



BENEFITS FOR WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Nurmatova Iroda Akramdjonovna

PhD, Associate Professor,

Fergana State University, Uzbekistan, Fergana

Abstract

This article analyzes the benefits created for women in the higher education system, as well as their content and practical significance. It also highlights the role of these benefits in expanding women's access to education, increasing their social activity, and ensuring gender equality. The article examines measures aimed at supporting women within the framework of state policy and their results.

Keywords: Women, higher education, benefits, gender equality, education policy, social support, state programs, educational opportunities, women's rights, sustainable development.

Introduction

Today, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, special attention is being paid to ensuring gender equality in the field of education and expanding women's access to higher education. Supporting women, increasing their social activity, and creating conditions for them to develop as qualified professionals are among the key priorities of state policy. For this purpose, a number of benefits and support mechanisms for women have been introduced in the higher education system. These benefits not only expand their educational opportunities but also create a foundation for their active participation in socio-economic life.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, expanding women's access to higher education and providing them with comprehensive support is considered one of the priority directions of state policy. In recent years, a number of practical reforms have been implemented in the country to ensure gender equality, increase girls' interest in education, and widely involve representatives of socially vulnerable groups in higher education.

MAIN PART

In particular, the expansion of opportunities for women to study on state-funded grants is of significant importance. The allocation of additional quotas for certain categories, including socially vulnerable, low-income, and orphaned girls, has considerably increased their access to higher education. This, in turn, contributes to strengthening the principle of equality in education. In addition, special state scholarships, grants, and incentive systems have been introduced to support women. The allocation of Presidential and other types of scholarships for active and talented female students studying in higher education institutions helps to develop their scientific and creative potential. In addition, practical mechanisms have been established through the “Women’s Register” system to identify women in need and direct them to higher education. Within this system, measures are implemented to cover tuition fees for girls, provide financial assistance, and offer career guidance.

“Another important direction in the context of Uzbekistan is supporting the active participation of women in science and innovation fields. Special attention is being paid to involving them in master’s and doctoral programs, as well as expanding their participation in research projects.

In general, the system of benefits created for women in Uzbekistan contributes to their wider access to higher education, the development of their professional potential, and the strengthening of their active civic position in society. This, in turn, is considered one of the key factors in the country’s socio-economic development”[1].

The benefits created for women in higher education are aimed at facilitating the learning process and ensuring equal opportunities. Among these benefits, grant-based study opportunities, quotas, scholarships, and social protection mechanisms play an important role. Such measures contribute to increasing women’s admission rates to higher education institutions. In addition, special programs have been developed by the state to support women, which provide wider access to education for girls from low-income families. This is important in reducing social inequality and ensuring equal opportunities for all social groups.

The increasing activity of women in the higher education system is having a positive impact on the socio-economic development of society. The growing number of qualified female professionals enhances competitiveness in the labor market and stimulates the development of innovative approaches in various fields. “In addition, the wide involvement of women in higher education also has a positive impact on the

family environment and the upbringing of the next generation. An educated woman not only improves her own life but also contributes to the formation of a healthy social environment in society”[2].

Every reform being carried out in our country is a gateway to broad opportunities for the citizens of our society. We know that in recent years, issues of gender equality have become one of the most pressing priorities in our state, and extensive work has been carried out in this direction. As a result, equal rights and equal opportunities have been created for every citizen of this country - regardless of whether they are women or men. This is also clearly reflected in the education system mentioned above.

Gender equality is a concept that refers to achieving equal rights between men and women in family and society, as well as other legal relations. Uzbekistan began participating in the Gender Equality Index in 2019. In our country, on September 2, 2019, the Law No. 562 “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men” was adopted. The Gender Equality Commission in Uzbekistan has been operating since 2019. According to the Law “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men,” the state guarantees equal rights for women and men in the exercise of personal, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. In addition, Article 58 of our updated Constitution states that “Women and men have equal rights. The state ensures equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the management of state and public affairs, as well as in other areas of public and state life.” Article 42 clearly states that “It is prohibited to refuse to hire women, dismiss them, or reduce their wages due to pregnancy or having children”. The fact that the issue of women’s equal rights not only in education but also in other spheres is enshrined at the constitutional level undoubtedly contributes to the progress and future development of our country.

“Measures are being taken to enhance the role of women in science and research activities, as well as to support their innovative ideas, invention-related initiatives, and entrepreneurial activities. In order to achieve practical results in supporting women’s innovative ideas, inventions, and entrepreneurial initiatives, female scientists are being sent to short-term scientific training programs at prestigious foreign research centers and universities”[3].

In addition, efforts are being made to increase the number of women among young scientists participating in startup project competitions. In our independent country, in

order to further expand the rights and freedoms of women and enhance their participation in society, the following measures should be implemented:

- educating women in the spirit of universal and national values and fostering a sense of loyalty to them;
- systematically and consistently increasing the socio-political activity of women in higher education and other educational institutions, in particular supporting female students and teachers engaged in scientific research;
- widely involving women and girls in science, expanding the number of female scientists, and supporting their activities while ensuring gender equality;
- adopting clear and strict normative-legal acts to protect the rights of every woman and girl;
- ensuring broader and wider involvement of women in all spheres of society;
- strengthening the role of women in reinforcing the family institution in our country.

Today, the protection of women's rights and freedoms has become a particularly important issue in ensuring social development and human rights. Eliminating harassment and violence against women has been defined as one of the priority directions of state policy. In this regard, international legal standards, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international documents, play a significant role. Violence and harassment against women can manifest in various forms: physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence. This issue not only violates women's rights and interests but also poses a serious threat to social stability. Therefore, systematic efforts are being carried out by state authorities, non-governmental organizations, mass media, and civil society institutions to address and eliminate this problem.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, normative and legal frameworks have also been established to protect women from harassment and violence. In particular, in 2019, the Law "On Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence" was adopted. This law defines the organizational and legal mechanisms for protecting women's honor, dignity, rights, and freedoms. In addition, the institution of protection orders was introduced, and measures for legal and psychological support for victims of harassment and violence were strengthened. In practice, based on this law, women's rights are being protected by law enforcement agencies and courts. In the regions,

special “Reform Centers” and “Women’s Advisory Centers” are operating. These centers provide psychological assistance, legal advice, and social support services. Today, comprehensive support for women continues consistently as one of the key priorities of state policy. In addition, the benefits and support measures provided to women in society contribute to further strengthening their legal protection. The state is systematically implementing measures to ensure women’s employment, support their entrepreneurial activities, and widely involve them in vocational and higher education.

“Specifically, opportunities have been created for socially vulnerable women, including the allocation of loans, grants and subsidies, as well as directing them to retraining and professional development courses. This serves as an important factor in increasing their economic independence and preventing cases of violence”[4]. In addition, these measures also contribute to increasing women’s social activity in society. Women who achieve economic independence gain the ability to make free life decisions, which further strengthens the protection of their rights and interests. Furthermore, by developing entrepreneurial skills and involving women more widely in employment programs, a stable source of income is being formed for them. This not only improves individual well-being but also has a positive impact on ensuring a healthy social environment in society.

Awareness-raising activities carried out through mass media, educational institutions, and the neighborhood (mahalla) system are helping to form an uncompromising attitude toward violence against women. Overall, the legal framework, state-provided benefits, and the system of social support work together to ensure the effective protection of women’s rights and to strengthen their position in society.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the benefits created for women in the higher education system in Uzbekistan play an important role in expanding their access to education and ensuring their equal participation in society. State-funded grants, quotas, scholarships, and social support mechanisms are providing women with wider opportunities to obtain higher education.

These benefits not only strengthen gender equality in education but also positively contribute to the socio-economic development of society by preparing qualified female professionals. Moreover, the increasing participation of women in science,

innovation, and management fields serves as one of the key factors in the country's development. Overall, the consistent continuation of policies supporting women in higher education is essential for further expanding their opportunities and achieving sustainable development.

REFERENCES:

1. O'zbekiston Respublikasi Konstitutsiyasi. – Toshkent, 2023.
2. Gender tengligi va ayollar masalalari bo'yicha xalqaro hujjatlar to'plami. – Toshkent, 2020.
3. Ayollar va ilm-fan: zamonaviy tendensiyalar. Ilmiy maqolalar to'plami. – Toshkent, 2021.
4. Saidov A.X. Inson huquqlari. – Toshkent: Adolat, 2019.
5. Тешабоев, М., Каримов, У., & Каримова, Г. (2022). Глобаллашув Шароитида Ёшлар Тарбиясига Салбий Таъсир Этувчи Омиллар Ва Уларнинг Хусусиятлари. So 'Ngi Ilmiy Tadqiqotlar Nazariyasi, 1(1), 382-388.
6. Gulnoza, K., & Nigora, S. (2023). SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION “FAMILY–NEIGHBORHOOD–EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION”. Research Focus, 2(6), 99-104.
7. Salieva, N., & Saliev, U. (2021). Women In Medicine-Gender Aspects. The American Journal of Social Science and Education Innovations, 3(05), 292-295.
8. Nurmatova, I., Amirqulova, O., & Qayumov, E. (2021). INNOVATION IN EDUCATION REFORM YOUTH IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. Экономика и социум, (1-1 (80)), 208-209.