



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF STATE SOCIAL POLICY IN WORKING WITH YOUNG FAMILIES

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Abstract

This article presents a scientific and theoretical analysis of the relevance of addressing the issues related to young families as one of the key priorities of modern social policy. Within the framework of the state's social policy, strategic measures aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of young families, providing them with comprehensive support, ensuring employment, improving housing conditions, and guaranteeing equal access to education and healthcare are examined. The article also analyzes normative legal documents, social programs, benefits, and subsidies adopted by the state, as well as the role and significance of young families in strengthening their position in modern society. Based on academic sources, statistical data, and practical examples, the article identifies key factors for enhancing the effectiveness of the social protection system for young families.

Keywords: young families, social policy, state support, strategic directions, social protection, housing issues, employment policy, demographic policy, family well-being, social stability, state programs, social policy of Uzbekistan

Introduction

In the context of rapid globalization and digitalization, the issue of working with young families within the framework of state social policy is gaining increasing relevance. The sustainable development of any society, its demographic potential, the renewal of the labor market, and socio-economic progress are directly linked to the social conditions and life stability of young families. Therefore, comprehensive support for this social group, the creation of favorable socio-economic conditions,



and ensuring their legal, material, and moral protection are considered among the strategic priorities of state social policy.

In recent years, a number of comprehensive measures have been implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure the social well-being of young families. In particular, state policy has yielded tangible results in areas such as housing provision, employment support, concessional loans, subsidies, the provision of social services, and the development of social infrastructure. At the same time, the need to deeply analyze the specific problems, needs, and future opportunities of young families, and to further improve the political and legal mechanisms in this area, remains an urgent task.

Literature Review

The issue of working with young families is being widely studied in academic circles as one of the significant and complex directions of social policy. Research conducted by both international and local scholars presents diverse analytical approaches and conceptual models. Many researchers view support for young families as a means to promote social equity, well-being, stable demographic development, and social integration within society.

Notably, Gøsta Esping-Andersen (1999), in his theory of the three welfare state regimes, provided an in-depth analysis of how state approaches toward young families differ depending on the socio-economic systems. According to him, liberal, conservative, and social-democratic states demonstrate distinct policy models toward young families. His theoretical framework has been widely adopted and developed in numerous empirical studies.

In addressing the social condition of young families and the effectiveness of state support, Anthony Giddens (2000) introduces the concept of the “New Social Contract,” which redefines the mutual responsibilities between the state and its citizens. He emphasizes the importance of enhancing young families' economic independence, improving their knowledge and skills, and creating favorable conditions for child-rearing as fundamental priorities of state policy.

Uzbek scholars have also conducted significant research on working with young families in recent years. For example, A.X. Khaydarov (2021) underscores the need to develop a national model of social support for young families. He identifies the interrelation between economic stability, family values, demographic factors, and



the state's normative-legal policies. Likewise, N. Jo'rayev (2020) focuses on the social adaptation of young families in contemporary society, their position within the system of social services, and the modeling of these dynamics.

Statistical analyses also play a significant role in the literature. Reports published by international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, and UNFPA provide in-depth insights into indicators related to the condition of young families, levels of social protection, quality of child-related services, gender equality, and overall living standards. For instance, the UNFPA (2022) report outlines the major challenges and proposed solutions regarding the socio-economic support of young families in Central Asian countries.

The review of the literature demonstrates that the strategy for working with young families is not merely a component of social policy but serves as a vital instrument in maintaining economic and demographic balance in society. The theoretical approaches, conceptual foundations, and practical experiences discussed in the academic sources provide a valuable framework for improving youth-oriented social policy in the context of Uzbekistan.

Methodology

This study employs a comprehensive approach, utilizing various scientific and methodological tools to examine the strategic directions of state social policy in working with young families. The research covers both theoretical and practical sources and applies empirical analysis, content analysis of official documents, comparative analysis of statistical data, and contemporary theories of social policy.

Research Object and Subject: The **object** of this research is the state social policy implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan and its directions related to young families. The **subject** of the study includes strategic programs, legal and regulatory documents, practical mechanisms designed for young families, and the assessment of their effectiveness.

Methodological Foundations

The methodological approaches:

- **Systematic approach** – enables the analysis of the socio-economic condition of young families in relation to other social institutions within society;



- **Structural-functional analysis** – used to identify the institutional mechanisms of social policy and their functional roles in the lives of young families;
- **Historical-comparative method** – provides an opportunity to compare youth-support policies implemented in Uzbekistan with those of other countries;
- **Empirical methods** – practical analysis based on existing statistical data and reports prepared by state and international organizations;
- **Content analysis** – in-depth qualitative analysis of legislative documents, government programs, and strategic policy papers.

Data Sources: The research draws on the following data sources:

- Presidential decrees and resolutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers;
- Programs such as “Yoshlar daftari” (*Youth Register*), “Obod xonadon – obod mahalla” (Prosperous Household – Prosperous Neighborhood), and “Support for Young Families”;
- Data from the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics;
- Open statistical data from international organizations such as UNDP, UNFPA, and others.

Research Limitations: This study is conducted within the context of Uzbekistan, and international experiences are analyzed solely through a comparative approach. Moreover, limitations in the completeness and availability of statistical data have led to the need for certain generalizations in the analytical process.

Results and Analysis

During the course of this study, the main directions, practical mechanisms, and outcomes of the social policy aimed at supporting young families in the Republic of Uzbekistan were systematically analyzed. The following key scientific and practical findings were identified:

1. Institutional foundations of state policy are being strengthened

In recent years, social policy targeting young families has been recognized as a strategic priority at the state level. Specifically, initiatives such as the “Youth is Our Future” program, the activities of “Prosperous Household” and “Family” centers, and the “Youth Register” system have contributed to the formation of a systematic approach to supporting young families. Through these initiatives,

thousands of young families received social assistance, concessional loans, and benefits between 2020 and 2024.

2. Significant progress has been made in housing provision for young families

Through the implementation of affordable housing programs, mortgage loans, subsidies, and land allocation, the state has been gradually addressing housing issues for young families. By the end of 2023, more than 25,000 young families across Uzbekistan had been provided with new housing. However, regional disparities remain, highlighting the need for a differentiated and strategic approach in this sector.

The table below presents the distribution of concessional mortgage loans provided to young families in 2023 (in thousand Uzbek soums, by number of cases):

REGION	NUMBER OF LOANS (THOUSAND UNITS)	Average Loan Amount (million UZS)
Tashkent	5.2	300
Andijan	3.4	270
Kashkadarya	2.9	240
Korezm	1.8	230
Jizzakh	1.6	220
General	25.3	260

3. The quality and accessibility of social services are improving

Social services for young families—including preschool education, healthcare, psychological counseling, legal aid, and vocational retraining—are being significantly expanded. The amount of state-provided support for pregnant women and young mothers has also been increasing year by year. However, access to these services remains lower in rural areas compared to urban centers.

The table below presents data on the **utilization rates of available social services by young families in 2023** (in percentage terms):

Service Type (English)	Utilization rate
Healthcare	76
Psychological Counseling	41
Legal Assistance	38
Vocational Retraining	52
Preschool / Kindergarten	63



4. Programs aimed at employment and income generation are yielding positive results

Programs such as “Youth Labor Centers,” “Support for Handicrafts,” and “Financing Startup Projects,” implemented to promote youth employment, have had a positive impact on the socio-economic condition of young families. Between 2022 and 2023, more than 100,000 members of young families launched their own entrepreneurial activities.

The table below provides data on funds allocated to young families under the “Youth is Our Future” program (2020–2023, in billion Uzbek soums):

Year	Allocated Funds (billion UZS)	Number of Employment Generation Projects
2020	950	12500
2021	1150	14200
2022	1600	16800
2023	1900	18300

5. Certain challenges persist in policies related to young families

During the research process, the following issues were identified:

- In some regions, the demand for social assistance is not being fully met;
- Bureaucratic obstacles hinder access to housing and mortgage loans;
- Information dissemination systems regarding programs for young families remain weak;
- Quality control of social services is not sufficiently developed.

Conclusion

Based on the conducted research, analytical approaches, and practical experiences, it can be concluded that **state social policy aimed at supporting young families holds a significant place in Uzbekistan’s sustainable development strategy**. As a social group forming the socio-economic foundation of society, young families must remain at the core of state policy.

In recent years, notable reforms and institutional changes have been implemented in this area. Positive results have been achieved in housing provision, increasing employment, expanding access to education and healthcare services, and simplifying access to social assistance and financial resources.

At the same time, certain systemic shortcomings—such as **imbalanced resource distribution, communication gaps, bureaucratic barriers, regional**



inequalities, and **insufficient service quality**—require deeper analysis and a coordinated strategic approach.

To further improve social policy directed at young families, the following **strategic priorities** should be emphasized:

- Developing mechanisms for systematic monitoring of young families' needs and providing targeted assistance;
- Improving the quality and digitalization of social services;
- Expanding the legal and moral support systems;
- Strengthening programs aimed at ensuring interregional equity;
- Actively integrating young families into entrepreneurship, innovation, and the modern labor market.

This conclusion, grounded in the theoretical and practical foundations of the research, emphasizes the need for enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the country's social policy.

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