Psychological Characteristics of Gender Equality in Uzbekistan  
Turakulova Iroda Khudainazarovna  
Senior Lecturer of Department of Vocational Education  
and Physical Education at Samarkand State Architecture and Civil Engineering Institute

Abstract  
In this article, we will note the most important things concerning gender equality in Uzbekistan from the point of view of psychology.  
Key words: discrimination, women's rights laws, gender, WCU, gender equality, strategy.

Introduction  
Today we take it for granted that women can vote. However - with the exception of a few countries such as New Zealand, Australia and Finland - universal suffrage did not become a reality until after World War I. In fact, the right of women to vote was not introduced into international law until 1948 by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. [1] Women have also taken advantage of increased opportunities to be leaders. In 2019, women held nearly one in four legislatures worldwide, more than double the 1995 level. Women are also more likely to hold leadership positions today than they were twenty years ago, although parity is still a long way off.

Looking at education, the world has seen tremendous progress in closing the gap between girls and boys in a number of critical areas, such as school enrollment rates and literacy rates. Around the world, many national reforms have been carried out in recent years to improve the status of women in the workplace, in marriage, and especially to protect women from violence.

With regard to gender equality in Uzbekistan, gender equality in Uzbekistan has seen both progress and regression since independence in 1991. For example, the brochure “Women and Men in Uzbekistan” published in 2002 by the Ministry of Macroeconomics and the Women's Committee (with support from UNDP and ADB) was the first publication to bring together indicators in 9 strategic directions, including first-time data on governance, political life and entrepreneurship.

The principles of nondiscrimination and equal rights for women and men are enshrined in the Constitution. The Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan (WCU) is the national machinery for women’s issues and the key player in promoting gender equality. Chaired by the deputy prime minister, the WCU has a wide network of branches in every administrative— territorial body—with a mandatory position of a deputy head on women’s issues. The latest decree of the President of February 2018 creates conditions for further encouraging the activities of the WCU, and allows for more creative yet systematic approaches to gender mainstreaming.

For urban women, the WCU identified the priority issues of “employment, creation of new jobs, development of business and entrepreneurship skills ”. For rural women, the key issues are insufficient social and municipal infrastructure, and the need for family- and home-based business development.

Since early 2017, a Virtual Reception office, through which each citizen can send inquiries directly to the government, have been established in each administrative locality, to facilitate citizens ’interactions with government. The WCU performs regular assessments and addresses women’s appeals to the Virtual Reception offices. The main issues are requests for legal, social, and housing assistance and financial aid, and questions and proposals related to cultural behavior, dress codes, weddings, and rituals.

In September 2019, Uzbekistan adopted the country's first law on gender equality "Guarantees of
equal rights and opportunities for women and men". The long-awaited law represents a firm position against gender discrimination and ensuring equal rights for both sexes - an ambitious goal of a society with deeply rooted gender stereotypes.

Main part
The event believed that the Constitution guarantees equal rights and opportunities for men and women as before on an equal footing. For example, women make up only 16% of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament). In addition, women are underrepresented in leadership positions, especially in the Government, and are limited in the ability to own property or start their own business. Despite the absence of legal restrictions, women also play a secondary role in science, research and technical fields, for example in the field of information technology and engineering. Nevertheless, there is a strong political that will change the situation. As part of the USAID-funded judicial reform program in Uzbekistan, which supported the drafting process and public hearings, the Government declared its firm commitment to the country's first equality law. The law covers almost all areas of life in which discrimination is possible - political, economic, social, educational and family - and clearly defines what kind of discrimination on the basis of gender is discrimination, as well as legal actions that can be taken against it. As a result of this law, women's claims of discrimination can no longer be ignored on the basis of psychological traditions.

The deputy chairman of the Oila Center under the Cabinet of Ministers, Ms. Gulnara Ishankhanova, states that "then the new law is an "eye" for everyone, including for state bodies, since it states that the authorities should not tolerate discrimination against women, even if they are satisfied with an incomprehensible grain. This law will encourage the state to evaluate each situation from a gender perspective, when hiring, improving higher education opportunities to resolve two family disputes."

At the fifteenth plenary session of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 was considered. As you know, in recent years, the issue of gender equality in our country has been raised to the level of state policy, 25 legislative acts have been adopted in this area. The creation of the Women and Gender Equality Committee in the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, the Commission for Ensuring Gender Equality headed by the Chairman of the Senate, indicates that much attention is paid to gender inequality in Uzbekistan.

Discussion
For the first time in the history of Uzbekistan, the number of women in the national parliament has reached the level corresponding to the UN recommendations. The share of women in political parties has reached 44%, in higher education - 40%, in entrepreneurship-35%. Women are widely involved in the information and communication, innovation, energy and engineering spheres. The share of female leaders of positions reached 27%. A reserve of more than 15 thousand people, consisting of advanced and educated women, has been formed in 81 ministries and departments. To ensure social and economic support for women and targeted work with them, a system of "women's notebooks" was introduced. A system has been created to hide the cost of training girls who need their parents, or single women, single women who do not have a breadwinner; the number of scholarships for girls from low-income families to enter higher education institutions has doubled. For the development of women's entrepreneurship, more than 224 thousand women were allocated preferential loans in the amount of 6.9 trillion soums, they were allocated People's Banks, centers for women's entrepreneurship were created in 14 regions.
The system of rehabilitation and adaptation of victims of violence has been radically revised. This form of marriage on the field has a positive impact on the position of our country in international rankings.

In particular, in World Bank's Women, Business and Law Index Uzbekistan in 2020 entered the list of 27 countries that have implemented significant reforms in the field of women's rights and gender equality, climbed 5 positions and took 134th place out of 190 (in 2019 - 139th place).

This document provides an integrated approach to the implementation of the principle of equality between women and men in all spheres and at the levels of decision-making and implementation.

It is noteworthy that the directions of this Strategy are determined in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals for the period up to 2030.

The strategy covers issues such as ensuring equal quality of education in all, creating opportunities for girls from rural areas to pursue higher education, achieving gender equality for women, preventing violence and human trafficking.

The strategy will contribute to the development of gender equality in economic, political and social life in order to create conditions for the realization of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, as well as the observance of fundamental human rights.

In this regard, the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality is being implemented mainly in a number of priority areas based on long-term targets. This includes ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the field of public services in the field of socio-economic, family relations and raising children, as well as the implementation of electoral rights. The strategy envisages budgeting and financing of government programs with the involvement of activities aimed at ensuring gender equality in the accounting.

Significant results are expected to be achieved through the implementation of the gender strategy. In particular, the practice of attracting two managers to positions at high and lower levels of state bodies will be expanded. In State bodies where there is a gender imbalance, equal representation of women and men will be ensured by introducing a temporary quota system. There will be an increase in the efficiency of work to ensure employment, the creation of decent working conditions and support for socially vulnerable low-income women, especially women from families living in rural areas, as well as self-employment. Most importantly, it will ensure the prevention of cases of harassment and violence against women in the workplace and the elimination of negative attitudes that have developed towards society.

The implementation of the gender strategy will contribute to the fulfillment of national and international obligations adopted in the context of the strategic goals of Uzbekistan in the field of ensuring human rights (the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action, the Convention on the Exclusion of All Forms, the development of social movement, etc.).

The participants noted that such a complex of issues related to ensuring gender equality in society, increasing the socio-political and economic activity of women is not a task entrusted to the state and public structures, it is important to enhance the active participation of all in this issue.

Based on the comments made, a corresponding decision was made by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis. She has heard about shelters, and if a woman does not have friends or relatives, the situation becomes impossible: no hotel will accept a local registered single woman on suspicion of prostitution. It is pointless to contact the police even in the most desperate circumstances. In one recent case, the police refused to accept the statement of a 14-year-old girl who was raped, because she is "of the age of consent and has no signs of bodily injuries."

Such cases, as in Uzbekistan, can most often be imagined. Neither the law nor society is interested in protecting victims, but instead tells them that they will find their way out of difficult circumstances.
Uzbekistan has been and remains one of the few countries in the world where there is no legislation on domestic violence. In addition, women face restrictions in a number of areas. For example, until 2017, women could not move freely - in order to leave the country, a woman needed a sticker (the equivalent of an exit visa) from the visa and registration department, as well as permission from her parents or husband. However, since the death of President Islam Karimov in 2016, attempts have been made to improve women's rights - at least legally. Here's an overview.

**Draft laws:**
In April of this year, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan published a draft law aimed at preventing discrimination on the basis of gender. The Women's Committee, established in 1991, aims to improve the status of women in society, and this document is the first document published in Uzbekistan. It contains very detailed terms (gender equality, discrimination) and for the first time in Uzbek legislation discusses the concept of social stereotypes regarding gender. It also describes the future mechanisms for the protection of rights and penalties for their violation.

In February, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a decree aimed at "radically improving support for women and strengthening the institution of the family." The law criticized the current situation with women's rights and their participation in State affairs.

**Conclusion**
Thus, we can come to the conclusion that the elimination of discrimination against women in Uzbekistan is quite possible. In order to achieve significant results, the government, together with the deputies, must carry out a lot of work, which will ultimately lead to the successful development of our country.

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