

**THE ROLE OF STRONG SOCIAL POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF  
MODERNIZATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Today's changes in Uzbekistan have started a new history of the country. Indeed, the huge reforms taking place in our country in the socio-economic, political and other spheres ensure the full integration of our country with the world community. In short, today our country is calling the world to itself, moving from a closed to an open pragmatic policy.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Social Policy, Civil Society, Independence, Humanity, ILO, Education.*

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**INTRODUCTION**

Such an attitude, of course, requires reforming the procedures that have existed so far and bringing them into line with world standards. This is the essence of the initiative of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan to hold an international conference on "Strategy of action and strong social policy: international practice and the experience of Uzbekistan" with the participation of partner organizations.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Today, due to the consistent reforms being carried out in our country and the selfless work of our people, Uzbekistan's place and position in the world arena is growing. In a historically short period of time, great achievements have been made in all areas, each of which is very important in the current complex period in which the world landscape has changed and different regions have become hotbeds of conflict. In the early years of independence, Uzbekistan set itself the goal of forming a socially oriented market economy, pursuing an open policy, building the rule of law and a strong civil society. Today, we see the results of these reforms in changes in our worldview, attitude to life and lifestyle.

Along with the reforms taking place in key sectors of the economy, there have been changes in the market economy in areas such as health, education, arts and culture, physical culture and sports.

It is known that the high intellectual potential of society is a decisive factor in sustainable development, ensuring the competitiveness of the country. Investing in education is a factor in investing in the future, the well-being of the people, the competitiveness of the state. Because being enlightened and educated is the key to a bright future, tolerance and humanity.

What are the main problems? The first problem is the growth of informal employment, the development and expansion of the informal sector, which leads to a decrease in tax revenues, a decrease in competition in the formal sector, and, worst of all, a reduction in social programs and insufficient funding.

The second problem is related to the emergence of a format that radically renews the essence of

labor, such as remote and rental labor, outsourcing and out staffing. This, in turn, is manifested in non-standard forms of employment, which drastically change the shape of the sphere of labor relations, leading to a very low level of social protection.

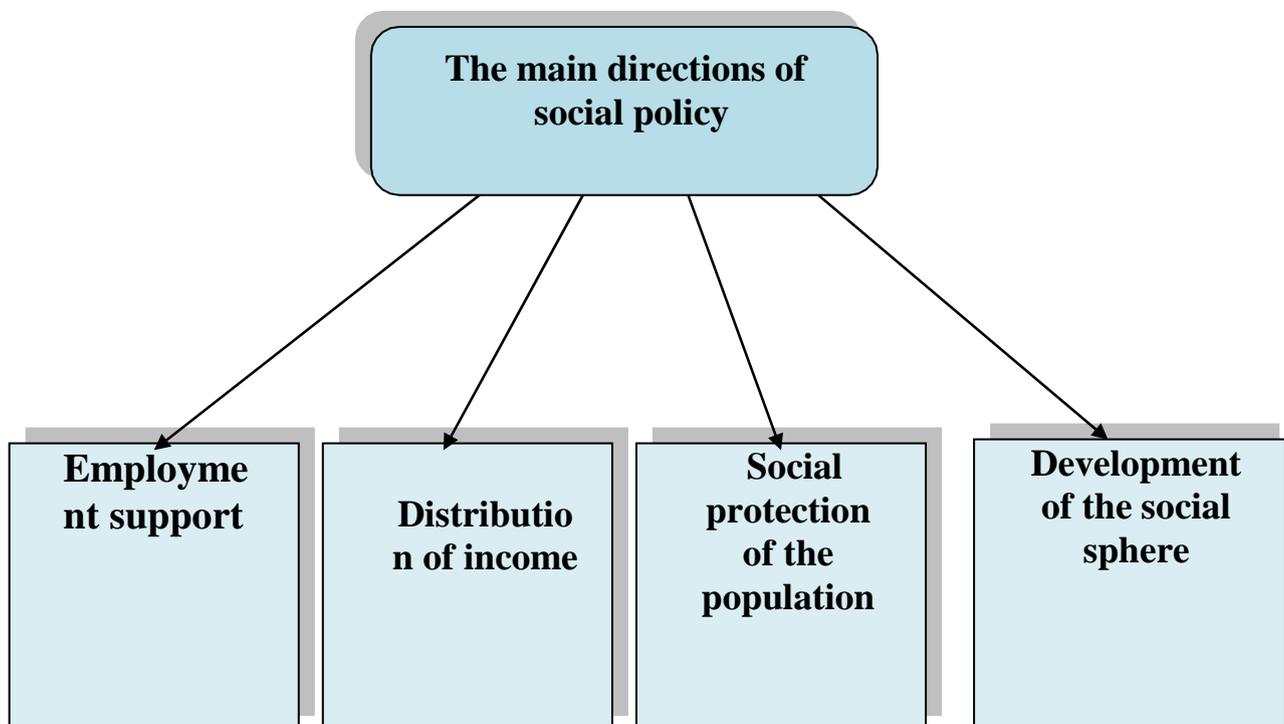
The third global problem stems from the increasingly active use of digital technologies in social life. It should be noted that due to the rapid development of information and communication technologies in the next 25 years, the number of jobs on the planet is expected to fall by 47%. Analysts estimate that in the next 15 years, there will be almost no need for existing positions in, say, accounting, health, advocacy, higher education and public education. So, today we need to reshape the classical systems of social protection, created 100 years ago<sup>1</sup>.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are 9 internationally recognized types of minimum social protection, including health care, unemployment benefits, accident or occupational disease benefits, maternity benefits, survivor's benefits, sickness benefits, old age pension, family allowance, disability allowance. It is noteworthy that 5 types of these services are complete,

Type 2 corresponds to the contribution of an employee who is partially covered by the social insurance system. Unfortunately, however, to date, the number of socially insured employees is declining.

According to the International Labor Organization, currently 55 percent of the world's population is deprived of social protection, while only 29 percent have access to comprehensive social security<sup>2</sup>. 68% of the elderly of retirement age receive an old-age pension. This shows that in many countries, both funded and insured pensions are underdeveloped. Another serious problem is that even in the developed twenty-first century, unfortunately, the right of people to health care has not yet become a reality in many parts of the world. This is especially true in rural areas,



**Figure 1** The main directions of social policy

Source: Author's development

Where 56 percent of the population is deprived of this privilege.

So there are enough topics to be discussed in this regard.

The ILO recently called on the world community to focus on private non-discriminatory assistance to ensure a minimum level of social protection. And, in doing so, he acknowledged in his experience that an individual could use the non-discriminatory assistance of enterprises and foundations for social protection purposes.

Uzbekistan has enough experience in this area, and public-private partnerships have been established in the field of social protection. In particular, the targeted redistribution of resources among citizens, and in the system of social policy, social security, social protection, social assistance plays a central role.

Today in our country the human factor has risen to the highest level of value. This is the essence of President ShavkatMirziyoyev's statement that "People want to live happily today, not tomorrow" and make it a priority of our policy today. In pursuance of this principle, the humanitarian policy pursued in our country gives a new meaning to people's lives. In particular, the adoption of a program to build affordable housing in rural areas on the basis of updated model projects, taking into account the needs of the population, has changed the attitude of people to live and work. According to the program, in 2017, model and multi-storey houses with a total area of more than 3.5 million square meters were built in cities and villages.

About 50,000 affordable apartments will be built for low-income families in apartment buildings in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent, regional centers and major cities. In particular, in 2017, similar multi-apartment houses with a total area of more than 800 thousand square meters were built and handed over to the population. The commissioning of 420,000 square meters of housing in Tashkent alone shows the scale of the work that has already begun. However, it would be wrong to say that the welfare of the population is only related to the issue of housing. After all, over the years, dozens of problems have accumulated in the social sphere, which has prevented people from living a normal life.

Today, the implementation of the program of expansion and modernization of water supply networks, especially in rural areas, is one of the most pressing issues. Currently, under a special program, construction and reconstruction of 9,000 kilometers of water supply networks, 1,400 wells and 3,600 water facilities are underway. This will provide additional drinking water to 3.2 million people in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Andijan, Jizzakh, Navoi, Syrdarya, Samarkand, Tashkent and Khorezm regions, increasing the country's demand for clean drinking water from 67% to 84%. To carry out these tasks, the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services has been established in the country and the Pure Drinking Water Fund has been established under the Ministry of Finance.

Or let's take another issue that has plagued people for years - the road problem. This was also taken under the control of our state. At present, construction and reconstruction of 1,700 km of public roads, 10,400 km of inter-farm rural roads, city, district centers, urban-type fortifications on the basis of the program for further development of regional and local roads and road transport infrastructure in the country, capital and current repairs of street pavements in rural areas are being carried out<sup>3</sup>.

In the near future, 74 bus stations and bus stations will be reconstructed in our cities and villages on the basis of the program to further improve transport services. This is the goal of creating additional conveniences for passengers and ensuring their safety. In addition, 3,000 new modern buses and 5,700 minibuses were purchased. Accordingly, more than 300 new bus routes will be opened.

In order to develop the infrastructure of air and rail services, along with the creation of a new terminal at Tashkent International Airport, the construction and electrification of railway lines is underway.

The main feature of a democratic state based on the rule of law is the equality of citizens before

the law, ensuring the rule of law in society. The Constitution, as the basis of all laws, plays an important role in the process of consistent reforms, renewal and democratization in our country.

Our Basic Law plays an important role in the life of society and the state, as well as in the life of every person and every family. However, no citizen in any country can imagine his life, daily life and future without the Constitution and laws. It is a source of pride for our childish, tolerant and family-oriented people that the Constitution enshrines a separate chapter in the family, which is the main link in society, guarantees that every family has the right to be protected by society and the state. These norms are also highly recognized by foreign experts. It is assessed as a specific aspect of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the expression of Uzbek values in the legislation. After all, maternal and child health, care for the elderly, ensuring the stability of families have become a practical manifestation of a strong social policy since the early years of independence<sup>4</sup>.

The head of our state has repeatedly stated that "our highest goal is to please our people." This popular and sincere word actually defines the social policy of the country. Think for yourself what great events have taken place in our country over the past year. Thanks to historical changes, the state has become closer to the people, it has now begun to work for the people. Today, the activities of the President's Virtual Reception and the People's Reception are recognized not only by our people, but also by the international community. Reforms in our country in education, healthcare and other similar spheres of the social sector, in particular, serve the realization of the dreams of our people. The establishment of the Ministry of Preschool Education in our country can be said to be a turning point in the history of our national statehood. Indeed, in this way, our people have ensured that the foundation of their future will be stronger. The system of higher and secondary education is also being reformed, which will allow us to compete with the developed countries of the world and gain a worthy place on the world stage.

Assistance in the implementation of measures aimed at social protection and support of vulnerable groups, government agencies in the implementation of systemic measures for social support of lonely elderly people, pensioners, people with disabilities, children with disabilities, low-income and large families, cooperation with employers, development and implementation of measures for the social protection of people engaged in non-traditional forms of employment (informal sector, temporary and seasonal workers, etc.) and their families, pensioners, people with disabilities, minors, lonely elderly people and social protection of other categories of citizens in need of a high level of social protection, the development and widespread use of the concept of "Corporate Social Responsibility" and "Socially Responsible Enterprise"<sup>5</sup>.

In the process of carrying out these tasks, measures will be taken to provide financial support to low-income families, large families, pensioners, war and labor veterans through collective agreements and contracts.

We would like to draw the attention of experts to the following urgent tasks:

- Further improvement of labor legislation aimed at separate regulation of labor and social relations;
- Expanding the fundamental principles and rights in the field of labor, including the introduction of a 40-hour work week, annual paid leave, maternity protection and protection of the basic rights of migrant workers;
- Adherence to the principle of equal remuneration of employees of transnational corporations for work of equal value;
- Restoration of science-based standardization of labor;
- Reconsider the role of other international institutions in the management of the labor sector, taking into account the mandate of the ILO, more effective use of control mechanisms and opportunities for technical cooperation within the ILO;
- Simplification of lifelong learning ("lifelong learning") for all;
- Clear delimitation of the sphere of activity of state bodies, trade unions and tripartite institutions

in the management of the labor sector;

- Strict control over minimum wage standards, working hours and rest time norms;
- Introduction of digitalization of labor contracts;
- Spreading social protection to all forms of non-traditional employment.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it should be noted that the protection of the rights of workers, the creation of decent living conditions for them has become one of the most humane values in today's world. Of course, each of us is happy that this noble value, which embodies the dreams and aspirations of ordinary people, is in harmony with the policy of our renewed country.

We should be proud of our Constitution, which embodies the highest goal and will of our people. In addition, it is the civic duty of each of us to explain and explain the essence of our basic law and its importance in the life of our people to the growing harmoniously developed generation - our youth.

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