These projects face specific problems, that are to be found in many developing countries are:

Insufficient development of the banking system;

Inexperience of the bankers in issuing credits for individuals;

Absence of pledges of debtors to secure the credits;

Failing to returning credit in time;

Necessity of issuing short-term loans and collecting loans with high interest to protect creditors from inflation.

Besides, there are following difficulties in providing the internal credits:

Inflation which prevents from gathering capital;

Restriction of wide segment of people from many resources;

Underdevelopment of market infrastructure;

¹¹ O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 2004 yil 25 maydagi "O'zbekiston Xotin-qizlar qo'mitasi faoliyatini qo'llab-quvvatlash borasidagi qo'shimcha chora-tadbirlar to'g'hrisida" PF-3434-sonli Farmoni ijrosini ta'minlash chora-tadbirlari dasturi to'g'hrisida O'zbekiston Respublikasi Vazirlar Mahkamasining qarori / Xalq so'zi, 2004. 30 iyun.

¹² Islom Karimov. O'zbekiston xotin-qizlariga bayram tabrigi. / Turkiston, 2010. 6 mart.

Institutional underdevelopment of non-government organizations assisting special groups who need credit.

Solving the aforementioned problems serves as an important condition to provide the stability for women's economic potential. The consistency of these problems inhibits the popularity of entrepreneurship among women.

Despite those facts, entrepreneurship among women, particularly industrial output of the consumption goods using local raw materials has been growing rapidly lately.

Women comprise over 51% of population and 44% of active labour resources.¹³ At present, they have been an influential weighty mechanism to create material-technical base of the State and to provide economic sovereignty.

Most of the women working in Uzbekistan are busy in industry (48%), in agriculture (40%), in healthcare and social support (70%), in public education, culture and science (47-60%), in the fields of trading, public cooking places, dwelling and communal services (50-52%).¹⁴

Particularly, more than 20 000 women are functioning with entrepreneurship and 12,6% of them are working in industry, while 33% in agriculture, 21% in education, 11 in healthcare and social support.¹⁵ According to the statistic dates, only 2% of women living in Uzbekistan run their own business and entrepreneurship is more developed among rural women than urban women. Rural women are working in the spheres of outwork, knitting shops, knitting carpets, sewing shops, embroidery and others. They are not only selling their goods in internal market, but also exporting them.

To support spiritually and financially the women dealing with entrepreneurship, a trading expo called "Quli guldirdir uzbek ayoli" was held by the Committee of Women of Uzbekistan aimed at the aforementioned purpose and events called "Tashabbus-2010" are being continuously held.

The society of "Tadbirkor ayol" has specific role to increase women's labour in new branches of economic activity and to develop entrepreneurship among women. The Society is carrying out the tasks such as supporting businesswomen, teaching and retraining them. The members of the Society are actively participating in international conferences studying new business projects to develop entrepreneurs' activities implementing into practice.

¹³ O'zbekiston ayollari va erkaklari. Statistik to'plam /O'zbekiston Respublikasi Makroiqtisodiyot Statistika Vazirligi Statistika davlat departamenti. –T., 2002.-P.82.

¹⁴ Natsionalnaya platforma deystviy po uluchsheniyu polojeniya zhenshinv Uzbekistane i povisheniyu ix roli v obshestve /Byuro «Gender i razvitiye», PROON, Komitet zhenshinUzbekistana-T., 1999, - P. 11.

¹⁵ O'zbekiston ayollari va erkaklari. Statistik to'plam /O'zbekiston Respublikasi Makroiqtisodiyot Statistika Vazirligi Statistika davlat departamenti. –T., 2002.-P.83.

Nowadays, the following should be drawn to attention to increase revenues in the republic and to form the status of equality to women in small entrepreneurship (outworks, small factories and cooperatives):

They must be facilitated to take credits for entrepreneurship, purchasing raw materials and selling their output;

To start giving microcredit;

Knowledge of entrepreneurship must be especially spread among the women who lack experience and skills in running small business.

In this case, it must be noted that in the process of forming a market economy, the main problems of State policy toward women consists of developing the role of women in industry, establishing material support, increasing their legal culture and professionalism and spiritual support in the family. Therefore, by involving women in labour market, qualified education retraining methods must be used to organize their functions and to increase the potential of personnel.

To sum up, as the success of democratic reforms being implemented in society belongs to women's role in these processes, the issues concerning to women must be studied deeply and scientifically.

Secondly, by studying the issues concerning to women deeply and scientifically, there are defined existed problems, their reasons and historical roots and worked out with practical suggestions and recommendations.

Thirdly, it is required to broaden the area of events to propagandize the independent businesswomen's devotion to the national-spiritual view by studying women's issues from historical point of view.

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