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IBI (India) = 4.260
OAJI (USA) = 0.350

SOI: [1.1/TAS](#) DOI: [10.15863/TAS](#)

International Scientific Journal Theoretical & Applied Science

p-ISSN: 2308-4944 (print) e-ISSN: 2409-0085 (online)

Year: 2021 Issue: 11 Volume: 103

Published: 30.11.2021 <http://T-Science.org>

QR – Issue



QR – Article



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THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY AS A PRIORITY OF STATE PUBLIC POLICY

Abstract: The article examines poverty reduction as a state priority in terms of social policy. Simultaneously, poverty rates over the world are quantitatively examined. The use of digital technology in the overhaul of the pandemic poverty alleviation system in Uzbekistan has been highlighted.

Key words: social policy, poverty, national programs, social justice, sustainable development, human dignity, socio-economic growth, Iron Book, Women's Book, Youth Book, pandemic, single register of social protection, information systems, digital technologies.

Language: English

Citation: Khusanova, Kh. (2021). The fight against poverty as a priority of state public policy. *ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science*, 11 (103), 1204-1206.

Soi: <http://s-o-i.org/1.1/TAS-11-103-146> **Doi:**  <https://dx.doi.org/10.15863/TAS.2021.11.103.146>
Scopus ASCC: 3300.

Introduction

Poverty is a diverse, complex problem in modern civilizations, with causes and repercussions that are not limited to a single country state. Efforts to raise living standards and offer sustainable livelihoods for individuals affected by poverty and its social implications have become a major concern in the international community. Unfortunately, there are no universal poverty remedies that can be adopted on a global scale. The development of a national program based on a state's own capabilities to combat poverty is one of the finest answers to this global challenge.

The Millennium Declaration, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 8, 2000 in New York, is dedicated to global development and poverty elimination, with the objective of further reinforcing the ideals of peace, prosperity, and justice in a world on the cusp of a new millennium. Nearly one billion people live in poverty, which diminishes human dignity, according to the paragraph.

Based on this situation, it is planned to halve the number of people living in poverty by 2015 in order to improve the living standards of people living on less than \$ 1 a day. By 2020, measures have been launched to significantly improve the lives of over 100 million people living in disadvantaged settlements (Trusoba)¹. On this basis, developed countries allocate \$15 billion a year to relatively poor countries, thereby ensuring the provision of basic social services while spending money to maintain prices on commodity markets.

In 2015, the Millennium Development Goals were replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals. The declaration was adopted by all UN member states, and its 17 goals were to "gradually eradicate all forms of poverty" by 2030². Along with the pace of global economic growth, the need to eradicate poverty and, in this regard, to step up efforts in education, health, social protection and employment was emphasised. Today, these goals are funded by the World Bank.

¹United Nations Millennium Declaration. Adopted by General Assembly [resolution 55/2](https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/summitdecl.shtml) of 8 September 2000. https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/summitdecl.shtml

²The global fight against poverty: experiences from around the world // <https://review.uz/post/globalnaya-borba-s-bednostyu>.

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Most of the world's 700 million or 10% of the world's population is on the brink of Africa and Asia, of which 17.2% are rural. The employment of the working population has also been proven to be incapable of eradicating poverty altogether, with 8% of the working population living in poverty³. One in five children in the world comes from a similar family, and their bright future is still inextricably linked to the likelihood of escaping poverty.

Today, with the absolute poverty rate falling from 35% in the 1990s to 8.4%, by early 2020, 689 million, or 9.2% of the world's population, will be poor as a result of a global pandemic⁴. Due to quarantine restrictions, the loss of more than 305 million jobs as a result of the sharp slowdown in the global economy has actually increased poverty among the middle class.

This means that in modern conditions, a large part of the world's population lives in poverty, which is considered to be the extreme level of poverty, even in the conditions of acute shortage of food resources and sources of income necessary to ensure the sustainable functioning of the human body. Poverty levels are creating a severe shortage of vital resources in terms of food and drinking water security. These problems, in turn, expand the scope of social problems such as inability to access services such as education, health care, socially abusive attitudes and disconnection from public life.

In this regard, it is expedient for the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan to adopt a comprehensive program for the development of labor-intensive industries with high added value. Uzbekistan's long-term strategic goal is to ensure sustained and inclusive economic growth, increase per capita income and sharply reduce poverty. In order to achieve these goals, Uzbekistan is focusing on structural reforms aimed at strengthening and liberalising the market economy.

In the difficult situation of the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, further acceleration of poverty reduction measures in Uzbekistan has become a pressing issue. At the same time, the need for comprehensive, targeted support for vulnerable families is growing. Due to this need, at the initiative of the President, the introduction of "iron books" has

created a basis for directing state aid and maintaining social stability. "Iron books" will be useful in systematically organising work to lift families out of poverty, to coordinate further work on the list. The youth and women's notebooks also serve to strengthen the targeted approach to vocational training and employment. It is noteworthy that the "youth book" includes boys and girls aged 18-30, while the "women's book" covers women over 30 years. Particular attention is paid to those who need and are interested in social, legal, psychological support, knowledge and vocational training.

Uzbekistan is currently reforming its social protection system on the basis of digital technologies and has launched the information system "Single Register of Social Protection" in the form of an electronic platform. The unified register is an automated information system that determines the needs of a family (citizen) without regard to the human factor for the assignment of social benefits at the initial stage, assigns benefits, makes payments and monitors and tracks expenditure. The advantage of a single register is that, firstly, the application process for families in need of social benefits is greatly simplified due to the lack of need for the information provided, and problems such as collecting data for these families are also eliminated.

Secondly, the process of recognising low-income individuals and assigning or denying social benefits is as transparent as possible. The decision to grant or deny a pension is made only by the Unified Registry Information System (based on the criteria included in it), and in this case there is no human factor.

Thirdly, the state currently provides various types of assistance to low-income families (free kindergarten attendance, free school books and winter clothes, free medical treatment at medical institutions, etc.). However, the procedure for identifying families in need of such assistance is not defined in any legislation, and there is no database on how and to what extent paid assistance is provided to which families by the state. This means that the Single Register will be a database that automatically identifies all families in need of social assistance and provides them with targeted assistance.

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⁴ <https://review.uz/post/globalnaya-borba-s-bednostyu>

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