

THE SOLUTION OF HUMAN CAPITAL PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL ASIA IN NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: The concept of human development dates back to ancient times. Since the era of Greek scholars such as Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle, attention has been paid to the factor of human progress. During Aristotle's time, the lifestyle of people living in city-states (polis) was studied. He regarded happiness as the highest good and described the state as an organization that ensures the protection, health, justice, and cultural rights of its citizens. During the Eastern Renaissance, the major theme of the works of prominent Central Asian thinkers such as Abu Nasr al-Farabi and Abu Ali ibn Sina (Avicenna) was the problems of the human being. In his work "The Virtuous City", al-Farabi explored the issue of human nature and development

Keywords: New Uzbekistan, Renaissance period, solutions, human development, human perfection, equality, social state, justice, social protection, social welfare, effective governance.

Introduction.

The concept of human development dates back to ancient times. Since the era of Greek scholars such as Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle, attention has been paid to the factor of human progress. During Aristotle's time, the lifestyle of people living in city-states (polis) was studied. He regarded happiness as the highest good and described the state as an organization that ensures the protection, health, justice, and cultural rights of its citizens. During the Eastern Renaissance, the major theme of the works of prominent Central Asian thinkers such as Abu Nasr al-Farabi and Abu Ali ibn Sina (Avicenna) was the problems of the human being. In his work "The Virtuous City", al-Farabi explored the issue of human nature and development [1].

Methods. During the era of Alisher Navoi and reign of the Sultan Husayn Bayqara, issues of human development were also studied. A strong and just ruler who protected the people and ensured their prosperous life was always highly valued. In Alisher Navoi's "Khamsa", particularly in the work "Saddi Iskandariy" ("The Wall of Alexander"), the relationship between a just ruler and virtuous citizens is vividly depicted.

Muruvvat barcha bermakdur, yemak yo'q,

Futuvvat barcha qilmakdur, demak yo'q [2].

Alisher Navoi has overseen the construction of more than 370 buildings of social structure: madrasas, baths, schools, hospitals, canals.

The French scholar J.J. Rousseau studied the issues of the happiness and well-being of the people [3]. According to the German philosopher Immanuel Kant, "among the institutions that determine human development, education, science, and culture hold great significance, and within them, the creative principle is always dominant" [4]. O. Spengler philosophically studied the relationship

between humans and modern technologies, emphasizing that these relations are directed toward ensuring human interests [5].

It is emphasized that the concept of human development, as a socio-political theory, has been interpreted differently by Eastern and Western scholars. One of the theories that raised various questions was the concept of “human capital,” developed by T. Schultz. In this theory, the identification of the “human capital” factor reveals the economic significance of education, science, and healthcare. Human capital is a combination of the knowledge and skills possessed by an individual that serves two functions — as a means of production and as an asset designed for long-term use. Although Western scholars have attempted to study this issue, their approaches are largely dominated by individualistic modes of thinking. The Human Development Index (HDI) takes into account indicators such as life expectancy, education, and income — measured through life span, adult literacy, years of schooling, and income levels adjusted for purchasing power [6].

The issue of sustainable human development, social protection, and effective governance (1997–2025) in the countries of the region corresponds to the period of deepening economic reforms and marks the beginning of efforts to protect human interests. Human development entails creating political, economic, social, and environmental conditions that ensure a healthy and productive life, while also providing people with broad opportunities for choice across various spheres of life.

Although these choices may change over time, at every stage of development, the aspirations for a long and healthy life, access to education, and the resources necessary for a decent standard of living remain constant.

The awarding of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to the World Food Programme (WFP) exemplifies the growing relevance of human development goals (HDGs) during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, the Programme assisted nearly 100 million people suffering from hunger in 88 countries. Eliminating hunger was identified as one of the HDGs in 2015. An estimated 8.2 percent of the global population, or about 673 million people, experienced hunger in 2024, down from 8.5 percent in 2023 and 8.7 percent in 2022 [7].

Results. In 2022, Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the World Bank, developed the “Country Program” aligned with the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026, aiming to achieve its objectives by 2026. To date, the World Bank has implemented projects in the country worth USD 5.26 billion. In Uzbekistan, within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism, the project to reduce natural gas leaks at the compressor stations of the “Uztransgaz” joint-stock company has been implemented. The revenues generated from selling certified emissions reductions on the global market are being used to finance the development of social infrastructure and environmental protection initiatives. The “Kazakhstan-2050” strategy emphasizes that by 2050, a prosperous society should be created based on a developed economy and universal labor opportunities. Under the Green Belt national program, 90 million trees have been planted [8]. In 2016, the Global Sustainable Transport Conference was held in Turkmenistan. The Republic of Uzbekistan became a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in March 1992 and has ratified 18 of its conventions.

In 2021, a record crop in Afghanistan—over 6,200 tons of heroin—negatively affected neighboring countries [9]. On December 14, 2022, at the initiative of Tajikistan, the UN General Assembly declared 2025 as the “International Year of Glaciers Protection.” As a positive development, we can cite the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 19, 2008, at the initiative of Turkmenistan, titled “The Role of Reliable and Sustainable Transit of Energy Resources in Ensuring Unhindered International Cooperation.” This resolution emphasizes the need for effective transboundary water management, constructive negotiations, and the implementation of cooperation strategies.

A person living in a developing country is 79 times more likely to suffer from climate-related

disasters than someone living in a wealthy country. The solution to these problems lies in strengthening and deepening cooperation among the countries of the region. This includes: 1. Developing a model of human development specific to each Central Asian country; 2. Establishing a unified coordinating center to address the Afghan issue—which has persisted for many years as a source of the spread of drugs and illegal arms—and to prevent the spread of diseases associated with this problem; 3) In the context of global instability, it is necessary to anticipate and address factors negatively affecting human development, such as unemployment and declining living standards; 4) Drawing on international experience, the implementation of e-government principles in the countries of the region has proven effective, reducing various bureaucratic costs; 5) Based on foreign experience, it has been emphasized that preparing local human development reports to monitor regional problems and socio-economic inequalities within each country has become a key agenda item.

Discussion. At the beginning of the 21st century, humanity realized the need for a unified approach and coordinated actions to address global and regional ecological problems. In Central Asia, joining the UN conventions on environmental protection, implementing national and regional action programs, and carrying out transboundary projects have shown positive results. Various ongoing projects in the region, supported by international organizations such as GEF, WWF, USAID, INTAS, Copernicus, and ISTC, have gathered information on biodiversity and its status.

The year 2015 left a significant mark in the history of the UN and the world. At the summit attended by leaders of 189 countries, pressing issues awaiting solutions were discussed. In 2020, Uzbekistan adopted the UN Cooperation Program on Sustainable Development for 2021–2025. In 2021, Uzbekistan became the first country in the region to issue sovereign bonds worth USD 235 million with a three-year term. The proceeds from these bonds were directed toward SDGs in the following areas: Education (SDG 4), Water Use (6), Health (3), Green Transport Systems (SDG 11), Air Pollution Control (11), Natural Resource Management (15), and Green Energy (7).

The government of Uzbekistan has committed to eradicating tuberculosis by 2050. This goal is outlined in the new National Strategy against Tuberculosis for 2021–2026, which aims to reduce TB incidence by 50% and TB-related deaths by 75% by 2025. At the 72nd UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan promoted the adoption of a resolution on “Developing all modes of transport to achieve the SDGs” and proposed declaring an International Year of Sustainable Transport at the UN level.

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Conclusion. The inclusion of the human development concept on the global agenda is explained by the end of the bipolar world and Uzbekistan’s attainment of independence. Although this concept originated in South Asia, where socio-economic problems were widespread, some of its criteria are highly relevant for the countries of Central Asia. Ensuring the implementation of sustainable development ideas requires that all states—whether wealthy or poor—demonstrate the willingness to offer each individual the broadest possible range of opportunities to achieve the set goals. In this context, the human capital indicators of New Uzbekistan define the tasks that must be accomplished.

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