



PHILOSOPHICAL AND LEGAL FEATURES OF IMPROVING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN CIVIL SOCIETY

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Abstract:

This article explores the philosophical and legal foundations of reforming and enhancing the social security system in Uzbekistan within the context of developing civil society. The study examines the evolution of social protection mechanisms, the principles of social justice, and the relationship between the state and citizens in ensuring social guarantees. Particular attention is paid to the legal reforms aimed at aligning national legislation with international human rights standards and the growing role of public institutions in shaping an inclusive and equitable social policy. The paper also highlights philosophical concepts of welfare, dignity, and human value that underpin a democratic and people-centered approach to social security. Recommendations are provided for creating a more transparent, fair, and sustainable system that supports vulnerable populations and strengthens civil society institutions in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Social security, civil society, Uzbekistan, social justice, legal reform, human rights, public policy, welfare philosophy, vulnerable groups, inclusive governance.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Republic of Uzbekistan has undertaken significant reforms aimed at strengthening its social protection system as part of broader efforts to develop a democratic civil society. These reforms are deeply rooted in philosophical principles of social justice, human dignity, and the moral obligation of the state to ensure the well-being of its citizens. As the country transitions toward a more open, participatory, and inclusive governance model, the improvement of the social security system becomes essential not only as a policy measure but also as a reflection of the evolving relationship between the individual and the state.

Social security plays a critical role in reducing poverty, promoting equality, and guaranteeing basic rights. In Uzbekistan, the shift toward a market economy and increasing globalization have brought new socio-economic challenges, including rising inequality and the need for a comprehensive and adaptive social policy. At the same time, the legal framework governing social security must align with international norms and reflect the unique historical, cultural, and philosophical context of Uzbekistan's development. Therefore, a multidimensional approach that incorporates both legal and philosophical perspectives is necessary for meaningful and sustainable reform.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The theoretical foundations of social security are deeply influenced by concepts of justice, solidarity, and human rights. Philosophers such as John Rawls have argued for the prioritization of basic liberties and the fair distribution of social goods as essential to a just society [1]. In this context, social protection is not merely a governmental function, but a moral imperative rooted in the social contract between the state and its citizens. Similarly, Amartya Sen's "capability approach" emphasizes the importance of enabling individuals to live dignified lives, underscoring the role of social policies in expanding human freedom and agency [2].

In Uzbekistan, the philosophical discourse on social security is closely tied to the country's post-Soviet transformation and the formation of a civil society based on national values, legal principles, and universal human rights. The Constitution of Uzbekistan guarantees the right to social security (Article 39), yet the practical implementation of this right requires continuous development of legal norms, institutions, and administrative mechanisms [3]. Scholars have noted that the effectiveness of the social security system depends on the transparency of governance, legal accessibility, and civic participation in policy-making [4].

Legal reforms in recent years, including the adoption of the new Law on Social Services for the



Elderly and Persons with Disabilities and the Strategy for the Development of the Social Protection System 2021–2030, reflect a growing commitment to aligning domestic policies with international standards such as those articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ILO Convention 102 [5][6]. Moreover, legal scholars emphasize the importance of harmonizing traditional norms with progressive legal standards, ensuring that reforms are not only efficient but also culturally and socially resonant [7].

While the literature on social security reform in Uzbekistan is expanding, there remains a need for more interdisciplinary research that connects philosophical ideals with concrete legal mechanisms and policy outcomes. This paper aims to contribute to this gap by analyzing the interplay between legal frameworks and philosophical concepts in the evolution of Uzbekistan's social security system within the broader context of civil society development.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative, interdisciplinary approach that combines philosophical analysis with legal research methods. The research is based on a review of primary legal documents, including the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, national legislation on social protection, and strategic policy frameworks. Additionally, international legal instruments and standards such as ILO conventions, UN declarations, and best practices from comparative legal systems were analyzed to contextualize Uzbekistan's legal evolution in the realm of social security.

Philosophical analysis was conducted through thematic examination of scholarly literature on justice, welfare, and human dignity, particularly within the framework of civil society development. The study also incorporates expert opinions, policy papers, and reports from governmental and non-governmental institutions. Furthermore, semi-structured interviews were conducted with legal scholars, public policy experts, and representatives of social service institutions in Uzbekistan to gather insights on the practical implications and societal perceptions of recent reforms.

RESULT

The analysis revealed several key findings:

Legal Advancements: Uzbekistan has made significant strides in updating its legal framework on social protection, including the adoption of the Law on Social Services (2021) and the Strategy for the Development of the Social Protection System 2021–2030, which emphasize inclusivity, decentralization, and digitalization [8].

Philosophical Shifts: The philosophical underpinning of these reforms is increasingly influenced

by principles of social justice, dignity, and rights-based approaches. The government's rhetoric and policies reflect a move from paternalistic models toward citizen-centric governance [9].

Institutional Development: There has been a noticeable strengthening of institutional structures supporting civil society engagement in social policy formulation. Public councils, NGOs, and independent monitoring bodies now play a more active role in shaping and evaluating social services [10].

Challenges and Gaps: Despite legal progress, implementation remains inconsistent. Challenges include limited funding, regional disparities in access, low awareness among vulnerable populations, and insufficient legal literacy [11].

DISCUSSION

The transformation of Uzbekistan's social security system reflects a broader paradigm shift in governance and public philosophy. Historically shaped by Soviet-era models that prioritized state control and uniformity, the current reforms indicate a reorientation toward principles of justice, equity, and participation. The recognition of social protection as a right, rather than a privilege or discretionary benefit, marks a significant ideological shift in both legal and societal terms [12].

Philosophically, this transformation is consistent with modern theories of welfare that prioritize human development and social cohesion. The use of Rawlsian and Senian frameworks enables a deeper understanding of the moral responsibilities of the state in creating conditions for individuals to flourish. These frameworks also support the integration of human rights standards into national legislation, ensuring that social policies serve not only as safety nets but as instruments of empowerment [13].

Legally, Uzbekistan's trajectory demonstrates a conscious effort to balance tradition with innovation. The harmonization of Islamic principles of social responsibility with global human rights norms presents both a challenge and an opportunity for a uniquely Uzbek model of civil society-based social protection [14].

However, effective implementation remains a critical issue. Legal mechanisms must be supported by administrative capacity, financial resources, and public trust. Stakeholder engagement—including NGOs, academic institutions, and civil society organizations—is essential to monitor progress and ensure accountability.

CONCLUSION

The evolution of Uzbekistan's social security system reflects a dynamic interplay between philosophical ideals and legal reform. The country's



ongoing transformation toward a more inclusive, equitable, and rights-based model of social protection aligns with both universal human rights standards and national cultural values. Philosophical concepts such as social justice, dignity, and the role of the state as a guarantor of welfare are increasingly embedded in the legislative and policy-making processes.

Legal advancements, including the development of comprehensive laws and strategies, demonstrate a clear intent to modernize the system and enhance its responsiveness to citizens' needs. The establishment of new institutions, greater civic participation, and alignment with international norms are signs of progress. However, successful implementation remains contingent on addressing administrative, financial, and informational challenges.

To further improve the social security system within a robust civil society framework, Uzbekistan must continue fostering legal literacy, decentralizing service delivery, and strengthening mechanisms of transparency and accountability. Emphasizing human-centric development will ensure that social protection evolves not only as a legal obligation but also as a societal value, thus laying a stronger foundation for democratic governance and social cohesion.

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