



Historical Analysis of the Social Policy of Uzbekistan (On the Example of the Regions of the Lower Reaches of Zarafshan)

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v8i9.3096>

Abstract

The need to form an effective social policy aimed at supporting a decent level of social security is one of the most important democratic values of developing countries. The traditional approach to social development as a consequence of economic development, Uzbekistan inherited from the former Soviet system. In the conditions of transition to market relations, new systems of norms of social interaction between the state and society were developed. There have been extremely ambiguous changes in the factors of social development. The loss of planned mechanisms has led to the introduction of new social mechanisms, including problems of unemployment, medical care, education, the fight against poverty. The article analyzes the policy of Uzbekistan in the field of social development, identifies the specifics of social development, changes in the well-being of the population of the Nizhnezravshan region in a changing economic and social environment.

Keywords: *Welfare; Unemployment; Products; Medical Care; Poverty; Iron Notebooks"; "Notebook of Mercy"; Mahalla*

Introduction

The world in which we live, by the end of the XX century, entered a period of profound changes. These changes, one way or another, affect the most diverse spheres of human existence and the whole of humanity. The collapse of the USSR and the establishment of the independence of the former Soviet republics gave a powerful impetus to the formation of a new political and economic paradigm throughout the post-Soviet space, including in Uzbekistan. The course of socio-economic reforms carried out in Uzbekistan was aimed, first of all, at creating decent living conditions for its people, specifically for each person, with their involvement in the process of political, socio-economic development. During the difficult transition period from a one-sided form of management to a market economy, a base of socio-economic reforms based on the Uzbek model was created in the country. It was necessary to radically restructure the sectoral and territorial structures and create conditions for the development of the economy, as well as to develop social mechanisms for supporting the population of individual regions, taking into account the capabilities and specifics of the regions.

Materials and Methods

The article uses generally accepted historical methods: historical, comparative-logical analysis based on the principles of consistency, objectivity.

Research Results and Their Discussion

The difficult economic situation in the conditions of the rupture of economic relations with the countries of the former Union, the decline in production growth, lack of resources, rising prices and unemployment in the first years of independence required the development of systematic measures to provide social support to the population of the country. In general, a comprehensive program has been developed in the republic aimed at ensuring economic and social security. These measures provided for the development of the production of consumer goods, grain, fuel and energy resources necessary for the life of the country's population. [1.3]

Thanks to the well-developed policy of the government of the country, large industrial areas located in the lower reaches of Zarafshan have reached the advanced economic frontiers over the past 10 years. 80% of the gold of the republic, over 40 % of cement, 30% of chemical products".[2], 99.5 % of the uranium produced falls on the Navoi region. In 2020, the region took the first place in the republic in terms of industrial production (73%).[3] Uzbekistan ranks 8th in the world in terms of gold production, 17th in terms of the number of gold and foreign exchange reserves; in terms of uranium production, the 5th place and the 10th place in terms of its reserves.

The economy of the Bukhara region is focused on the processing of raw cotton, karakul, food production, as well as gas and oil. By 2020, the region occupies a leading position in meat farming.

An assessment of the situation of the most important industrial sectors showed that the volume of industrial production per person in January 2020 in the Navoi region amounted to 4,124. 2 thousand soums, consumer goods-235.5 thousand soums. In the Bukhara region, respectively, 705.0 thousand soums. and 197.9 thousand soums. In the republic, these indicators looked like 831.1 thousand soums and 225.8 thousand soums. [4. P. 7-8.]

One of the main problems of the republic in the 90-s of the last century remained the issues of providing drinking water, gasification of the population. Gasification of Nurat, Kanimeh and Navbakhor districts of the lower reaches of Zarafshan in the first years of independence was at the level of 5-10 %. Provision of drinking water in Kyzyltepa, Navbakhor, Navoi and Nurata districts at the level of 10-35%. [5. P.39.] The construction of a water pipeline from Damkhoja in the Samarkand region in 1993 partially solved the issue of providing drinking water to the population of Navoi and Bukhara regions. [6. P. 3.] As a result, by 2020, the level of centralized provision of clean drinking water in the Bukhara region is 53 %, in Navoi-64%, in the republic-89.1%.

Cardinal steps in the healthcare system have made it possible to expand high-quality medical care, increase the efficiency of treatment and prevention centers. Despite the fact that the Bukhara-Navoi region with difficult climatic conditions (about 90% of the territory is occupied by the Kyzylkum desert) and some of its districts are located in desert areas and even in its remote villages, 274 rural medical centers were built, a train of medical and sanitary assistance was organized. This, in turn, led to the expansion of work on patronage and vaccination of children, the provision of qualified medical care. Child and maternal mortality was reduced by several dozen times. In 2018, Uzbekistan ranked 71st out of 184 countries in terms of reducing child mortality.

Taking into account the high population density of the republic of 48.8 people per 1 sq. km., (in Kazakhstan-5.9; in Turkmenistan -8.2; in Kyrgyzstan-22.4; in Tajikistan-39.5 people-statistics for 1993) [7] In March 1994, the Decree of the President of the Republic "On measures to stimulate and develop housing construction in the Republic" was issued. [8.P.84.] The citizens of the country were exempted from submitting a declaration on the sources of receiving funds, thereby an important step was taken in the destruction of the ideology of the Soviet government, which has prevailed for more than seventy years. The allocation of loans to private developers from low-income families in the amount of 70 percent of the cost of housing for a period of 15 years at the rate of 15 percent per annum has opened up huge opportunities for the development of the construction industry in Uzbekistan.

Organizational measures for the gradual transfer of state property to citizens of the republic, through the implementation of small-scale wholesale, service facilities, as well as social facilities from 1992 to 1994, contributed to an increase in the class of private owners, respectively, and an increase in the welfare of the population. An important step was the adoption of measures for the transfer of public housing to the ownership of citizens of the republic, stipulated by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 7, 1993, No. 846-XII "On the privatization of the state housing Stock"[9.P.228.] At the same time, the privatization of apartments was carried out at zero cost to middle-level medical workers, education workers.

When developing social measures to protect the population, regional peculiarities related to the range of demographic and socio-cultural relations were taken into account. In the conditions of a shortage of economic resources, depending on the status of the regions, regional management mechanisms were developed. To do this, it was necessary to radically revise the management system of local authorities, expand their independence and responsibility. The main legislative documents aimed at reforming local authorities were the Constitution of the Republic, as well as the laws "On Local Authorities"(September 1993) and "On elections to regional, district, city councils of People's Deputies"(May 1994) [10. P.66.] On the basis of the law "On the reorganization of local authorities", regional, city and district khokimiyats were established, which were able to manage the local people's complex, solve urgent, material, social problems of citizens. A qualitatively new structure of the executive power has been given the opportunity to study the economic and social situation of the region more deeply, optimally and efficiently implement the decrees and resolutions adopted in the republic and draw up a program of measures to solve pressing problems.

In increasing the role of citizens' self-government bodies, in providing targeted social support to the population, the Decree "On the creation of the Mahalla Charitable Foundation" [11.P.71.], the Mahalla, inherited by the Uzbek people since the Middle Ages before the Arab invasion, was appreciated during the years of independence, became important. The role and significance of the mahalla in strengthening the role of the individual in society, in transforming the socio-political way of life in the districts, in supporting low-income, large families, disabled people, single mothers, lonely elderly people is significant.

The system of social protection of the population throughout the transition to market relations is carried out with the active participation of the state and its regulatory role. Each new stage of the reform of the social protection system is considered by the state from the point of view of its compliance with the interests of the population. At the same time, an important distinguishing feature of Uzbekistan's social policy has become the principle of not allowing high differentiation in income and living standards of the population. Wide attraction of funds from labor collectives, charitable organizations, foundations, and entrepreneurs' funds. [12. P. 212.]

At the first stage of the transition period in 1991-2000, the republic carried out a gradual transformation of the entire social protection system of the population, its rationalization. In the process of implementing measures for social protection and social support of the population, ineffective forms were eliminated and modified. The amount of expenditures for social protection was adjusted based on the country's budget capabilities. The program of social support and assistance was based on the principle of

targeting, alleviating the burden of poverty. It was recognized that it was necessary to develop a system that would minimize the receipt of benefits and benefits for those who do not need them. Consumer subsidies and various forms of protection of consumer markets against the leakage of basic food products outside the country were provided as a protective measure. The shortage of food products, as well as agricultural products, was explained by the fact that until 2016, priority in the agricultural sector was given to cotton growing.

At the second stage of economic reforms from 2001 to 2016, the policy of improving the social sphere and forming an effective mechanism for social protection of the population was continued. Since 2009, on the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic, extensive construction of individual houses according to standard projects in rural areas has begun. One hundred percent provision of housing for the population of rural areas was provided. As a result, new settlements with an extensive industrial and social infrastructure appeared in the desert areas with the prospect of forming new cities. In accordance with the adopted resolution, 27 new settlements appeared on the territory of the lower reaches of Zaravshan.

The third stage begins with the adoption in 2017 of an "Action Strategy" based on five fundamental principles. For the long 26 years of independence, for the first time, road maps of social assistance were developed, providing for individual approaches to all categories of socially vulnerable segments of society. It was envisaged to radically improve the system of education and medical care. The main achievement of Uzbekistan was the adoption of a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers ending forced child labor, as well as the work of students, teachers and medical workers in cotton harvesting. [13. P. 212.]

The average annual nominally accrued salary in 2000 was 13.5 thousand soums and in 2017 - 1457.8 thousand soums. [14.] Uzbekistan ranks 118th in terms of the average salary issue in 2017. [15] From 2018 to 2019, wages increased by 31%. [16]. On average, primary school teachers' salaries increased from 24% to 39%, high school teachers-from 37% to 49%, school principals and their deputies-by an average of 27%. [17] Higher education teachers' salaries were increased by 20% in January 2019, and by 25% in July of the same year. [18]

The analysis of the total income of the population based on statistical data indicates that in 2000 income from labor activity was 71.6 %, and in 2017-68.5%; from transfers, property and other sources in 2000 - 28.4%, in 2017-31.5%.

One of the topical problems of the social sphere for the entire period of independence remains the problem of employment. In 2019, in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, the unemployment rate rose from 9.1% to 13.2%. In difficult conditions, a transparent accounting of citizens "iron notebooks" was created in Uzbekistan, which included families in seven categories of the population who were left without work and in need of social protection. [19] For the social support of women under 30 years of age, a temporary procedure for the system solution "Women's Notebooks" was introduced, providing for one-time social assistance, loans, subsidies for the purchase of housing, etc.

Taking care of the younger generation, which makes up 60 % of the country's population, has become one of the current priorities of the republic. Thanks to the development of private business, which attracts more young people, thousands of new jobs are created annually. During the pandemic, the youth unemployment rate was 20.1%, which in turn led to the formation of "Youth Notebooks". Khokims of regions, heads of organizations, deputies of local bodies, entrepreneurs were involved in the fight against youth unemployment and individual social assistance.

A new system was introduced for orphans to protect their legitimate interests and social support, which was expressed in providing housing, work, and financial assistance. "Kindness notebooks" were formed to solve the problems of pupils of educational institutions, and the work on returning pupils to their parents, appointing guardians, and adopting children was entrusted to the National Guard bodies. [20].

For the first time in 2020, Uzbekistan recognized the poverty level of 12-15%. The fight against poverty was supposed to be solved not only through the introduction of social payments, subsidies for the purchase of apartments, providing jobs, but also through a social policy to awaken the spirit of entrepreneurship among the population, the full realization of the inner potential of a person.

Conclusions

Thus, since gaining independence, a consistent and purposeful State policy has been implemented in Uzbekistan to protect the most vulnerable segments of society, protect motherhood and childhood, and ensure the well-being and health of the nation. The creation of socio-economic infrastructures, including transport, telecommunications, schools, health, energy supply, were important in the growth of social security of the population. The issues of including the population of the regions in the mechanism of individual health and life insurance remain problematic.

As a result of the implementation of programs to provide the population of the regions with highly qualified medical care, there are 173 places and 51 beds for every 10 thousand people. Child mortality has been reduced by 25-30 percent, mothers by 50 percent. The number of patients with diphtheria, paratyphoid, dysentery, measles, and goiter diseases decreased by 2.5 – 3 times.

Since 1997, every year has been aimed at solving the social problems of individual groups of the population and the adoption, respectively, of the state programs "Mother and Child", "Family", "Medical Worker", "Social Protection", "Rural improvement" have activated state and economic structures to fulfill a number of tasks facing our society through charity, investment, improvement of settlements, water and gas networks, etc.

The social capital of the poor is supported by large enterprises through the creation of labor services "factory-mahalla". These peculiar small economic zones were created by all large enterprises of the region, which provided their employees at home with unused material, production areas, material and raw materials resources.

One of the most urgent social tasks is the fight against poverty, which was solved in the region by stimulating economic growth, improving the work of markets, increasing the resources available to them.

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