

### Gender Policy in Central Asia: Problems and Prospects

Abduvosilova Nigoraxon Ulughbek qizi

Journalism and mass communication university of Uzbekistan

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Introduction.

#### ABSTRACT

*Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of sustainable development. Yet, women and girls in Central Asia continue to face significant challenges, including discrimination in the workplace, lack of access to education and healthcare, and violence against women.*

*In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the need to address these challenges. Governments in Central Asia have adopted a number of policies and programs aimed at promoting gender equality. However, much more needs to be done to ensure that women and girls in the region have the same opportunities as men.*

*This article examines the state of gender policy in Central Asia. It discusses the main problems that women and girls face in the region, and it assesses the progress that has been made in recent years. The article also looks at the prospects for gender equality in Central Asia, and it identifies some of the challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve this goal.*

Despite significant progress in recent years in the developing world, gender inequality still persists, creating unequal opportunities and constraints for women and men. Gender inequality in education, employment, income and decision-making in the private and public sphere is not only a major issue of equality and equity, but also affects economic development. A large body of research suggests that inequalities generally slow economic growth and poverty reduction [1, 2] (World Bank 2011; Klasen and Lamanna 2009). Missing data on inequality, both in terms of its magnitude and its impact on development, continue to hamper policymaking. These gaps go beyond the lack of sex-disaggregated statistics. There is limited data on hard-to-measure gender issues such as inequality within households, the role of social institutions, and the relationship between inequality and overall development. The resulting lack of information makes it difficult to undertake constructive, evidence-based planning to address such inequalities. However, much of the existing data is underutilized in analyzing gender inequality, identifying the determinants of inequality, and exploring its development implications.

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promoting gender equality. However, much more needs to be done to ensure that women and girls in the region have the same opportunities as men.

This article examines the state of gender policy in Central Asia. It discusses the main problems that women and girls face in the region, and it assesses the progress that has been made in recent years. The article also looks at the prospects for gender equality in Central Asia, and it identifies some of the challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve this goal [3].

### *Problems*

Women and girls in Central Asia face a number of challenges, including:

- **Discrimination in the workplace:** Women in Central Asia are often paid less than men for doing the same work. They are also less likely to be promoted to senior positions.
- **Lack of access to education and healthcare:** Girls in Central Asia are more likely to drop out of school than boys. They are also less likely to have access to healthcare.
- **Violence against women:** Violence against women is a serious problem in Central Asia. Women are often subjected to physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.
- **These challenges are rooted in a number of factors, including:**
- **Traditional gender roles:** In many parts of Central Asia, traditional gender roles still hold sway. Women are expected to stay at home and take care of the family, while men are expected to work outside the home and provide for the family.
- **Patriarchy:** Patriarchy is a system of social organization in which men have more power and authority than women. Patriarchy is deeply ingrained in the cultures of many Central Asian countries.
- **Lack of awareness:** There is a lack of awareness about gender equality in Central Asia. Many people do not understand that women and men have the same rights and should be treated equally [4].

### **Progress**

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the need to address the challenges faced by women and girls in Central Asia. Governments in the region have adopted a number of policies and programs aimed at promoting gender equality. These include:

- **Ratification of international treaties:** All five Central Asian countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is a landmark international treaty that sets out the obligations of governments to promote gender equality.
- **Adoption of national gender strategies:** All five Central Asian countries have adopted national gender strategies. These strategies set out the government's goals for promoting gender equality.
- **Establishment of gender focal points:** All five Central Asian countries have established gender focal points in government ministries and agencies. These focal points are responsible for coordinating the government's efforts to promote gender equality.

### **Prospects**

Despite the progress that has been made, there is still a long way to go to achieve gender equality in Central Asia. The following are some of the challenges that need to be addressed:

- **Implementation of policies and programs:** Many of the policies and programs that have been adopted in Central Asia have not been fully implemented. This is due to a number of factors, including lack of funding, lack of political will, and lack of awareness.

- Changing attitudes: Attitudes towards gender equality need to change in order to achieve real progress. This will require a concerted effort from governments, civil society, and the media.
- Strengthening of institutions: Institutions that are responsible for promoting gender equality need to be strengthened. This includes providing them with the necessary resources and training [5 :73].

### **Conclusion**

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of sustainable development. There has been some progress in recent years in promoting gender equality in Central Asia. However, much more needs to be done to ensure that women and girls in the region have the same opportunities as men. The challenges that need to be addressed are significant, but they are not insurmountable. With concerted effort from governments, civil society, and the media, it is possible to achieve gender equality in Central Asia.

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