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STRONG SOCIAL POLICY STRATEGY AND INTEGRATION IN UZBEKISTAN IN THE CONDITIONS OF SOCIETY MODERNIZATION

Abstract: This article examines the strategic importance of a strong social policy and its effective integration in the context of the modernization of Uzbek society. The role of the state in ensuring social justice, improving the well-being of the population, and introducing a modern service system is analyzed. Practical measures aimed at improving the living standards of the population through the harmonization of local and international experiences, the introduction of digital technologies, and the integration of social policy with youth policy are highlighted. The principles of sustainable development of the country, the role of local government bodies, and issues of ensuring social security are analyzed, and future priority tasks are identified.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, social policy, modernization, sustainable development, social justice, integration, local government, digital technologies, youth policy, security, well-being

Today, the modernization of Uzbek society is inextricably linked with the activation of integration processes in the world community. In this process, the issue of forming a strong social policy and ensuring its effective integration is one of the priority areas of state policy. Modernization processes also entail a number of new problems and tasks, including the need to ensure social justice, increase the well-being of citizens, and improve the quality of social services. Social policy, as one of the main tools for sustainable development of society, plays an important role in ensuring human rights and interests. This requires, first of all, creating equal opportunities for the population, reducing social inequality, and rational distribution of state resources. Modernization processes in today's Uzbekistan are supported not only by economic reforms, but also by strong social policies.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev noted, "An educated generation is the guarantee of a great future, an enterprising people are the guarantor of a prosperous life, and friendly cooperation is the guarantee of development!" [1]. Such ideas are reflected, first of all, in the implementation of comprehensive and multifaceted reforms by our state at a new stage of our national development. After all, there is a people, there is a state. That is why the state, as a political institution, pursues an active constructive policy aimed at ensuring the commonality of views of citizens, peace and development in the country. In the process of developing civil society in Uzbekistan, it is important to study the experience of creating the foundations of similar societies in different countries of the world, the formation of the economic, socio-political and legal foundations of reforms in this area, and the study of theoretical developments related to them. Because these positive aspects of civil society, which are important for humanity, new principles and a living environment allow countries going through a transition period to adapt to today's rapidly developing world. In all periods of human development, the construction of civil society has been considered the most noble idea. Various theoretical approaches have been put forward to achieve it. A group of scientists believe that the idea of building civil society is being implemented in practice as a

product of Western civilization. In fact, a rational approach to this issue was formed three thousand years ago in the work of thinkers of Eastern countries. In certain periods of social development, Eastern countries occupied a leading position. In general, the peoples of the world, regardless of their size or size, have contributed to the development of the ideas of civil society to one degree or another. From this point of view, it is a wrong approach to one-sidedly exaggerate or belittle the ideas and knowledge about the formation and development of civil society.

The country's social policy covers various areas of state protection of the population. These areas are aimed at supporting the most vulnerable segments of the population, developing the education and healthcare system, as well as training personnel adapted to the requirements of the labor market. Social justice is a central concept of a strong social policy. The implementation of this principle in the processes of modernization of society in Uzbekistan is manifested in the following areas:

1. Improving the social protection system: The state is strengthening mechanisms for identifying and providing appropriate assistance to those in need of social protection. Providing targeted assistance through electronic platforms helps to increase efficiency in this regard.
2. Developing a quality education system: In order to ensure social equality, special attention is paid to the establishment of modern educational institutions in all regions, the introduction of innovative curricula, and equalization of opportunities in obtaining knowledge.
3. Improving the quality of health services: One of the main goals in the process of modernization of the health system is the provision of high-quality medical services to all segments of the population. In this direction, the state is expanding the scope of free services to the population [4].

The process of modernization of society in Uzbekistan is being carried out through the introduction of international experiences and adaptation to local conditions. The following important aspects of adapting a strong social policy to global processes are distinguished: Uzbekistan is actively developing the exchange of experience in the field of social policy with advanced countries of the world. In this regard, programs of international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank are being used. Introduction of digital technologies: The processes of automation and digitization of social services are making it possible to increase the efficiency of social policy. For example, the "Electronic Government" system simplifies the processes of identifying the needs of the population and providing them with services [2]. Taking into account local specifics: The social policy of Uzbekistan, along with being adapted to international standards, also takes into account local cultural and social characteristics. This allows smoothing out regional differences and supporting all segments of the population. Uzbekistan has undergone significant political, economic and social changes in recent years.

After gaining independence in 1991, the leaders of our country embarked on the path of reforms aimed at improving the lives of citizens. Social policy is a key component of these changes, aimed at eliminating poverty, improving health and education, and providing social protection to vulnerable groups of the population. The Government of Uzbekistan recognizes the importance of social policy as a means of promoting inclusive and sustainable development. Through the implementation of targeted strategies and programs, the state aims to uplift disadvantaged communities, reduce socio-economic disparities, and create equal opportunities for all citizens. These

efforts are crucial for building a harmonious and prosperous society. The state's social policy is to form certain centralized revenues through differentiated taxation and redistribute them through the budget among various groups of the population. In redistributing income, the state uses social payments, along with methods of changing market prices and setting minimum wages.

Social payments are a system of measures aimed at providing monetary or in-kind assistance to the poor, which is not related to their participation in economic activity. The purpose of social payments is to humanize relations in society and maintain domestic demand. A methodology for collecting and analyzing data was used to comprehensively analyze the main directions of social policy in Uzbekistan. Using this research methodology, the aim is to conduct a comprehensive and evidence-based analysis of the main directions of social policy in Uzbekistan. The methodology ensures that the research is drawn from authoritative sources and critically examines the policies and initiatives implemented by the government. Since inflation has a significant impact on the level of real incomes of the population, an important task of state regulation of incomes is to take into account the growth of prices for consumer goods and index incomes, that is, to increase nominal incomes in line with price increases. An important direction of social policy in protecting personal income is to support the poor. In practice, poverty itself is determined by the subsistence minimum. It is expressed in the social and physiological (physical) minimum [3]. The social minimum includes the minimum standard of satisfying physical needs, as well as the minimum costs of social requirements. The physiological minimum, on the other hand, provides for the satisfaction of only basic physical needs. In countries with a developed market economy, various criteria are used to determine the part of the population in need of social assistance. These include income level, amount of personal property, family status, etc.

Social policy is a policy aimed at mitigating inequality in the distribution of state income and eliminating conflicts between participants in a market economy. During the transition to market relations in the republic, social policy is aimed at social support and protection of the population and is implemented in separate major areas. The main direction in the system of measures for social protection of the population is the systematic increase in the minimum and average levels of income in connection with the liberalization of prices and the increase in the level of depreciation of money. In this regard, a specific approach of the republic has been developed, which is carried out by changing the ratio of incomes, simultaneously revising the minimum rates of wages, pensions, scholarships, and savings bank deposits of the population. The new unified tariff grid introduced was of great importance in changing the ratio of incomes. This made it possible to directly correlate the wages of all categories of employees with the minimum wage through tariff coefficients [4].

The second direction of social protection of the population was to protect the domestic consumer market and maintain a certain level of consumption of the main types of food and non-food products. In achieving this, measures such as controlling the export of products through the customs system and introducing high duties on them, organizing standardized sales of daily necessities were of great importance. With the introduction of the national currency, abandoning standardized sales of food products created the opportunity to switch to free prices. The third direction of social policy implementation at the first stage of economic reforms was the implementation of strong measures to provide social protection and support to low-income groups of the population. In this direction, socially vulnerable segments of the population - pensioners, disabled people, large and low-income families, the unemployed, young students, and people with a fixed income - were protected in various ways. The gradual transition from a comprehensive social protection system to a system of reliable

social guarantees and social support for the population marks the beginning of a qualitatively new stage in the implementation of social policy and the strengthening of social protection instruments.

The updated social policy requires a radical change in the existing methods of social assistance and sources of financial support, based on consistent adherence to the principles of justice. This policy provides for a targeted approach to social protection and the coverage of specific segments of the population. The assistance system is applied only to low-income and disabled citizens, and for this purpose, in addition to state resources, funds from labor collectives, various organizations and funds are used. In the new system of social assistance, children and low-income families are considered the main beneficiaries of assistance, and all benefits and material assistance are provided to them only through the mahalla. For this purpose, special funds have been created in the mahallas at the expense of budget funds, enterprises and organizations, business structures and voluntary contributions of individual citizens. The new system of social assistance also requires the emergence of a new structure of factors and tools that encourage work. Thus, during the period of reforms, the state, while supporting the needy sections of the population, tries to create equal conditions and favorable opportunities for those who strive to ensure the well-being of their families through their own labor activities [5]. The measures being implemented in Uzbekistan on social protection of the population are a clear proof of this.

Social protection means ensuring the well-being of the population, eliminating sharp differences in education, culture, professional qualifications, and incomes of the population. These include: ensuring free socio-economic activity, employment, choice of profession, study and education, guaranteeing income, consumer protection, providing quality medical services to the population, etc. In democratic countries, social protection is guaranteed by law and human rights are promoted as a key element. If we look at history, achieving social improvements was initially aimed at political rights, voting, and obtaining citizenship. Then we moved on to economic rights and finally to purely social rights. Social rights cover all age groups of the population and guarantee the freedom to use their material and spiritual opportunities. By strengthening social protection, improving the social situation of the population, the state can increase the economic and political activity of citizens, achieve greater public goodwill towards the current government, and achieve an absolute increase in its legitimacy.

In the context of the modernization of society, a strong social policy strategy is one of the main directions aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development of Uzbekistan, increasing the well-being of the population, and ensuring sustainable development. The success of this strategy depends on cooperation between the state and all segments of society, taking into account international experience, and introducing innovations [5]. Therefore, social policy in the country will continue to serve to cover the population and create stable living conditions for them. The social policy of the state consists in the formation of appropriate centralized revenues through differentiated taxation and their redistribution among various groups of the population through the budget. The concept of the standard of living of the population can be defined as the level of provision of the population with the material and spiritual benefits necessary for their survival and the satisfaction of their needs with these benefits. The main direction in the system of measures for social protection of the population is the systematic increase in the minimum and average levels of income in response to rising prices and depreciation of money.

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