

“ISSUES OF ENSURING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM: THE CASE OF UZBEKISTAN”

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the issues of ensuring gender equality in the education system of Uzbekistan, the state policy implemented in this direction, and its legal foundations. It also highlights the importance of creating equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the education system for the development of society. The article reveals the essence and significance of the Law “On Education” and the Law “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men,” and examines the reforms aimed at expanding women’s access to education and participation in scientific activities in our country.*

Keywords: *gender equality, education system, women, state policy, gender policy, right to education, women’s education*

The education system is considered one of the main pillars of the development of any state. Undoubtedly, the policies pursued by states in the field of education determine both their present and future. Just as all sectors of society function in close interrelation, the reforms implemented in the education system are also closely connected with gender equality policy. This is because education is an important factor shaping people’s worldview, social activity, and role in society. Furthermore, the social activity of women and men is equally important in state and public affairs and in the development of the country. Therefore, ensuring gender equality in the education system serves not only to guarantee equal

rights and opportunities for women and men, but also to ensure the stable development of society.

Today, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the equal opportunities being created for girls and boys in the field of education, as well as the conditions provided for them, are the result of a well-planned policy implemented over many years. In this regard, the following words of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, are noteworthy: *“If one girl in a family receives higher education and acquires a modern profession, the atmosphere in that household changes completely.”* Undoubtedly, these words are of great importance. Every girl will one day become a mother of several children, and the role of the mother in the education and upbringing of children is highly significant. As the Jadid thinker Abdurauf Fitrat stated: *“Mothers are the educators of all humanity.”* [1.]

The legal basis of the state policy carried out in the field of education is the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Education.” Article 4 of this law defines 16 fundamental principles in the field of education, among which the following three principles serve as the basis for ensuring gender equality in education:

- prohibition of discrimination in the field of education;
- ensuring equal opportunities for obtaining education;
- the humanistic and democratic nature of education and upbringing.

In addition, Article 5 of this Law states: *“Equal rights to education are guaranteed to everyone regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, religion, beliefs, social origin, and social status.”* This norm is considered one of the important legal foundations for ensuring gender equality in the education system. The effective implementation of this principle in

practice contributes to equal opportunities for women and men in society, especially in ensuring girls' access to quality education. [2.]

Furthermore, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" also plays an important role in ensuring equality between women and men in the education system. Article 26 of this Law guarantees equal rights and opportunities for women and men in education, professional development, and participation in scientific activities. Moreover, it provides for measures aimed at ensuring gender equality in education, creating educational materials free from gender stereotypes, monitoring curricula based on the principle of non-discrimination, and improving the population's legal awareness regarding gender issues. [3.]

It should be emphasized that a completely new system has been created in our country to ensure the rights and interests of women and to solve issues related to guaranteeing equality between women and men. It has been established that gender issues must be taken into account when adopting all laws, decrees, and resolutions. In his speech dedicated to International Women's Day on March 8, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that this year 166,000 women would be trained in modern professions and entrepreneurship, while another 100,000 women would receive education in the IT field. It is well known that reforms do not remain without results. Today, the number of female students studying at higher educational institutions exceeds 904,000, constituting 54 percent of all students. In 2025, 60 young women from Uzbekistan were admitted to some of the world's most prestigious universities. It is also noteworthy that women constitute 61 percent, or 8,500 individuals, of doctoral and research trainees. [4.]

In addition, in order to create broader opportunities and conditions for women to receive education and to support them financially, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Measures to Cover the Tuition Fees of Female Students Studying in Master’s Programs at State Higher Educational Institutions” established that at least 200 billion soums from the state budget are allocated annually to fully cover the tuition fees of all female students studying in master’s programs at state higher educational institutions without repayment obligations. [5.] This alone clearly demonstrates the extent to which women’s rights are ensured in the Republic of Uzbekistan and reflects the consistent and effective implementation of state policy aimed at ensuring gender equality. Furthermore, it is evident that the status of women in our society has significantly increased and that their participation in politics, governance, and public affairs has risen considerably.

Conclusion

In conclusion, ensuring gender equality in the education system is one of the important factors in the development of society and human capital. The reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan in this direction, the adoption of normative legal acts, and the state policy aimed at supporting women are serving to create equal opportunities for women and men. In particular, the growing participation of girls in higher education, science, and modern professions demonstrates the effectiveness of the country’s policy in ensuring gender equality. The consistent implementation of gender equality principles in the education system will create the foundation for a more just, educated, and stable society in the future.

References

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