



THE SOCIAL ESSENCE OF GENDER IDENTIFICATION AND THE PROBLEM OF GENDER EQUALITY IN UZBEKISTAN

D.M.Mahmudova

Master's student of the Andijan State Pedagogical Institute, Methodology of Teaching Social and Humanitarian Sciences (Legal Education)

Annotation

This article analyzes the essence of the concept of gender identity, its introduction into science, gender equality, and gender equality relations in social life in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Gender identity, gender equality, human rights, social relations, reform

At a time when life in the world is accelerating, the issue of women remains one of the global problems. In many countries, the transition to a market economy is making life difficult for citizens and negatively affecting the situation of women. In recent years, unpaid work has taken up almost twice as much time for women as for men. Despite the fact that women make up one third of the official labor force in developed countries of the world, ensuring women's political and economic rights and gender equality remains a problem. Therefore, it confirms that the issue of women should remain one of the main issues that should be paid attention to in every socio-political period.

In recent years, at the initiative of the head of our state, a lot of work has been carried out in our country to ensure the rights and interests of women, their equal participation with men in managing society and state affairs, and to support women in socio-legal terms. This issue has become a priority area of state policy.

"Usually, we respect a woman primarily as a mother, a guardian of the family hearth. This is undoubtedly true. But today, every woman should not be a simple observer, but also an active and proactive participant in the democratic changes taking place in the country".¹ With these words, our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the important role that the courageous women of our country play in the politics of our state. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and stable world.²

First of all, let's touch on the concept of "gender", which is a concept that expresses gender identity based on the social, cultural and psychological characteristics of a person. That is, it is a concept that shows that women and men are equal in all aspects, both in society and in the family. The fact that gender equality is of great importance in social relations that are important for the development of society is becoming more and more evident today. Today, as a result of special attention being paid to increasing the activity of women in the family, society, especially in social life, significant changes are being made in both social relations and legislation.³

¹ From the speech of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Senate of the Oliy Majlis in June 2019.

² Article titled "Gender Equality and Women's Rights" 08.08.2022 fyut.uz news

³ Ismoilova H.M. Family spirituality and gender equality problems//Women's rights and gender equality problems. Methodological manual. – Andijan, 2017. – 30-33 p.



If gender equality is not paid special attention in today's market-based society, some negative situations that existed in countries that had market economies half a century ago may arise. For example, in the last century, in Western countries, there were cases where, despite the fact that women had higher talents, men were given priority in employment, or men were paid more, even if they worked the same hours. That is why special attention is paid not only in Uzbekistan, but also throughout the world to the issue of equality between women and men.⁴

The state guarantees women and men equal rights in the exercise of personal, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The state guarantees women and men equal participation in the management of public and state affairs, in the electoral process, in the fields of healthcare, education, science, culture, labor and social protection, as well as in other areas of state and public life. In particular, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 562 “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men”, adopted on September 2, 2019, serves as a clear proof of our opinion. The main purpose of this law is to regulate relations in the field of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Therefore, the concept of gender does not only reflect the interests of women. Rather, it provides a legal guarantee that representatives of both sexes can boldly take steps towards their dreams and goals, providing them with equal opportunities to improve their quality of life. Therefore, one of the important requirements of any developed democratic society is the provision of equal rights for women and men.

Under the leadership of our President Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, special attention is being paid to increasing the socio-political activity of women, protecting their health, supporting their aspirations and initiatives, and creating decent working and living conditions for them.

It was also noted in the Addresses of our esteemed President to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan that the problems of more than 6 million women have been thoroughly studied and that the “Women's Notebook” and “Iron Notebook” have been formed in order to find practical solutions to the many socio-economic problems that afflict women. The newly established “Women's Advisory Councils” in the makhallas are also closely assisting in solving these problems. “In recent years, major events have also been held within the framework of the “Women's Notebook”. The fact that almost 642 thousand of our sisters have been provided with practical assistance in a short period of time testifies to the scale of our work in this regard. In our country, priority is being given to improving the living and working conditions of women and solving social problems affecting them. To this end, last year, more than 872 thousand women were provided with employment. More than 233 thousand women were allocated 4 trillion 700 billion soums in loans. More than 252 thousand of our sisters were trained in professions and entrepreneurship that are in high demand in the labor market.”⁵

The task was also set to develop a proposal for creating a comprehensive system aimed at further improving the position of women in society and public administration. In our opinion, promoting the principle of equality between women and men is a fundamental and integral part of democratic governance, and the economic development policy taking place in the world

⁴ Sh.A.Saydullayev, B.I.Ismailov, N.F.saydalikhodjayeva, S.Z.Tilavova “Fundamentals of State and Law” textbook Tashkent – 2023

⁵ President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev “People's reforms serve the interests of our people” – “O'zbekiston” Tashkent - 2023. p. 263.



confirms that it is impossible to be gender neutral, and there is a direct link between gender equality and economic efficiency.

Therefore, all organizations are working at a high level to develop a comprehensive program of measures and target indicators for the implementation of the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2021-2023, and to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the civil service, education, science, culture and healthcare, as well as in the socio-economic spheres, in preventing oppression and violence, in family relations and raising children.

A number of works are being carried out to ensure the active participation of women in social, political and economic life. In particular, in terms of involving women in political and economic activity, they are being appointed to management positions, parliament, and other socially important positions. A number of laws and documents are being developed to protect against domestic violence and sexual harassment. As evidence of our opinion, we can cite the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 561 “On the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence”, adopted on August 23, 2019.

Also, in order to prevent gender discrimination among the younger generation and teach them to equalize social roles between men and women, programs and seminars promoting gender equality are being held in the education system. A number of state programs have been developed in Uzbekistan to attract women to entrepreneurship and business, to ensure their economic independence. In particular, microcredits and special business funds for women play an important role in attracting women to small and medium-sized businesses. Such programs aim to create new jobs for women, provide them with financial support and marketing assistance.

In addition, a number of reforms are being carried out in the education sector. Special programs have been developed to attract women to scientific and technical fields and increase the number of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. Grants and scholarships are being provided to encourage women to actively participate in education and science.

Although Islam has a concept of equality between women and men, the uniqueness of this approach is that in Islam, men and women are recognized as having the same personal, social, economic and political rights. In short, Islamic teachings are important for humanity in that they have defined the role of women in society, their importance, the protection and care of motherhood, the duties of men towards women, and the status of women.

In our republic, comprehensive measures are being implemented to protect the constitutional rights of women, ensure their interests, turn them into equal active and creative members of society, create equal opportunities for women in improving their service status in state authorities, and prevent discrimination and violence against women. "Providing material, psychological, and medical assistance to women in difficult situations, providing them with housing and employment, strengthening family values, and ensuring a stable spiritual environment in the family"⁶ issues have been identified as a priority task for improving the social protection and health care system of the population, increasing the socio-political activity

⁶ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017 No. PF - 4947 “On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan // Collection of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2017, No. 6, Article 70.



of women, and these tasks make it urgent to improve the legislation in this area based on international standards.

Since women's rights are human rights, women have all human rights and are entitled to enjoy them. In this sense, gender equality is one of the core values of the United Nations, and sexual discrimination is prohibited in almost all human rights treaties.

The right to life without violence, the right to the highest standard of physical and mental health, the right to education, the right to property, the right to equal pay and all other human rights must be ensured for women regardless of their gender. However, millions of women around the world continue to face discrimination in the enjoyment of these rights. Gender inequality is the cause of many problems that negatively affect women and girls. These can be domestic and sexual violence, low wages or problems with employment, education, etc. In conclusion, all the reforms being implemented in our country are being implemented for the happiness and bright future of our women. Also, the Women's Counseling Centers organized by the Family and Women's Committee of Uzbekistan can be cited as another vivid expression of the attention and care shown to the representatives of the delicate nature. After all, these centers are significant in that they serve such urgent goals as improving the spiritual environment among women, increasing their medical literacy, protecting their legitimate interests, rights and freedoms, developing the institution of the family, further improving the lifestyle and worldview of housewives, and protecting them from various spiritual and ideological attacks.

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