

PAPER

THE ROLE OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS PROTECTION IN SOCIETY

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Abstract

This article analyzes the importance of protecting women’s rights in society, its impact on social development, and its legal foundations. Ensuring women’s rights is directly linked to gender equality, economic development, political stability, and social justice. The article examines the effective mechanisms for the protection of women’s rights based on the experiences of various countries, international legal norms and national legislation.

Key words: Women’s rights, gender equality, legal protection, social development, human rights.

Introduction

The development of society is directly related to how well human rights are ensured within it. Protecting women’s rights is not only an inseparable part of human rights but also a crucial factor in the economic, political, and cultural development of society. In recent years, many countries have undertaken various legal and social reforms to strengthen women’s rights. Ensuring gender equality and women’s rights not only benefits women but also leads to positive outcomes for society as a whole. Women’s economic independence, the right to education, and equal opportunities in the labor market contribute to the stable development of a country. This article analyzes the role of women’s rights protection in society, its impact on development, and existing issues in this field. It also explores international organizations’ resolutions and conventions on the protection of women’s rights and the experiences of different countries.

Women’s rights are an integral part of human rights and ensure that women have equal rights and opportunities with men. Gender equality means that men and women in society have equal legal, economic, social, and political standing. The United Nations and other international organizations have adopted various international legal documents to ensure gender equality. In particular, the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (CEDAW) is one of the most significant international documents for the protection of women’s rights.

With the acquisition of independence by the Republic of

Uzbekistan, fundamental changes occurred in all areas of social life as part of the democratization process. At the heart of these changes is the individual, and special attention is given to the protection of human rights and freedoms. In particular, the state paid special attention to the issue of protecting women’s rights, and this process continues today. The 46th article of our basic law strengthens the principle of "gender equality between men and women," which is closely linked to the state’s constitutional obligation to recognize, respect, and protect women’s rights. The new version of Article 58 of the Constitution states: "The state ensures equal rights and opportunities for women and men in managing society and state affairs, as well as in other areas of public and state life." This constitutional norm, as stated by the President of Uzbekistan, enables us to see every woman not just as a passive observer but as an active and initiative participant in the democratic changes taking place in the country. Protecting women’s rights and addressing gender equality have always been important issues in all states. The active participation of women in all areas of public life is considered a guarantee of the country’s stability and prosperity.

In this regard, UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized: "Wherever women actively participate in political and social life, the economy grows, stability is strengthened, and the well-being of citizens rises."

As evidence of these words, we can cite the examples of female leaders from around the world: Dalia Grybauskaitė, who led Lithuania for 10 years; Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, who governed

Croatia for 5 years; Angela Merkel, who served as the Federal Chancellor of Germany for 16 years; and Halimah Jacob, who has been serving as the President of Singapore since 2017. During their tenures, they ensured the economic growth of their countries, implemented strong social policies, and made invaluable contributions to the fight against corruption. In recent years, under the initiative of our country's leader, many efforts have been made to ensure that women's rights and interests are protected, and their equal participation with men in managing societal and state affairs is ensured. Significant work is being done to support women socially and legally. This issue has become a priority direction in the state policy.

The reforms in increasing the role of women in society are yielding results. In particular, according to the data from the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which unites the parliaments of 190 countries, Uzbekistan has risen from 128th to 45th place in terms of women's participation in parliament. This is higher than the United States, Canada, and Australia. The share of women in management positions has reached 27%, in political parties – 48%, in higher education – 49%, and in entrepreneurship – 35%. The ongoing reforms in this area have had a positive impact on our country's position in international rankings. According to the World Bank's Women, Business, and Law Index, Uzbekistan was included among 27 countries in 2020 that implemented significant reforms for women's rights and gender equality and advanced 5 positions, ranking 134th among 190 countries.

According to research conducted by the World Economic Forum (The Global Gender Gap), women work more than 35 days a year compared to men. Research by UNICEF shows that girls spend 35–36% more time than boys on tasks. These findings demonstrate that gender equality has not yet been fully achieved globally.

Ensuring women's rights positively impacts all areas of society:

Economic Development: Women's participation in the labor market enhances economic growth and stability. Studies show that countries with higher gender equality experience faster economic growth.

Education and Healthcare: Ensuring women's right to education increases the intellectual potential of future generations. Educated women pay significant attention to healthcare and family well-being.

Political Stability and Democratic Development: Women's political activity and participation in decision-making processes contribute to the strengthening of democratic principles.

Unfortunately, in many countries around the world, women's rights are still not fully ensured. The following key issues remain urgent:

Gender Discrimination: Women are often forced into low-paying jobs in the labor market, and their share in leadership positions remains low.

Domestic and Sexual Violence: Violence against women remains a global issue. According to the United Nations, one in three women will experience violence in their lifetime.

Limited Educational and Professional Development Opportunities: In some societies, women are still deprived of the opportunity to receive full education.

Various international organizations are actively working to protect women's rights:

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) monitors the commitments of countries regarding gender equality.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) develops legislation to create equal labor opportunities for women.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund fund programs to promote women's entrepreneurship and expand their economic opportunities.

Important reforms are being implemented in Uzbekistan to ensure gender equality. In particular, the adoption of the "Law on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" has

strengthened the legal foundations for the protection of women's rights.

Conclusion

The protection of women's rights is of crucial importance for the sustainable development of society. In countries where gender equality is ensured, economic development accelerates, social stability increases, and human rights are strengthened. Protecting women's rights is not only of moral importance but also of economic and political significance, and reforms in this area will contribute to the future development of society.

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