

FEATURES OF STATE SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation. The article deals with the reforms carried out in Uzbekistan to improve the socio-economic status and entrepreneurial activity of women, to provide them with training and employment in a profession, to involve them widely in entrepreneurship, and to provide social support to low-income groups of the population.

Key words: Women entrepreneurs, financing, business initiatives, women's labor opportunities, women's notebook.

Introduction. Every state pays special attention to the formation of effective and functional policy with various population groups, especially women. It is connected first of all with high labor capacity of women, aspiration to independence and high level of interest to entrepreneurship and other spheres of life activity. Women entrepreneurs can act as a resource and in the future will create and reproduce wealth, which in turn creates conditions for the stability and sustainability of the entire state. This is especially true in countries where demographically women entrepreneurs represent a significant proportion of the population.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev has repeatedly noted in his speeches the important role of young people in Uzbek society: The scope of measures to ensure the family, motherhood and childhood in our country, to support and encourage women in every possible way, to protect them from legal, economic and social influences, to employ them locally and to strengthen their health is growing. At the same time, the attention paid to women entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan is growing day by day. For comparison, if in 2017, 27 percent of women worked in management, now this figure has reached 33 percent, in the ranks of political parties their number has increased from 40 to 47 percent, in entrepreneurship from 21 to 37 percent [1]. The country has prioritized the improvement of women's living and working conditions. To this end, more than 872 thousand women were employed last year. More than 25 thousand were trained in professions in demand in the labor market and entrepreneurship skills [2].

In this context, women's determination and vigor are seen as a driving factor in the reforms being implemented. The policy of supporting women's entrepreneurship in this context is a priority, as it guarantees and ensures the continuous development of young people in accordance with the general course of Uzbekistan's reforms. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev notes that significant results have been achieved in expanding women's economic opportunities and developing women's entrepreneurship. The policy of supporting women's entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan is based on strategic directions - support for women in their aspirations in business, education, employment, spiritual and cultural development. These directions are confirmed by President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev's emphasis on the essence of the reforms under way in the country, which encompass support for entrepreneurship, the family, scientific, educational, cultural and sporting institutions. Supporting the initiatives of entrepreneurs in these aspects allows to form the dedication of



women, who “will take an active part and make a worthy contribution to the historical process, creating a new foundation for the development of our country” [3].

Methodology and Methods. Over the last 5 years, Uzbekistan has seen an increase in the number of women entrepreneurs. This is a positive trend, which indicates that women are becoming more active and independent in the business sphere. Over the last 5 years, the number of women entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan has doubled. Today, 40% of entrepreneurs in the country are women [4]. An important factor in supporting women in Uzbekistan is how the government actively encourages them to start a business. Today, women have access to financial support and advice through specialized institutions and government programs.

As an example, the State Trust Fund for Women's Support finances a range of measures for low-income women, from financing business initiatives to providing social protection measures. Special attention is also paid to the development of women's skills and knowledge and to the organization of training activities through the Makhallabai and Entrepreneurship Development Agency. Ishga Markhamat” mono-centers have been established, which teach professional skills, teach foreign languages, assess qualifications and help with employment. Noteworthy is the introduction of “Women's Notebooks”, which serve as a strong support mechanism for women in various areas. In particular, the notebooks cover the provision of social protection, provision of housing on preferential terms, as well as financial assistance through employment and assistance in launching business initiatives.

In addition to providing access for girls to short-term courses and trainings, the government has expanded opportunities for girls and women to pursue higher education. Thus, an additional quota for girls is allocated annually for girls in each region of the country. At the same time, women with at least 5 years of work experience may enter higher education on a contract basis on the recommendation of the State Committee on Family and Women's Affairs. The recommendation will help women in case they fail to achieve admission scores [5].

Hokimiyats also take an active part in helping girls to obtain higher education. For example, female students from needy families receive free funding from local budgets to pay for educational contracts.

Uzbekistan has adopted a national program for 2022-2026 to increase women's activity in all spheres of economic, political and social life. The program identifies “Ensuring gender equality and empowerment of all women” as one of its priority goals [6]. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to expand programs that provide support for women in the realization of their rights and interests in the socio-economic sphere. The National Program to Increase Women's Activity in All Spheres of Economic, Political and Social Life for 2022-2026 defines the main directions of State policy to support women. The National Programme has been developed in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan[7], the State Youth Policy Act[8], the Protection of Women against Harassment and Violence Act[8], the Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (Safeguards) Act[9], the decision of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis on the approval of the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030[10], the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, the provisions of international treaties to which Uzbekistan is a party and other international instruments.

Conclusions. The National Program considers women's rights as an integral part of human rights and, based on the principle “For the sake of human honor and dignity”, it is a set of measures for comprehensive support of women. The formulation and implementation of the



National Program serves as an important factor in creating the necessary conditions for the equal full participation of women in the political, economic, social and cultural life of society.

The above-mentioned State support measures are necessarily a strong impetus for the support and protection of women. It is an important step towards equality and justice for women in the economy.

Undoubtedly, the state will take measures to fully support women's development and support women's entrepreneurship. If women are more involved in political, social, economic and other spheres, it will give an impetus to their development. Therefore, much attention is being paid in Uzbekistan to improving the system of support for women and further strengthening their status in society, including the promotion of gender equality in general and in organizations.

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