

IMPROVING THE SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT AMONG WOMEN IN THE MAHALLA (LOCAL COMMUNITY)

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Abstract

Today, many ideas and scientific approaches are being put forward to improve national education in the family, prepare the poor for family life, provide material and spiritual support to young families in their formation, and prevent family breakups. This article studies the issues of improving the socio-spiritual environment among women and girls in the mahalla, and an analysis of legal and scientific literature on the topic was conducted. Questionnaires were taken on the work of mahalla activists with women and girls in need of help, and the results of the questionnaire were reflected in the article.

Keywords: Family, mahalla, law, problem, solution, discussion, conflict, improvement, spirituality, culture, faith, women in need.

Introduction

Anontatsiya:

Bugungi kunda oilada milliy tarbiyani takomillashtirish, yosqlarni oilaviy hayotga tayyorlash, yosh oilalarni mustahkam bo'lib shakllanishida moddiy va ma'naviy ko'maklashish, oilaviy ajrimlarni oldini olishga oid talaygina fikrlar, ilmiy yondashuvlar o'rta tasdiqlanmoqda. Mazkur maqolada mahallada xotin-qizlar o'rtasida ijtimoiy-ma'naviy muhitni sog'lomlashtirish masalalari o'rganilgan bo'lib, mavzu doirasida huquqiy va ilmiy adabiyotlar tahlili olib borilgan. Mahalla faollarining yordamga muhtoj ayol hamda qizlar qatlami bilan ishlashi yuzasidan so'rovnoma olindi va so'rovnoma natijalari maqolada aks ettirildi.

Kalit so'zlar: oila, mahalla, qonun, muammo, yechim, muhokama, mojaro, sog'lomlashtirish, ma'naviyat, madaniyat, e'tiqod, muhtoj ayollar.

Аннотация:

Сегодня выдвигается множество идей и научных подходов для улучшения национального образования в семье, подготовки малоимущих к семейной жизни, оказания материальной и духовной поддержки молодым семьям в их формировании и предотвращения распадов семей. В данной статье рассматриваются вопросы улучшения социально-духовной среды среди женщин и девочек в махалле, а также проводится анализ правовой и научной литературы по данной теме. Были проведены анкетирования активистов махаллы, работающих с женщинами и девочками, нуждающимися в помощи, и результаты анкетирования отражены в статье.

Ключевые слова: семья, махалла, закон, проблема, решение, обсуждение, конфликт, улучшение, духовность, культура, вера, нуждающиеся женщины.

INTRODUCTION

The sustainable development of any society and its spiritual advancement are closely linked to the role and status of women, particularly as mothers and educators. Today, supporting women, ensuring their rights and interests, and providing practical assistance to socially vulnerable women have been identified as priority areas of state policy in our country.

To this end, the system of working with women in local communities (mahallas) has been fundamentally revised, and new institutions based on close cooperation, such as the “mahalla yettiligi”, have been introduced. The effective functioning of this system primarily depends on the timely identification of women facing social and personal challenges, providing them with comprehensive support, and addressing their problems through targeted solutions in cooperation with relevant organizations and institutions.

Unfortunately, in some cases, the failure to thoroughly assess a problem and indifference toward a woman’s situation can lead to serious social consequences. Therefore, women’s activists and members of the “mahalla yettiligi” are required not only to work with women who have been included in social support registers but also to proactively identify women who have not sought assistance on their own yet are in need of support, and to carry out targeted interventions to address their specific needs in a timely manner.



ADABIYOTLAR TAHLILI VA METODOLOGIYA (ЛИТЕРАТУРА И МЕТОДОЛОГИЯ/ METHODS)

During the analysis, the systematic analysis method was used to examine the activities of the “mahalla yettiligi” and the responsibilities of its members in terms of their interrelationships. Through the comparative analysis method, existing mechanisms for identifying women’s circumstances, providing assistance, and monitoring outcomes were compared and evaluated from the perspectives of their shortcomings and potential opportunities. Based on a practice-oriented analysis, interviews and observations conducted with women’s activists, assistant khokims (local government representatives), prevention inspectors, social workers, and other responsible officials operating within mahallas were utilized. Through legal analysis, the legal foundations of the measures and forms of assistance being implemented were examined. Finally, using the recommendation method, practical solutions and proposals were developed to address the identified problems and improve the effectiveness of support mechanisms.

Particular emphasis has been placed on strengthening the spiritual foundations of the family, preserving and reinforcing its traditional values, and thereby achieving the moral development of society in the following legal and regulatory documents: the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan; the Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Law No. 608-I of April 30, 1998); the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026 (January 28, 2022); the Presidential Decree No. PF-5938 of February 19, 2020, “On Measures to Improve the Social and Spiritual Environment in Society, Further Support the Mahalla Institution, and Elevate the System of Work with Families and Women to a New Level”; and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 1059 of December 31, 2019, “On Approving the Concept of Continuous Spiritual Education and Measures for Its Implementation,” as well as other relevant legislative and regulatory acts. These documents specifically highlight the importance of further developing the family’s spiritual foundations, safeguarding and strengthening its long-standing values, and promoting the moral and spiritual advancement of society as a whole.

Today, women play an invaluable role in ensuring the development and stability of society. In particular, the timely identification of their problems and assistance in finding appropriate solutions are among the primary responsibilities of every

responsible official. To achieve this goal, a new system for working with women in local communities (*mahallas*), including the activities of the “mahalla yettiligi”, has been introduced. Through this system, women facing difficult or problematic circumstances are identified and provided with targeted assistance. The need to ensure the effective implementation of these measures and to deliver support in a timely and individualized manner underscores the relevance and significance of this issue.

The problems, needs, and interests of women are assessed through the following mechanisms:

- Through a questionnaire survey conducted by the “mahalla yettiligi”, covering all areas of concern, during annual door-to-door visits carried out in January;
- Through applications and appeals submitted by women to the mahalla yettiligi;
- Through the “xotin-qizlar.uz” electronic platform and the “Women’s Register” (*Ayollar Daftari*) information system.

In accordance with the established procedure, after the questionnaires have been completed:

- The mahalla yettiligi determines the level (category) of social protection needs of women;
- Lists of women to be included in the are compiled, or a reasoned decision is made to deny inclusion in the Register when the established criteria are not met. [9]

NATIJALAR (РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ/RESULTS) In the process of identifying problems, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach to women’s needs, challenges, and overall circumstances. At the same time, the view that women included in the “**Youth Register**” (*Yoshlar Daftari*) are not the responsibility of the women’s activist is incorrect.

A women’s activist is responsible for working with all women in the mahalla. It is unacceptable for women to be left alone with their problems simply because, despite facing difficulties, they do not meet the established criteria for inclusion in the social support registers or because their families are not listed in the Register of Low-Income Families. Furthermore, virtually all women—including vulnerable women under the age of 30—should remain under continuous attention and supervision. Problems should never be overlooked, as there is no such thing as a “small” or “insignificant” problem. Likewise, difficulties do not discriminate by age. It is also natural that some women may face not just one, but several interconnected problems at the same time.

Therefore, a comprehensive and inclusive approach is necessary to ensure that no woman in need of support is left without assistance.

Table 1. Directions for Conducting Targeted and Systematic Work with Women Facing Social and Personal Challenges

Responsibilities	Description and Practical Areas of Activity
Timely Identification of Problems	Women's activists conduct regular door-to-door visits within the mahalla and complete questionnaires to identify the social, economic, and other challenges faced by each woman. At this stage, the prompt identification of problems is of critical importance.
Facilitating Problem Resolution	In cooperation with relevant organizations and specialists, women's activists help identify and implement solutions to the problems that have been detected. For example, they may assist in arranging financial support, counseling services, or training programs for women in need of social assistance.
Referral to Responsible Institutions	Women's activists promptly direct cases to the appropriate government agencies, non-governmental organizations, or other responsible institutions capable of resolving the identified problems. This helps ensure that issues are addressed effectively and without delay.
Monitoring the Resolution Process	Women's activists monitor the progress of problem resolution, assess the measures taken by responsible parties, and, when necessary, initiate additional actions to ensure that issues are resolved more quickly and comprehensively.

Therefore, women's activists are required to carry out targeted and systematic work not only with women included in social support registers or the Register of Low-Income Families, but also with women who, despite not being included in these lists, still face certain problems. In this process, women's activists must:

- timely identify women's problems;
- assist in resolving the identified issues;
- refer them to responsible institutions to ensure appropriate assistance is provided;
- monitor the implementation and resolution of the problems. [8]

The effective fulfillment of these responsibilities by women's activists ensures the timely identification and resolution of women's issues in mahallas and contributes to sustainable social development. If problems are not addressed in a timely manner,

even those that appear minor or simple can lead to serious negative social consequences.

Timely identification of problems, assistance in their resolution, and the implementation of prompt support measures help prevent a wide range of social issues and negative consequences of varying degrees. In addition, by helping resolve many women's problems and providing proper guidance and advice, it becomes possible to support them in finding their place in society and positively transforming their worldview.

There are also problems that require immediate attention and urgent intervention, meaning that prompt measures must be planned and implemented without delay. At the same time, it is natural that some issues may require a longer period to resolve and may be addressed gradually over an unspecified timeframe.

For example, problems may include inadequate housing conditions, financial difficulties, issues related to interpersonal relations within the family, family conflicts, unstable domestic situations, pre-divorce or post-divorce circumstances, cases of violence, alimony-related issues, women's psychological and mental health problems, mental disorders, behavioral issues, challenges related to child upbringing, insufficient parenting skills, and others. In addition, when it is identified that a particular individual is facing one or several (multiple) problems, the question arises: what should be done, and what approach should be taken?

In such cases, it is necessary to work with them over a long-term period, provide comprehensive support measures, and ensure continuous monitoring until their problems are fully resolved. A women's activist, in addition to working with women who directly apply for assistance, must also regularly identify women in need of social services through telephone communication, messages received via email or social media, as well as home visits, personal meetings and interviews (by phone or face-to-face), and other channels such as information provided by relatives, acquaintances, or neighbors of the individual or family.

Because there are women who do not want others to know about their personal problems or family matters, or who do not know whom to turn to for help. In such cases, the assistance of neighbors, members of public structures such as the "Smart Women's Movement" and the "Women's Advisory Council," as well as other community-based organizations, is also of great importance.

MUHOKAMA (ОБСУЖДЕНИЕ/ DISCUSSION) At the current stage of modern development, strengthening the mahalla institution, which serves as the foundation of society, and ensuring social stability within it are among the priority directions of state policy. The formation of a healthy spiritual environment among women, who constitute a significant part of the population's demographic and social structure, is directly linked to the upbringing of the younger generation, the strengthening of families, and the prevention of crime. In today's era of globalization and information pressure, strengthening ideological resilience among women in mahallas, reducing the number of divorces, and improving their legal awareness are pressing issues.

In Uzbekistan, a strong legal framework has been established to protect women's rights and support them. Article 58 of the revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan [1] firmly establishes the equality of women and men, and stipulates that the state shall ensure their equal participation in the management of society and state affairs, as well as in other spheres of public and state life.

In accordance with the procedure established by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Further Improve the System for Studying and Resolving Women's Issues" No. 145 of March 31, 2022 [3], an individual program is developed for vulnerable women in order to provide support and achieve effective results, and its implementation is monitored. Based on the results of identifying the problems of women who are not included in the "Women's Register" (*Ayollar Daftari*) and the "Youth Register" (*Yoshlar Daftari*), the women's activist undertakes the following measures to eliminate their problems and facilitate access to social services:

- analyzes the identified problems;
- analyzes the causes and factors that lead to difficult social conditions;
- organizes the provision of assistance measures (social services) in accordance with the established procedures.

Despite the reforms implemented in recent years, factors that negatively affect the social and spiritual environment among women in mahallas still persist, such as unemployment, lack of legal awareness, family conflicts, internet addiction, and moral alienation. The formation of a healthy social and spiritual environment among women in mahallas requires a comprehensive set of measures aimed at improving legal literacy, ensuring employment, and strengthening spiritual and moral values.

The effective organization of this process should be based on the following key directions.

Legal and moral education: Raising women’s legal culture and conducting awareness-raising activities aimed at preventing early marriages and family divorces.

Employment and social support: Providing women with vocational training, involving them in entrepreneurship, and offering material and psychological assistance through the mechanisms of the “Women’s Register” (*Ayollar Daftari*).

Healthy lifestyle: Strengthening reproductive health, promoting sports, and implementing the principle of “A healthy family is a healthy society.”

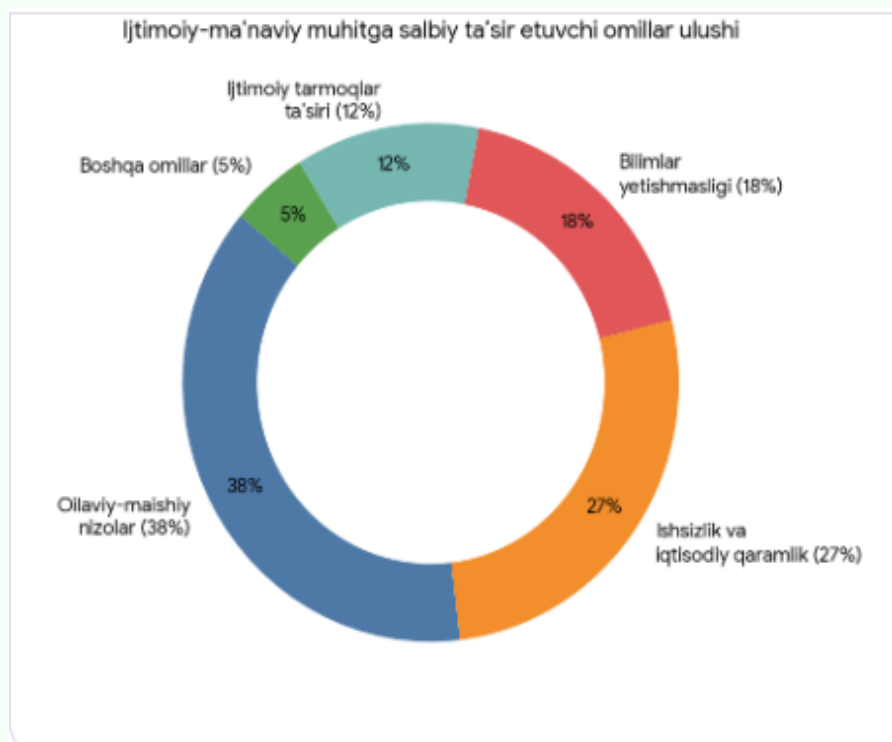
Today, among women—especially young girls—there are cases of blind imitation of Western culture through social networks such as TikTok, Instagram, and Telegram, as well as disregard for national values. To address this issue in mahallas, there is a growing need to organize “Cyber Culture” and “Media Literacy” sessions and to develop national content in order to strengthen ideological resilience.

Research and statistical analysis show that the stability of the social and spiritual environment in mahallas is directly linked to women’s employment status, level of education, and quality of family relationships.

The results of a survey conducted to identify the main factors negatively affecting the spiritual environment in mahallas are distributed as follows:

Table 2. Survey Results

	Factors negatively affecting the socio-spiritual environment	Share of respondents (%)
1	Family and domestic conflicts, and mother-in-law–daughter-in-law relations	38%
2	Unemployment of women and economic dependency	27%
3	Lack of legal and religious-educational knowledge	18%
4	Ideological influence through information technologies (social networks)	12%
5	Other factors (migration, health problems)	5%



XULOSA (ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ/ CONCLUSION) A systematic and comprehensive approach to identifying and resolving women's problems is of great importance. The "Mahalla Yettligi" and women's activists play a key role in this process by ensuring the timely identification of problems, providing appropriate assistance, and facilitating their resolution. At the same time, each woman's need for social protection is assessed, and support is provided through information systems such as the "Women's Register" (*Ayollar Daftari*).

As a result of continuous monitoring of problems and cooperation with relevant institutions, the living standards of women improve, and the quality of social protection becomes more effective. This, in turn, creates conditions not only for the well-being of women but also for the sustainable development and spiritual progress of society as a whole. Thus, systematic and coordinated work in protecting women's rights and interests is an important component of societal development.

Recommendations:

1. Working with community activists: Establish special outreach groups in mahallas with the participation of women's activists, female religious educators (*otin-oyilar*), and psychologists.

2. Targeted consultations: Provide individualized social and legal assistance to women in difficult social conditions or those living in troubled families.

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