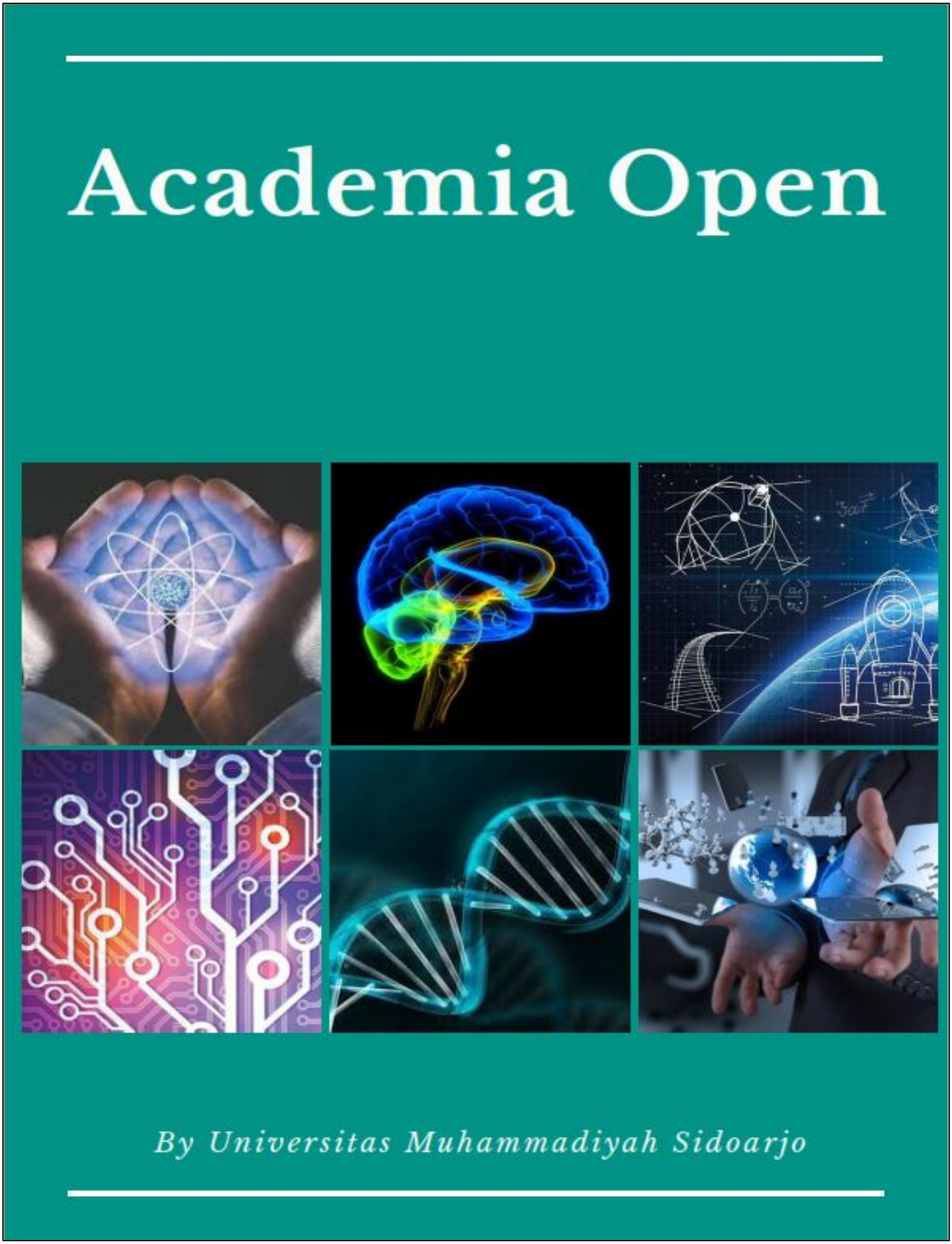
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S?ci?-Ec?n?mic W?ys t? Impr?ve the Well-Being of the P?pul?ti?n

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Abstract

General Background: Socio-economic disparities remain a pressing concern in many transitional economies, including Uzbekistan. **Specific Background:** Despite sustained economic growth, challenges such as income inequality, limited social protection, and regional development imbalances persist. **Knowledge Gap:** Prior studies have predominantly focused on macro-level welfare indicators without adequately assessing the impact of integrated digital and policy reforms on equitable growth. **Aims:** This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of government-led socio-economic strategies in enhancing population well-being through digitalization, fiscal reform, and targeted employment initiatives. **Results:** Employing a qualitative methodology enriched with statistical abstraction and systemic analysis, the findings reveal a consistent rise in per capita income, albeit with persistent urban–rural disparities. Targeted programs—including digitalized social assistance, vocational training, and small enterprise support—have demonstrably contributed to poverty reduction and improved living standards. **Novelty:** The study uniquely integrates digital reform analysis with socio-economic policy evaluation, offering a comprehensive perspective on reform-driven equity enhancement. **Implications:** The results suggest that sustainable improvements in well-being require a cohesive policy framework emphasizing public investment, governance transparency, and inclusive economic practices.

Highlights :

- Integrated Reforms Work – Combining digitalization with fiscal and employment policies boosts income and reduces poverty.
- Urban–Rural Disparity Persists – Income growth is uneven, with rural areas lagging behind urban centers.
- Policy Coordination Is Key – Sustainable well-being relies on transparent, inclusive, and well-aligned public strategies.

Keywords : Income Inequality, Digital Reforms, Social Protection, Regional Development, Poverty Reduction

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Introduction

The well-being of the population is one of the important criteria for the development of humanity. It is associated not only with economic growth, but is also closely linked to social stability, ensuring a healthy lifestyle, effective functioning of the education and health systems, as well as improving employment and working conditions. Improving the well-being of the population is considered a central component of countries' development strategies, since it serves, on the one hand, to ensure prosperity in society, on the other hand, to strengthen economic stability and, thirdly, to improve the standard of living of the population.

Specifically, based on the priority task of the 22nd goal of the Development Strategy of Uzbekistan until 2030, adopted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev on September 11, 2023 “Achieving full coverage of all those in need with the social protection system” consistent work is required to improve the social protection system of the population in our country and the complete elimination of the low-income, poor and destitute population[1].

In addition, employment, job creation and wage increases are considered important factors for social and economic well-being, and high employment serves to ensure stability and peace in society, especially in terms of reducing poverty and creating opportunities for large sections of the population. In addition, income growth increases the economic well-being of citizens, improves their quality of life and contributes to ensuring justice in society[2].

Literature Review

Many economists have conducted research on socio-economic ways to improve the well-being of the population and its development, and we can see various studies of protectionism conducted by scientists[3]. In particular, Berkinov B.B., Ashurova D.S., Abdullaeva M.K. in their work “Forecasting the socio-economic development of regions” highlighted such important issues as the processes of economic development in Uzbekistan, regional development, foreign economic activity, and family economics. A deep analysis of the socio-economic development of the country's regions was also conducted[4],[5], [6].

Isadzhanov A.A. The study “The Development of Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Context of Transition to Market Relations” provides detailed information on the development of foreign economic activity of Uzbekistan in the context of transition to a market economy. The work presents theoretical and practical recommendations on international trade, attracting investment and optimizing export-import operations [7].

In the work of A. Olmasov “Family Economy” the role of the family in economic life, the formation of the family budget, and the management of income and expenses are considered. The work contains recommendations reflecting the national characteristics of the family economy, and emphasizes the economic significance of the family in the development of society [8]”.

The article by M.K. Baratova “The Importance and Features of the State Social and Financial Policy in Ensuring the Welfare of the Population” is devoted to the importance and features of the state social and financial policy in ensuring social balance, which covers in detail the sources of formation of financial resources directed to the social sphere, the directions of the state social and financial policy, the basis for the place of expenditure on social protection in the structure of expenditures of the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2019-2023. [9].

Method

This scientific article widely uses methods of a systemic approach to scientific knowledge, monographic observation, statistical abstraction and logical thinking in the process of conducting research. Research is also conducted on the socio-economic protection of the population, the method of analysis and synthesis is effectively used in conducting scientific research, and solutions to problems are presented.

Results and Discussion

Over the years of independence, our republic has implemented a strong social policy, which continues today, along with the introduction of market economic relations, effective measures are taken to ensure reliable social protection of the population, especially low-income large families and pensioners.

In this regard, it is appropriate to cite the following thoughts of the President of our country Sh.M. Mirziyoyev: “Every person living in our country, regardless of their nationality, language, or religion, should live a free, peaceful, and prosperous life. Their satisfaction with life today is our primary goal. In this direction, we face immense tasks. The development of our country and the well-being of our people are primarily linked to the success of our reforms in the social sector” [10], which confirms our opinion. In particular, the bulk of total government spending, or almost 48.2 percent, was directed to the implementation of social sphere and social protection

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measures, of which more than 46 percent was directed to financing education, more than 22 percent - to financing health care. The problem of increasing the efficiency of budget funds, their impact on social policy, and rational use has always been relevant and remains relevant in modern conditions. This once again confirms the importance of conducting scientific research in this area.

A new program aimed at reducing poverty and ensuring employment for people with disabilities is being developed in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Within the framework of the program, information on professions available to people with disabilities will be entered into the electronic system, information on organizations in which they are employed will be registered, and employment of 12 thousand people with disabilities will be ensured.

It is also planned to provide benefits for vocational and entrepreneurial training for people with disabilities, and to allocate preferential loans and subsidies to attract them to entrepreneurship and self-employment. A unified electronic registration system for low-income families, women and youth will be created, which will eliminate the risk of a resurgence of poverty [11]. The program pays special attention to the development of crafts and provides that at least 85 percent of the population that meets the criteria for receiving social benefits will be covered by social assistance programs. Thanks to this, large-scale measures will be implemented aimed at reducing poverty and ensuring employment for people with disabilities.

The financial policy of the state consists of measures aimed at the maximum accumulation of financial resources, their correct distribution and effective use in order to ensure the fulfillment of state tasks. This policy is an objective process of satisfying not only personal but also social needs through the distribution and redistribution of national income. As a result of fiscal policy, a certain part of these savings is attracted to the funds of general state administration to meet social needs (Figure 1).

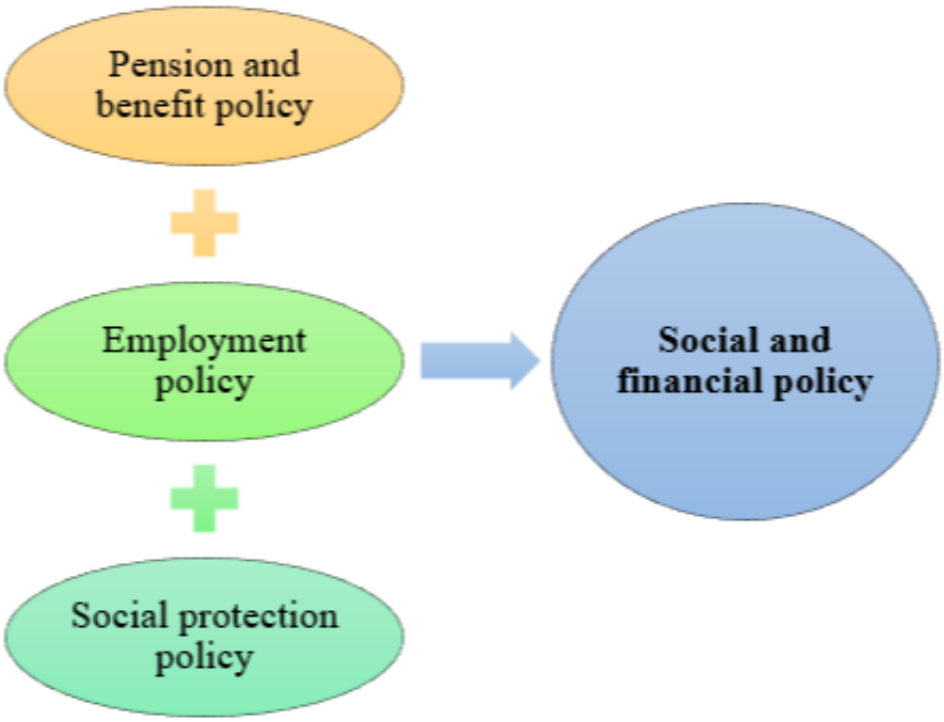


Figure 1. *Directions of The State's Social and Financial Policy*

It should be noted that the state’s focus on the priority development of social factors in its economic development will ensure an increase in the well-being of the population and create a legal basis for reforms in the sphere of social services. Social protection measures have a number of sources of funding, and state budget funds play a key and significant role in their work[12].

In order to further improve the state’s social policy, it is also possible to increase the standard of living and well-being of the population by attracting sponsorship and preferential package loans from non-governmental organizations. In this regard, the state should analyze and consider in detail the policy of financing foreign and domestic non-resident legal entities, comprehensively study the process of their sponsorship and the specifics of forming preferential packages[13]. In the area of social and financial support, it is advisable to pursue a policy of employment, financial support and social protection of the population not only through assistance funds sent to the population, but also through self-employment, family entrepreneurship, folk crafts, home-based businesses, and the

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development of e-business. As a result, the country will be able to achieve economic growth trends by reducing poverty, deprivation and the number of people in need of social assistance, increasing the share of the employed population, creating new jobs, developing the economy and the service sector. Since such a policy is considered one of the pressing problems of our time, its prompt implementation and revision of the state's social policy are necessary[14].

It is also necessary to attach special importance to state programs in the implementation of state social and financial policy, constantly improve the mechanism of its work, improve the legislative base, and eliminate bureaucratic obstacles. At present, similar reforms are consistently implemented in our country, as evidenced by the data in Table 1.

Code	Classifier	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1700	Republic of Uzbekistan	7314.1	9123.8	10887.3	12122.2	14869.8	17772.8	20015.9
1735	Republic of Karakalpakstan	5233.2	6805.6	8141.7	9436.6	11286.5	13266.1	14570.7
1703	Andijan region	6777.5	8409	9935.5	10765.9	12946.1	15910.1	18257
1706	Bukhara region	8822.2	11260.7	13075.6	14675.5	18133.4	21470.5	23480.3
1708	Jizzakh region	6497.5	8508.5	9701.1	10951.7	13244	15090.6	17326.2
1710	Kashkadarya region	6442.5	7824.8	9151.8	10199	12180.8	14610.8	16095.1
1712	Navoi region	11140	13913.6	16943.5	19922.5	24765	27129.1	31445.6
1714	Namangan region	5732.8	6884.2	8297.3	9258.8	11353.5	13782.5	15070.6
1718	Samarkand region	6594.6	8082.4	9437.9	10522.8	12919	15437.1	16886.8
1722	Surkhandarya region	5945.8	7614.7	8900.4	9745	11824.1	14520.4	15811.6
1724	Syrdarya region	6833.2	8346	9999.7	10938.3	12794.6	14635.8	16808.3
1727	Tashkent region	7667.4	9394.2	11290.4	13129.4	16260	18319.2	20730.2
1730	Fergana region	5599.8	7091.6	8112.7	8853.5	11276.9	13844.4	15716.5
1733	Khorezm region	7217.8	9529.5	11220.8	12270.6	15756.4	19541.5	20076.6
1726	Tashkent city	14923.3	18435.1	23642.2	25543.6	30511.1	37079.7	44427.9

Table 1. *Total per capita income by region (thousand soums)*

Based on the data presented in Table 1, we can conclude that in 2017 it amounted to 7,314.1 thousand soums, and by 2023 it will increase to 20,015.9 thousand soums. We also see that the lowest indicator by region in 2017 was in the Namangan region - 5,732.8 thousand soums, and the highest indicator in the city of Tashkent - 14,923.3 thousand soums. Also, the lowest indicator for 2023 was again recorded in the Namangan region - 15,070.6 thousand soums, and the highest indicator was recorded in the city of Tashkent - 44,427.9 thousand soums. The analysis reveals a clear upward trend in the indicators across both years and regions. However, it is also evident that the per capita gross income in Namangan, Fergana, and Andijan regions remains relatively low and is increasing at a slower pace. One of the primary reasons for this may be attributed to the high population density in these regions[15].

In our view, improving the well-being of the population will lead to economic growth in our country, improvement of social protection and, at the same time, to an increase in the volume of services provided. Therefore, the socio-economic protection of the population is one of the pressing problems of our time, and it is advisable to implement it systematically. There are a number of ways and methods for implementing systemic reforms, following:

a. Development of social support packages provided by the state and digitalization of the process of implementing such reforms. This will help prevent various forms of bureaucracy and corruption;

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b. Social reforms initiated by non-governmental organizations, entrepreneurs and sponsors, aimed at improving the quality of life of the population. These initiatives are mainly financed by non-governmental entities, complementing the state budget support;

c. Full digitalization of the social protection system to ensure better monitoring and management of financial assistance processes, as well as tracking the level of poverty through data-driven analysis;

d. Improving the well-being of the population through foreign sponsorship is another form of systemic reform, thanks to which the population can be provided with housing, clean drinking water and “green” areas.

As a result of the implementation of the above-mentioned systemic reforms, it will be possible to quickly increase funding for social protection processes in our country, reduce the number of low-income, poor and disadvantaged people, create new jobs, achieve economic growth, and improve the well-being of the population as a result of collective protection.

Conclusion

As a result of our research aimed at improving the socio-economic ways of raising the standard of living of the population, the implementation of the following proposals and recommendations will contribute to the development of the industry. These proposals include:

Firstly, it is necessary to further improve the mechanism of socio-economic support for the population, revise its legislative base, rethink the implementation of the state's social policy, and create a register of the low-income, poor and destitute.

Secondly, retraining and advanced training of specialists working in the field of socio-economic support of the population of the republic, improving the culture of communication of personnel working on the ground with the population.

Thirdly, to organize social infrastructure at the level of world standards in order to ensure social protection of the population. Further improvement of the provision of education, medicine, public utilities and social services.

Fourth, reform the assistance provided in the process of collective protection based on the level of poverty, deprivation and disability of the population. Implement reforms aimed at creating new jobs and enterprises for the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, providing benefits in public services for people with disabilities and reforming social assistance packages for them.

Fifth, review the policy of systemic implementation of socio-economic support for the population and implement reforms such as the complete digitalization of the system’s activities.

Sixthly, in order to develop small and medium-sized businesses in our country, it is necessary to introduce tax breaks and subsidies, organize free professional retraining courses for young people and the unemployed, attract investment in agriculture, and develop cooperation in order to increase employment, especially in rural areas.

To conclude, it should be noted that as a result of the implementation of the above proposals and recommendations, it is possible to move to a new process of socio-economic support for the population of the republic, reduce the number of low-income, poor and unemployed citizens, provide new protection to citizens with disabilities, improve the infrastructure of social protection. This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the human development index of our country, development and economic growth.

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