



# RESEARCH ON ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOMEN IN CENTRAL ASIA

**N. Djuraeva**

*Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor, Uzbek State University of World Languages  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan*

## ABSTRACT

*This article discusses how a woman can be seen as the creator of a truly harmonious future of the nation, an active person in all spheres of society. During the years of independence, raising the status of women in society, protecting their rights and interests, improving working and living conditions has become one of the priorities and goals of public policy, and the issue of treatment of women has risen to the level of public policy and strategy.*

**KEYWORDS:** *woman, harmonious, future, nation, active person, spheres of society, rights, interests, working conditions, living conditions, priorities, goals of public policy, treatment of women, strategy, unique role, development of society, true value.*

## 1. RELEVANCE OF THE TOPIC

Women have always played an active and unique role in the development of society. During the years of independence, the issue of treatment of women in Uzbekistan has been the focus of public policy. Over the years, women have found their true value. It is the restoration of national and spiritual values that has changed the attitude towards women. The woman began to be seen as the creator of a truly harmonious future of the nation, an active person in all spheres of society. While the level of morality of any society is determined by the attitude towards women, from this point of view, from the first years of independence, Uzbekistan, under the leadership of the state and the government, pursued a policy of care for women.

The issue of women is a set of social issues that addresses issues such as the status of women in the family and society, the protection of their legitimate interests, employment, protection of motherhood and childhood.

In the words of President Sh. Mirziyoyev: "From time immemorial, our people have always shown great respect for the Holy Mother, women. Respect for women is, first of all, an expression of respect for the family, for the future of society.

From this perspective, the wise saying, "The cultural level of any society on earth is determined by its attitude toward women," certainly has a deep meaning [1].

During the years of independence, raising the status of women in society, protecting their rights and

interests, improving working and living conditions has become one of the priorities and goals of public policy, and the issue of treatment of women has risen to the level of public policy and strategy. "In this regard, it is expedient to quote the following views of President Sh. Mirziyoyev: In the current era of globalization, the protection of the rights and freedoms and legitimate interests of women is even more important. In particular, increasing the socio-economic and political-legal activity of women is becoming a requirement of the times".

## 2. METHODS

The article is based on the principles of generally accepted historical methods - historical, comparative and logical analysis, consistency, objectivity. Central Asian scholars have analyzed the study of women's attitudes during the Soviet era and the years of independence.

## 3. RESEARCH RESULTS

At a new stage of development of Uzbekistan, comprehensive reforms are being carried out in the socio-economic, cultural and educational spheres of society, and in this process, women's participation in qualitative changes and the solution of fundamental problems is growing year by year.

The Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 also includes "Increasing the socio-political activity of women, strengthening their role in government and society, women, Ensuring



employment of girls graduating from professional colleges, their wide involvement in entrepreneurial activities, further strengthening of family foundations”[2].

As noted by President Sh. Mirziyoyev: “Currently, 45% of workers and employees in various sectors and industries in our country are women. In particular, about 1,400 sisters work in leadership positions in the system of state and public organizations. 17 of them are senators, 16 are deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, and 1,075 are members of local councils of people’s deputies”[3].

As a result of consistent reforms in the protection of motherhood and childhood, “..in the last five years, the maternal mortality rate has risen from 23.1 to 19 per 100,000 live births, the under-five mortality rate from 14.8 to 13.9, and the infant mortality rate from 11 to 10,7. According to these indicators, Uzbekistan has fully achieved the UN Millennium Development Goals. According to leading international institutions, Uzbekistan is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of creating favorable conditions for women and protecting motherhood among 125 countries. In the world ranking, our country is among the top 10 countries that care about the health of the younger generation. As a result of measures taken to improve the gene pool of the population, the average life expectancy of women will increase from 66 to 73.5 years. Maternal and infant mortality decreased by 3 times” [177].

Ensuring the well-being of families, maintaining the stability of the socio-spiritual environment in families and neighborhoods, further strengthening a healthy lifestyle, healthy and creating an effective mechanism for a systematic study of the socio-spiritual status of families in order to expand the social partnership of public organizations in the upbringing of a harmoniously developed generation, it is planned to implement it in practice and to constantly study the real living conditions of the population, to provide methodological assistance to local communities in this regard, to identify existing problems in families and to develop a program of measures to address them. The decree reads: “In order to communicate with the population, especially women, access to families, solve their problems, ensure the interests of women, youth and minors, mobile and responsible specialists organize mobile receptions in the mahallas. psychological and medical assistance is provided. Domestic problems and shortcomings of citizens will be solved on the spot” [5.223-238]. At the same time, the implementation of this work in all regions of the country has formed a system of real study of the social situation of families, including women, and the provision of prompt and on-site practical assistance. It has created more opportunities for women's

employment, further support and development of their entrepreneurial and home-based activities, and improvement of domestic labor and income from the land. While all the potential and opportunities of the Uzbek woman of yesterday were not fully used for the development of society, the scientific potential, culture, spirituality, entrepreneurship, success of today’s Uzbek woman, hard work means that all conditions are created for women, who make up half of the population of our country, to take their rightful place in society, to show their talents and potential, and to fully protect the rights and interests of women is a priority of our state. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev dated February 2, 2018 “On measures to radically improve the activities in the field of support of women and strengthening the institution of the family” testifies to the growing attention to this area.

Historians R. H. Aminova and D. A. Alimova have studied the issue of women in Uzbekistan in the first years of independence on the basis of the national idea from today’s point of view [6.133;16-20].

In particular, R.Kh. Aminova in her pamphlet “Actual problems of social development in Uzbekistan in the context of perestroika” noted that the level of higher general education of women does not correspond to their professional occupation, noting that their employment in low-skilled or unskilled labor is greater than that of men, writes: “The share of women engaged in manual labor in industry, construction and agriculture is higher than in the country. The share of manual labor in the industry of the republic was 35.3%, and among women - 42.5%. Women’s heavy physical labor is not over yet”[7.10-11]. The scientist points out two groups of these problems, namely, the lack of technical equipment in production, where women’s labor is usually high, and the second, the unsatisfactory level of preparation of women for the profession. The historian noted that the policy of “reconstruction” allowed to openly express the problems in the social, economic and domestic life of women who had accumulated during the years of stagnation, but nevertheless, he writes with regret that the old relationship that has persisted in the family for 70 years has prevented women from telling the truth, leading them to despair, especially the hardest way to express inner rebellion - self-immolation [8.12].

D.Alimova’s scientific monograph critically examines the problem of women on the basis of the analysis of comprehensive documentary sources and archival materials [9.133]. The role of women in the socio-political and cultural life of Central Asia has been highlighted from a historical point of view. Also on the issue of women scientists - although only the “Attack” movement is evaluated on a new basis, its



history and the issue of “women’s cooperation”, the impact of agricultural collectivization policy on the situation of women, the role of land and water reform in 1925-29 in the emancipation of women, the activities of public organizations in this area, issues related to the involvement of women in social production, the relationship between the formation of a new type of women and cultural development remain relevant to the study on the basis of the ideology of national independence [10.90]. For the first time, a number of scientific articles have shed light on traditional, social views on the status of women in the family and society, as well as their historical roots [11.77; 119].

In the second half of the 1990s and the 2000s, in the spirit of new historical thinking, a new approach and methodology focused on the study of women's status in almost all fields of history and social sciences, such as economics, philosophy and law [12.22;28;53;20;41;20;27;26;33;29]. These dissertations shed light on the colonial nature of the Soviet government's treatment of women in the period under study, on the basis of the national idea, in a scientific and objective manner. However, some aspects of the problem have been addressed in these studies.

Y. A. Abdullaeva's “Women of Karakalpakstan: Yesterday and Today. The end of the XIX century and the XX century” special monographs and articles, because they contain scientific conclusions and extensive information based on archival documents [13.224;40-45;42-45;90-92]. In her monograph, Ya.A. Abdullaeva was the first to point out that the policy of the Soviet government and the Communist Party among women was contradictory, positive and negative, and that a set of special methods, forms and mechanisms of work was created between them. based on examples. He created a classification of the work done by the Soviets and the Communist Party.

In 2004, G. Muhabbatova, a researcher and candidate of historical sciences in Dushanbe, conducted research on “The contribution of women to cultural change in the Republic of Tajikistan: 1924-1941”. The urgency of the topic is determined by the fact that women make up 52% of the population, the implementation of socio-economic and political reforms, the stabilization of peace in sovereign Tajikistan in many respects depends on the growth of their role. Scientific conclusions on the role of women in the organization and development of public education in the early 1920s, their participation in the elimination of illiteracy among the adult population, women's activities in school education, their involvement in cultural and educational activities and professional activities are presented [14.144].

Another researcher, Doctor of Historical Sciences M. Zikrieva, conducted research on

“Historiography of women's issues in Tajikistan”. The dissertation analyzes that the solution of problems related to strengthening the independence of Tajikistan is related to the practical implementation of raising the social status of women, who make up 52% of the population [15.350].

Accordingly, the first period of the formation of Soviet power was marked by significant changes in the education system, in the protection of motherhood and childhood, in connection with the establishment of children's institutions.

Measures based on the Soviet model, aimed at “liberating” women, had a serious impact on the social status of women. Улар таълим олиш, меҳнат қилиш, мулкка эғалик қилиш ҳуқуқига эга бўлишди. The foundations for the protection of the rights of mothers and children have also been laid. However, such measures were taken in the interests of the Soviets, in connection with the denial of national identity, family values, the guarantees of equal rights were combined with discrimination against women in society. After the break-up of the former Soviet Union, neoconservative tendencies intensified in response to the “compulsory” and “coercive” nature of the Soviet state's “policy of liberating Eastern women,” the author notes [16].

The Soviets looked at women as symbolic political capital and tried to use them as benefactors of their own policy, an economic resource, educating the younger generation on the basis of the interests of communist ideology. They also noted that Central Asian women were a symbol of the “achievements” in the mission to “liberate” Eastern women in the outside world.

Indeed, the 1920s and 1930s marked a turning point in the fate of women in Central Asia. As a result of the policy aimed at changing the religion, history, culture, customs and traditions of the peoples of Central Asia, the lifestyle, social activity, role in society, social behavior of women has changed radically. While the communists in Central Asia were faced with the task of changing the minds and lifestyles of the people, they aimed primarily at harming Islam and taking women to the streets. Along the way, they first declared religion to be a harmful belief for the people. To them, the belief of people living in a communist society was to be “communist atheism”. On the other hand, various efforts have been launched to eradicate the veil of Central Asian women's street clothing.

The name of the movement against the wearing of women's shawls was called “Attack”. The removal of the shawl, on the one hand, led to the integration of women into society, their activism and social capacity, their place in society, and, on the other hand, allowed them to be heavily exploited as cheap labor. As a result of the veil, the country has a workforce of millions of women. Following the “attack” movement, the number of educated women



in Central Asia increased. But it was possible to make women educated without condemning religion and without carrying out the “Attack” movement in such a brutal manner.

The “Attack” campaign has undoubtedly been important in the history of Central Asia. And, among the many reforms and policies of the Bolsheviks, it is much more difficult to make a one-sided assessment of it. On the one hand, indeed, the role of women in society, the improvement of lifestyles has contributed to development. On the other hand, this has caused a lot of controversy in the society. The breakdown of families has led to the killing of women, also causing social problems.

#### 4.CONCLUSION

In modern society, the process of women’s self-identification is changing and their social status, culture and level of education are increasing. While this process has attracted the attention of many researchers, it is clear that dealing with women’s issues is not accidental. In particular, the recognition of the issue of women as a global social phenomenon and the consistent efforts to address the issue of women, their broad participation in social life enhances the status of women in society, giving them a wide range of activities. As a result, they were able to fully display their talents and abilities while enjoying economic independence. This process has led almost all countries to change their policies and attitudes towards women. Recognition that the future of the nation and society is full of women's participation, the world fully understands that society can have a perfect direction in its development only if their active participation in science, technology, production and management in all spheres of social life is achieved. Therefore, in today’s era of globalization and the clash of civilizations, the issues of further development of the place and role of women in modern society, which are considered important to address, as well as future development without the participation of women, are being put forward. It is now believed by many experts in the study of human development that the historical path and development traversed by humanity cannot be fully understood without studying the role of women in all spheres of human society. In particular, note the following opinion of Gisella Bock, a well-known researcher on the history of women: “In the past, women’s experiences, activities, and spheres of life have been neglected because they do not seem to have historical value. However, the history of women should be considered as general as the history of men [17.367], ... because it belongs not only to half of humanity, but to all” [18.371]. According to Joan Kelly, another well-known researcher on women’s history, “it’s not about returning women to history, it’s about returning history to women in the first place. While this focus is not only on women in

history, but also on women's history, it is also a special kind of history, a history of women all over the world as women”.

#### REFERENCES

1. *Speech by President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Twentieth Plenary Session of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis // 22.06.2019.*
2. “Women in Business and Management”. Report of the International Labor Organization. 2017. <http://www.mk.ru/social/2017/01/13/doklad-mezhdunarodnoy-organizacii-truda-dolya-zhenshinrukovoditeley-vmire-vsego-5.html>.
3. *Congratulatory message of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev on the occasion of March 8 - International Women's Day // March 7, 2018*
4. *Scientific-methodical booklet on the study of the State Program for the implementation of the Action Strategy on the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 in the “Year of dialogue with the people and the interests of man”. Tashkent., Spirituality, 2017, P. 177.*
5. *Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017 №4947 “On the Strategy of further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, paragraphs 223,238.*
6. *Alimova D.A. Women’s question in Central Asia: History of study and modern problems.-Tashkent: Science, 1991. –P. 133; Alimova D.A. “Was there a need for an attack?” // Literature and Art of Uzbekistan - September 11, 1992; Alimova D.A. The study and problems of women in the social sciences of Uzbekistan // The role of women and gender issues in the construction of the family, state and society in Uzbekistan.-Tashkent: Science. 1999. P.16-20.*
7. *Aminova R.X. Current issues of social development in Uzbekistan in the context of reconstruction. - Tashkent: Science.1991.P.10-11.*
8. *Aminova R.X. Current issues of social development in Uzbekistan in the context of reconstruction. - Tashkent: Science. 1991.P.12.*
9. *Alimova D.A. The Women’s Question in Central Asia: History of Studies and Contemporary Problems.- Tashkent: Science. 1991. –P. 133;*
10. *Alimova D.A. Women’s issue in Central Asia. - Tashkent: Science.1991.P. 90.*
11. *Alimova D.A. We should not be a society saturated with the idea of male superiority // Tashkentskaya Pravda. 1997, 26 March; The role of women and gender issues in the construction of the family, state and society in Uzbekistan.-Tashkent: Science, 1999.- P. 77; Women of Uzbekistan: yesterday and today.- Tashkent: 2005.-P. 119.*
12. *Ergashkhodzhaeva G.E. French historiography on the problems of emancipation of women in Central Asia in the 20s (Literature 50-80s). Diss. Ph.D. - Tashkent: 1996. -22; Q.V.Nishonboeva. Cultural aspects of addressing women’s issues in Uzbekistan.T.f.ndiss. Autoref. -Tashkent: 1998. –P. 28; Xolmatova M. Problems of improving the culture of family relations and raising a healthy generation. Doctor of Philosophy diss. avtoref. –Tashkent: 1998. – P. 53; Nasrullaeva X. Philosophical analysis of the*



- process of socialization of women in Uzbekistan. F.f.n. diss. Abstracts. –Tashkent: 2000. –P.20; 32 Matkarimova G.A. Gender and reproductive rights of women in international and national law. Abstract of the thesis. diss. Doctor of Juridical Sciences-Tashkent: 2002.-P. 41.; Safoeva S.X. The issue of women: general social and national aspects. Candidate of Philosophical Sciences diss. avtoref. –Tashkent: 2002. –P. 20; Rajabova D.N. Problems of youth and women in the views of the Jadids of Turkestan (late 19th - early 20th centuries) Abstracts of the thesis. Tashkent: 2003. –P. 27; Muravyova N.M. Socio-philosophical analysis of increasing the social status of women. Abstract of the thesis. Ph.D. –Tashkent: 2003.-P. 26; Jo'raeva N.D. The role of women in the socio-economic and cultural life of Uzbekistan (20-30 years of the XX century). Medical sciences. candidate. Autoref. -Tashkent: 2004. –P. 33; Khodjaeva S.A. Legal culture and problems of development of social and legal activity of women in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Auth. diss. Candidate of Law.—Tashkent:, 2004; Egamberdieva T.A. Socio-pedagogical bases of increasing women's activity in the spiritual life of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences. avt. —Tashkent: 2005; Abdullaeva Ya. A. Women's issue in Karakalpakstan at the end of the XIX-XX. Auth. —Tashkent, 2005; Ganieva G.Zh. Women's issue in Uzbekistan: new approaches, problems and solutions. Auth.—Tashkent:, 2006; Karimova M.A. The role of Islamic values in the social protection of women in Uzbekistan. Candidate of Philosophical Sciences. Autoref. -Tashkent: 2008. –P. 26; Nasretdinova D.M. "The role of Tatar-Bashkir women in the cultural life of Turkestan (late 19th century - first quarter of the 20th century). Candidate of Historical Sciences. Autoref. -Tashkent: 2011. –P. 29;
13. Abdullaeva Ya.A. Women of Karakalpakstan: Yesterday and Today. The end of the XIX century and the XX century. –Tashkent: The world of creativity. 2004. –P. 224; The same author. The policy of forced kolkhozization of the Soviet government in Karakalpakstan and the repression of rural women // History of Uzbekistan. 2002. №2. P. 40-45; Abdullaeva Ya.A. Some causes of the crisis of the dictatorial Soviet regime and its impact on the situation of women (on the example of Karakalpakstan) // Democratization and human rights. 2004. №1. P. 42-45; Abdullaeva Ya.A. Repressed oppressed law or tyrannical regime // Life and law. 2004. №2. P. 58-59; Abdullaeva Ya.A. Attack on faith // Contemplation.2004. №2. P. 90-92.
14. Mukhabbatova G. The contribution of women to cultural transformations in the Republic of Tajikistan: 1924-1941. : Dissertation. Doctor of Historical Sciences: 07.00.09. -Dushanbe, 2004. P. 144.
15. Zikrieva Malika Fayzievna. Historiography of the problem of women of Tajikistan: dissertation. Doctor of Historical Sciences: 07.00.09. - Dushanbe, 2002.- P. 350.
16. Tatiana Shchurko "Attack": female emancipation during the early Soviet "experiments" in Soviet Kyrgyzstan (1918-1930)25.04.2015 .<http://www.art-initiatives.org/ru/tags/tatyana-shchurko>
17. G. Bock. History, history of women, history of sexes // Chrestomathy of the Basics of Gender Research Course. –Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2003. –P. 367
18. Chrestomathy of the Basics of Gender Research Course. –Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 2003. –P.371