

Development of Gender Statistics in Uzbekistan and its Importance

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Abstract: The article analyzes the socio-legal aspects of the problem of gender equality, which is an integral part of human rights, the relevance of achieving gender equality, the work being done in this regard, monitoring methods and tools for achieving gender equality, the need for the concept of gender statistics.

Keywords: gender, human rights, equal rights and opportunities for men and women, international law, gender statistics, indicators, sustainable development goals.

Today, achieving gender equality in the main spheres of social life and ensuring it in the society is becoming one of the main goals of the agenda.

At the UN General Assembly Summit on Sustainable Development held in September 2015, Resolution No. 70 was adopted and 169 targets for achieving 17 goals were approved. The 5th goal in the field of direct sustainable development is to ensure gender equality and achieve the expansion of rights and opportunities of all women.

In particular, the reforms implemented in Uzbekistan in recent years related to the introduction of the principle of gender equality into society are noteworthy. From 2016 up today, 2 laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 9 decrees and decisions of the President, 18 decisions of the Government have been adopted on ensuring gender equality, supporting women, increasing their role in state and community management¹.

Inculcating and implementing the principle of gender equality in society is definitely not an easy process. In this regard, there are controversial and stereotypical discussions related to the interpretation of the concept of "gender equality", and cases where it is understood only as the protection of women's rights. The requirements of the implemented gender equality, in turn, require the introduction of certain new mechanisms and measures, as well as the implementation of specific monitoring and analysis works.

Among them, there is a need for new methods of observation and analysis, such as gender statistics, gender expertise, gender audit, and their correct implementation in Uzbek society is of urgent importance.

In particular, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men" was adopted.

The issue of ensuring gender equality has risen to the level of state policy, the Committee on Women and Gender Equality in the Upper House of the Parliament, the Republican Commission on Women's Role in Society, Gender Equality and Family Issues advise on the issues of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men. - councils, the Republican Women's Public Council was established.

¹ Decision of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On approval of the strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030". SQ-297-IV-No. 28.05.2021 <https://lex.uz/docs/5466673>

The Decision of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on May 28, 2021 approved the "Strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030".

In the gender strategy, the current situation and existing problems regarding the equality of rights and opportunities of women and men in all spheres of society's life and activities, including politics, economy, law, culture, education, science, and sports relations, are defined.

In the gender strategy, one of the priority areas of its implementation is the provision of equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the field of public service.

In particular, in order to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the field of public service, it is necessary to implement a number of measures, that is, to promote the principles of gender equality, to plan the budget in the equal implementation of the rights and opportunities of women and men, to integrate gender issues into budget processes, the goal of improving the management of gender statistics was set, and the eighth priority was "Improving the management of gender statistics", and it was determined that the following measures should be implemented in order to improve the management of gender statistics:

- In order to analyze and monitor the gender situation in the republic and regions, systematically maintain statistical data on the participation of women and men in the informal labor market sector, as well as in the socio-economic development of the regions, and their use of state-guaranteed opportunities;
- Support measures for the collection, processing, collection, storage, analysis and publication of statistical information reflecting the status of women and men in all spheres of society;
- to organize the maintenance of statistical indicators by gender in ministries and departments, organizations, institutions, self-government bodies of citizens and institutions of civil society, to ensure that these indicators are maintained in a coordinated manner;
- improving national gender indicators in accordance with international experience and standards;
- to establish continuous provision of national gender statistics to the organizations that maintain international rankings and indexes related to gender issues;
- preparing statistical reports reflecting the situation of women and men in various spheres of society, conducting social surveys and researches and publishing them.

Gender statistics in the basic concepts of the Law No. 562 "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men" adopted on September 2, 2019 of the Republic of Uzbekistan - state statistics on the status of women and men in all areas of public life and activity. It is established that it is part of the section that contains information on each gender, reflects the respective status of individuals of different genders in all spheres of social and political life, and illuminates gender issues and relations in society.

According to Article 8 of the law, the formation of gender statistics, the state statistical bodies collect, process, compile, store, analyze and publish statistical information reflecting the status of women and men in all spheres of society based on gender indicators.

The formation of gender indicators is related to state statistical observations carried out by state statistical bodies; information on the administration of state administration bodies; based on statistical observations regularly carried out by state and economic management bodies, local executive authorities.

Gender indicators can be formed on the basis of statistical data of citizens' self-government bodies, non-governmental non-commercial organizations and other institutions of civil society.

According to the definition of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), gender statistics are necessary to measure and monitor the realities of the lives of women and men, girls and boys. Under the heading of gender statistics, various topics and issues are covered that reflect the changing roles of women and men in society, economy, family and household².

Gender statistics are an integral part of every traditional statistical field, serving to define, produce and disseminate them. Statistics reflecting the real lives of women and men are taken into account in the development of gender policies³.

Men and women have different roles, resources, needs and interests in society. They are equally involved in the decision-making process. The assessment of the recognition of "women's work" and "men's work" is not the same.

These differences vary from one society to another, from society to culture and from one country to another. Many policies and strategies do not take these differences into account, and as a result, public and private services and infrastructure in areas such as employment, education, business and politics do not always take into account the specific needs of women and men. In most cases, only male standards are considered.

Gender statistics is not an abstract or isolated field, but rather a field related to all fields of statistics.

In its production, it is very important to determine the data needed for statistics in the context of gender issues in the country, taking into account the existing problems and goals.

This approach deserves more attention not only by policy development that aims to obtain differentiated information on the basis of gender, but also by addressing gender issues. The main problem for this gender is statistics.

Gender statistics cannot be called a separate section of statistics about women. On the contrary, it applies to all areas of statistics and helps to create an accurate picture of the status and role of women and men in society⁴.

Gender statistics data and indicators are an integral part of gender mainstreaming throughout the policy cycle⁵.

The importance of gender statistics is determined by:

first, they inform the policy-making process and ensure that interventions respond to the different needs and priorities of women and men.

second, they measure changes in the relationship between women and men or changes in the status or status of women and men over time in a specific policy area, program or activity.

third, they are an important part of monitoring and evaluating the implementation and results of policies, programs and projects.

Gender statistics are aimed at "reflecting differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in all spheres of life⁶."

² <https://unece.org/statistics/gender-statistics>

³ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and World Bank Institute. 2010. Developing Gender Statistics: A Practical Tool. // https://unece.org/DAM/stats/publications/Developing_Gender_StatisticsRUS.pdf C.1

⁴ <https://www.adb.org/ru/publications/gender-statistics-southern-caucasus-and-central-and-west-asia-situational-analysis-2012>. C 5.

⁵ Gender statistics and indicators. 2019 P. 4. <https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/indicators.pdf>

⁶ United Nations, Integrating a gender perspective into statistics, New York, 2006, cited in United Nations Statistical Division. 2016, p.1. // <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Handbooks/gender/Integrating-a-Gender-Perspective-into-Statistics-E.pdf>

By providing evidence of gender equality and gender gaps in key areas, they help make gender inequalities visible, which in turn can inform policy development to address identified gender gaps. They help identify information relevant to women's and men's lives and key policy areas⁷.

The first steps in the development of gender statistics in Uzbekistan were made in the late 1990s. Since then, brochures with gender indicators have been regularly published in the republic. Each publication is a step forward, a milestone in the development and dissemination of gender indicators. For example, it was published in 2002 by the Ministry of Macroeconomics and Statistics and the Women's Committee (with the support of the United Nations Development Program and the ADB)⁸.

The edition of the brochure "Women and Men in Uzbekistan" has been published, which for the first time combines data on indicators in 9 strategic areas, including management, political life and entrepreneurship.

Since then, a number of publications of a similar nature have appeared, with the help of international organizations, presenting key gender indicators and survey results available from administrative sources.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-4235 dated March 7, 2019, the State Statistics Committee, together with a number of ministries and agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, has been notified of the minimum gender indicators and other data recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission. It was charged to ensure that the information is placed on the "gender.stat.uz" website and that the information is constantly updated.

Data collection on gender statistics in Uzbekistan is obtained from various sources. In addition to administrative reports, there are data from multi-indicator cluster studies disaggregated by gender and statistical observations, as well as data generated by other ministries and agencies.

The site "gender.stat.uz" presents the first attempt to create an electronic database on gender statistics in order to further improve gender data, to release gender-disaggregated data on a regular and timely basis.

At the national level, programs and activities are being implemented to improve the status of women and strengthen their economic rights. The activation of the activity of republican state authorities and management bodies, public and scientific organizations in solving gender problems helps to increase the domestic demand for statistical information describing gender equality issues, and the range of users of this information is also expanding.

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