

POVERTY REDUCTION, PROVIDING THE YOUTH WITH EDUCATION AND PROFESSION AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR OF STABILITY

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ARTICLE INFO.

Keywords: poverty, misery, low-income, unemployment, terroristic attacks, reducing poverty, illiteracy, inclusive education.

Abstract

The article highlights poverty, misery, unemployment, illiteracy, and problems related to them. Foreign experience in eliminating these issues, the reforms which are being carried out to reduce poverty in Uzbekistan, and issues in the system of Higher Education as well as solutions to them, have also been analyzed. Proposals and suggestions were worked on reducing poverty and providing the youth with up-to-date education and profession, and strengthening focus on them in our country.

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INTRODUCTION

Improving life standards and quality of the population, reducing unemployment and poverty, and education of young people are always in the center of attention in all countries of the world.

The processes of globalization and integration observed in the world today, firstly, serve to increase living standards of the population, and secondly, lead to the impoverishment of some layers of the population. As a result of armed conflicts and controversies occurring in different parts of the world, subversive and terrorist activities, majority of the population of these regions is forced to live under conditions of famine and poverty, as well.

In recent years, natural and man-made disasters caused by global climate change have caused a sharp decrease in the production of agricultural products in a number of countries, causing an escalation in consumer goods prices and an increase in the level of impoverishment of the population. This problem has become especially acute during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the data of the World Bank, the number of people living below the poverty line (with a daily income of less than 1.9 dollars) is 736 million people (about 10 percent of the Earth population).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The problem of poverty and misery, related unemployment (inoccupation, idleness) and lack of knowledge have negative consequences in the life of society, including terrorist attacks as a causative

phenomenon has always been an urgent problem on the agenda. In particular, if we look at the history of human civilization, in countries where internal revolutions (rebellions, terrorist acts) happened, in most of them the standard of living of the population, that is, the problem of poverty and misery, unemployment (inoccupation, idleness) and lack of knowledge was a matter of "life or death".

Taking into account the opinions expressed by experts and researchers regarding the concept of "poverty", the level of coverage of the word "poverty" can be divided into three groups: misery, poverty and low income.

According to the UN definition, misery means lack of income and resources necessary for human survival, in addition to hunger and malnutrition, the presence of restrictions on access to health, education or other basic services, lack of housing, dangerous natural and man-made environments and in relation to the way of living in conditions of social inequality.

METHODOLOGY & EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

According to the methodology proposed by the World Bank, following the research conducted in 115 countries in 2015, the misery line for all countries in terms of purchasing power parity at 2011 prices was 1.9 dollars, and the poverty line was defined by low incomes of the countries population, based on low, average and higher levels; 1.9, 3.2; 5.5 and 21.7 US dollars were recommended [4]. Based on this, the stratum of the population whose total income (or expenditure) does not reach the set poverty threshold based on the methodology of determining poverty is called poor, and the stratum that does not have the opportunity to meet the basic needs for living can be recognized as the destitute population.

The concept of poverty has no single definition. Some scientists admit that poverty means the lack of opportunities to satisfy the basic needs of a person (food, clothing, housing, education and health care), while others - negative participation of a person in the socio-economic life of society. It is explained that the influencer lives within the limits of the available strictly limited social, educational and health opportunities.

According to the definition of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, poverty is the absence of choices and opportunities during a persons life, the presence of obstacles to full participation in society, in addition to feeding and clothing his family, getting an education or it is manifested in the lack of opportunities for providing work that allows for treatment in a hospital, working in a field or earning income, and limited access to credit. Also, poverty is the social marginalization of individuals, households and communities, helplessness in the face of risks and is considered incompetent.

In the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language, the concept of "poverty" is defined as "the state of lack of things necessary for life" [6].

Poverty is an indicator of the economic condition of a person or social groups who do not have the opportunity to meet the minimum needs necessary to get married, maintain the ability to work, and continue the continuity of generations. "Poverty" is a relative concept and depends on the general standard of living in each society. The state of poverty shows that it is not possible to compensate for the lack of resources for a long time with previous savings or with funds accumulated due to temporary savings from the purchase of expensive goods [3].

On February 27, 2020, at the meeting of the video selector dedicated to the issue of reducing poverty, the head of our President stated that 12-15 percent of the population of our Republic, or 4-5 million people are in poverty [5] and he noted that means that their daily income does not exceed 10-13 thousand soums.

Low income concept is more often applied to a group of people rather than to a specific person. In particular, according to the legislation of our country, the concept of low income is mainly referred to the family, where the total income of the family shouldn't increase the minimum amount of the wage more than 0.527 times per member for the period with a monthly average total income.

The problem of unemployment arises as a result of the fact that the working population is not engaged in socially useful work or labor.

In the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language, unemployment is defined as a state of inoccupation, lack of employment, inability of a part of the population capable of economic activity to find a suitable job [6].

Unemployment as a social phenomenon can be divided into a number of categories. First of all, there is no job suitable for one's qualifications and profession while being able to work (due to the salary, social protection and other factors) or there is no decent salary for work at all, or, on the contrary, unemployment resulting the lack of sufficient up-to-date knowledge and professional (technological) skills of a person (unsuitability for an existing job), secondly, its caused by the fact that certain citizens are financially sufficient, or being lazybones by nature, hanger-on, unwilling to work.

Due to unemployment, or to be more precise, idleness, people engaged in socially harmful work (under the influence of narcotic and psychotropic substances, prone to crime) join various criminal groups in order to earn money. It is a "hotbed" of dangers that can cause serious harm to the security of the state and society, if it becomes violent or gets into the path of extremist groups, falls under the influence of another ideology that is completely incompatible with national values. It is precisely this category of the population that is involved in demonstrations by disruptive forces through social networks as a "solution" to a very urgent problem affecting the life of a particular region or country ("color revolutions" arising under the influence of external forces, extremist and terrorist attacks and mass riots) is becoming the "main contingent".

Although the international community has accumulated a lot of experience in the issue of poverty and its reduction, and various models have been developed, none of them can serve as a complete model for other countries.

For example, the Swedish model has two goals: ensuring full employment and reducing income inequality. In this country, the method of training and retraining of the unemployed, restoring the ability to work in high-demand fields is used.

Today, one of the countries achieving positive results in the fight against poverty is the People's Republic of China. According to the estimates of the World Bank, as a result of the reforms implemented in China for more than 40 years, more than 800 million of rural population have been lifted out of misery, and the poverty rate has fallen from 97.5 percent in 1978 to 0.6 percent at the end of 2019. With this, the global contribution of this country to the fight against poverty was 70 percent [2].

China's success in the fight against poverty is characterized by a special focus on providing social assistance, employment and occupation to the poor. To achieve these goals, among other things, reforms were implemented in the agricultural sector, infrastructures were built, private entrepreneurship was supported, and access to education and medical services were ensured. Targeted measures and programs were adopted in all areas. Special importance was attached to the development of rural areas.

Assistance to the poor in the United States is provided through special programs that cover 15 to 20 percent of the population. The most common types of assistance include food stamps, affordable housing programs, medical and social assistance for the elderly, child care benefits, and other types of support.

A number of measures are being taken to eliminate the above problem in our republic. In particular, one of the first measures implemented in Uzbekistan to reduce poverty is the establishment of the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction. The organizational structure, goals and objectives of this ministry, cooperation with state and non-state institutions on poverty reduction are in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 26, 2020 No. PQ-4653

"The Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan and it was defined in the Decision on organizing the activities of system organizations.

At the same time, in 2020, Uzbekistan stated the initiative to set the end of misery and fight against poverty as one of the main topics of the next session of the UN General Assembly and to hold a global summit dedicated to these issues[1]. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoev has put forward the exit initiative of developed a joint program for the establishment of the mechanism of the council of heads of ministries and departments of the member states within the framework of the SCO to reduce poverty and to support the segments of the population in need of assistance.

In addition, by regularly studying the best foreign experience in poverty reduction, Uzbekistan's expected-term program and concept for poverty reduction and the strategy for poverty reduction until 2030 are among them.

RESULTS

At the same time, unemployed citizens who want to start entrepreneurship and self-employment, including those involved in the "Iron Register", "Women's Register", "Mehr Register" and "Youth Register", the practice of allocating subsidies for the purchase of necessary equipment and labor tools to start their activities was established.

Another negative factor that hinders the development of any society is the lack of awareness of scientific innovations, the narrow-mindedness and shallowness of an overlook, or, in general, lack of knowledge of citizens, especially young people, in today's rapidly changing technological age. Ignorance is lack of knowledge, unawareness of the knowledge values, illiteracy[6]. As a result of lack of knowledge, citizens cannot have sufficient material and spiritual opportunities for themselves and their families to live a good, decent life. On the other hand, various destructive forces from uneducated citizens (including extremist and terrorist organizations) have been using it widely for their own interests. At the same time, ignorance means not knowing the new technology and innovations that are widely used in today's everyday life, lagging behind society and economic processes.

It is reasonable to give a clear example of the society life in close neighboring country, Afghanistan. In 2022, the price of basic goods in Afghanistan increased by 52%, and the average income of the country's population fell to the lowest level in the last ten years (\$375 per person per year). According to the UN, the unemployment rate in Afghanistan is 40 percent, and half of the 40 million people live below the misery line. 20 mln. people do not have enough food, many of them are struggling with hunger. More than 2 mln. Afghan children suffer from malnutrition [7].The main reason for this situation is the lack of knowledge and ignorance of the majority of the population.

A knowledge-based society is characterized by increased investment in high-tech and high-tech sector industries and the availability of a highly skilled workforce, resulting in a highly productive economy. Currently, in the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 50% of GDP is created by knowledge [8].

In Uzbekistan 18.9 million people or 54 percent of the population consists of young people and children under 30 years. It is very gratifying that new state and non-state pre-school educational organizations, comprehensive schools, universities, branches of prestigious foreign universities, modern IT parks, cultural institutions and sports facilities, a completely new model of education, the "President's Schools", "Temurbeklar School", "Ijod Schools" which have been established in our country in recent years, serve to educate a new generation of mature personnel who are able to compete in the conditions of today's globalization.

There is only one way for young people to acquire modern knowledge and professional skills in our Republic. The level of educational coverage in the 2022/2023 academic year was 197858 students (including 16933 master's degrees) and increased by 15 percent (27203 students) compared to the

previous academic year. This year, 25 new higher educational institutions were launched, including 27 non-state higher educational institutions, 31 foreign higher educational institutions, and 112 state higher educational institutions. reached (170 in total, in 2016 their number was 68) [9].

Currently, about 800,000 students are studying in higher educational institutions (HEIs) of our Republic (in the 2014/2015 academic year, their number was 261,300). In the Development Strategy for 2022-2026, task was set to involve 50% of young people in higher education in 2026.

By the 2022/2023 academic year, a total of 33,063 professors and teachers are working in higher education institutions, 2,687 of them have a doctor of science degree, 10,315 have a candidate of science degree, and the scientific potential is 39.3 percent [9].

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above, reducing poverty in our country, providing the young generation with modern knowledge and technologies, having specific professions and providing decent jobs is a guarantee of serving the development of our country, the following measure - we consider it appropriate to accelerate the activities:

1. to divide the population into groups those living in misery, poverty and underprivileged, and to conduct regular monitoring of changes in their standard of living and to implement targeted assistance measures on this basis;
2. providing preferential loans to the poor and low-income population who want to work, that is, to start a business, and to carry out constant control over their allocation by the relevant state authorities (to prevent the misuse and avoid looting of the allocated state funds);
3. to further expand the network of educational centers in all regions of the Republic, to train the unemployed population, especially young people, in modern professions and foreign languages preventing them from getting lost in the ranks of various extremist and terrorist organizations;
4. maintaining a proportional level of social and financial support for the less well-off categories of the population, to the attitude of patronizing certain segments of the population and to take parallel measures for preventing them from influence of destructive ideas and ideologies;
5. social equality and the prevention of sharp differences in income between different classes of the population, and constant and strict control over the distribution of financial support;
6. introducing effective ways of controlling the family budget, setting benefits based on the number of children in the family (based on the principle of two children policy per family referring to the experience of Singapore) while continuing to provide financial support to low-income families.
7. development of infrastructure in rural areas, in particular, increasing the possibilities of effective use of household service centers, private schools, kindergartens and medical institutions;
8. taking into account the rapid expansion of the network of the higher education system, as well as from the point of view of ensuring the necessary level of quality of education, higher education institutions with high qualifications and scientific titles and degrees to rationally solve the provision of local and foreign professors and teachers at the level of demand;
9. ensuring quality education of young people at all stages of education, creating conditions for the development of inclusive education in the regions;
10. consistent acceleration of the reforms implemented in our country on the introduction of the economy based on market principles, taking measures to speed up the processes of privatization of land relations and state assets (property);

In conclusion, it should be noted that the reduction of misery and poverty in the Republic, the delivery of local personnel with advanced qualifications and skills through the further reform of general education and higher education, the increasing attention to the education of young people serve as the main factor for Uzbekistan to become one of the developed countries of the world.

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