



## STAGES OF IMPROVING THE POLICY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION



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**Abstract.** The article explores the concept of the socio-economic analysis of scientific sources carried out by scientists of four significant historical eras of the formulation and evolution of state social policy in the Western European countries, making the research problem pertinent. Scientific definitions of terms like "social sphere" and "social policy" by different writers and experts are provided in the scientific article. The paper also categorizes social protection programs, provides a thorough summary and analysis of the scientific and theoretical methods for enhancing their efficacy. After a thorough examination of the research materials, the author draws the conclusion that, in order to prevent a worsening of the economic downturn, it is urgent to improve population social protection measures.

### INTRODUCTION

Based on scientists' socioeconomic analyses of scientific sources, four main historical phases of the creation and development of state social policy in Western European countries can be identified:

Stage 1: From the second century BC e. to the fifteenth century n. e., objective standards were established for the development of social policy as a distinct category of governmental action. [1]

This period of human history is defined by the creation of social policy and its development over the subsequent centuries of human civilization on the European continent. Insofar as they had an impact on the formulation of social policy, eminent ancient philosophers like Plato and Aristotle contributed significantly to the evolution of social issues. Well-known intellectuals from the past have written about a variety of topics, including human rights and freedoms, the relationship between the state and citizenry, the social realm and the organization of society. Social policy developed to a considerable degree throughout this historical era. It was a complicated and varied process that covered nearly every facet of society, including how individuals self-organize in their social lives. [2] Communities, cities, and poles were the scale at which the first signs of a social orientation in state operations appeared. The idea that social issues should be resolved by the family, community, clan, etc. led to the establishment of governmental power.

Stage 2: From the middle of the 18th century to the middle of the 19th century, social policy was gradually allocated and formed as a largely autonomous branch of state action. In this historical period, social policy is developed as a fundamental part of the

state's internal policy and is carried out by its representatives of the estates. These were state entities tasked with resolving social inconsistencies and conflicts as well as coordinating and interacting amongst the social interests of various social strata. The state's random and selective acts mostly harmed the poorest strata of society that had no means of subsistence. During this historical time, the primary goal of social policy was to address the issues of poverty and pauperism. [3], [4]

New theoretical and philosophical perspectives on the social roles and goals of the state emerged together with the advancement of human society's civilization. Contradictions grew and social strife intensified as a result of the complexity of social issues. Because new issues in public life were not addressed by the outdated methods of state control over the social domain, the population's discontent grew.

Stage 3: Mid-19th–early 20th century institutionalization of state social policy. German professor VG Riehl of the University of Munich coined the term "social policy" for the first time in academic writing in 1853, which signaled the start of the development of state social policy. The concept's removal of the word "state" further implied that it was involved in its actual execution. This laid the groundwork for upcoming theoretical investigations into the problem of determining the role and position of the state in the formulation and implementation of social policy. In the final moments of the 1800s. Legislative regulation of state social policy begins to take shape as social institutions involved in its implementation are developed. W. Sombart, A. Wagner, G. Schmoller, and a number of other eminent academics have made significant contributions to the subject of social policy research and problem-solving methodologies. For example, Germany's Chancellor Bismarck is creating a novel form of government that calculates and distributes social benefits and compensation for incapacity arising from old age, disease, and accidents at work. These state-run operations are financed by the "Social Insurance Fund," which was established at the cost of laborers, employers, and employees. [5]

Stage 4: State social policy has developed and improved between the middle of the 20th century and the present, and its significance and function in the advancement of society have increased.

The state's social policy is being improved in the start of the 20th century, getting over its disarray and lack of structure. [6], [7]

## LITERATURE REVIEW

At this stage, the theoretical development of the cornerstones of state social policy was greatly aided by the 1940 research by the eminent English economist W. Beveridge, which emphasizes the creation of a state social security system. The idea of a "State Social Fund" to give pensions and benefits to citizens who could no longer sustain themselves was deemed sensible for the first time. The adoption of the Convention and the recommendations made by the International Labor Organization signaled a significant shift in the pre-war development of social policy and had a significant impact on the social advancement of Western European countries. At the expense of taxes, the state has agreed to pay social old-age pensions, unemployment benefits, medical service payments, social assistance payments, etc. [8]

The current goal of the most developed nations' modern social policies is to create a new sociality, which includes promoting the state's social role among other important ones. This in turn entails changing an individual's role from one of problem-solving to one of advancing social development, as well as making it a top priority in state social policy to fully protect citizens' rights and freedoms and to provide them with respectable living conditions. [9]

#### DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The following patterns in industrialized countries' social policies over the last 15–20 years can be identified:

- family income protection programs are in place;
  - housing and health insurance costs are reimbursed (Austria, Ireland, Luxembourg, France);
  - healthcare services, housing costs, and payment for children's attendance in preschools are all reimbursed (Finland, Germany, Portugal);
  - those who are unable to support themselves due to social or personal circumstances are reimbursed for housing costs and the cost of household items (Spain, Sweden);
  - social policy expenditures in European countries have actually equalized;
  - They have increased in southern Europe while stabilizing optimally in northern Europe;
  - nearly all European countries guarantee a minimum quality of life to individuals with impairments and those who have totally lost their ability to work;
  - financial support for elderly and sick citizens; social payments for children and women for pregnancy and childbirth are carried out in all European countries, with the only variation in their amount;
  - social benefits for able-bodied, but no income citizens are not paid in Greece and Portugal;
  - in Spain and Italy are paid only in certain regions from the local budget;
  - modestly paid in France and Great Britain;
  - the largest allowance in comparison with other countries is paid in Denmark and the Netherlands;
- Social assistance for families with only one parent:
  - in Greece, this benefit is limited to single mothers;
  - in Spain and Portugal, it is only paid in specific areas;
  - until the child becomes three years old, a single parent's income is increased by 50% of their wage;
  - in Denmark and the Netherlands, this benefit exceeds 60% of the parent's salary;
  - in other countries, it is somewhat less. [9], [10]

The primary concerns and urgent unresolved issues of social policy in contemporary developed countries at the start of the twenty-first century were the demographic crisis and the aging of the population, immigration and migration, the social ramifications of structural changes in the economy and modernization of the economy, the creation of new forms of family and an increase in the number of single people. [11]

Furthermore, disagreements persist regarding the "breakingpoint" or "turning point" in the tax system: the point at which raising taxes on citizens' income will prevent

the budget from being replenished and instead raise the possibility of cutting back on the population's social payments system, as well as the opposite scenario, in which low taxes will no longer be able to support developed nations' citizens with high-quality social services.

During the time of market transition, the state of Uzbekistan's social policy was based on the following principles:

1. Economic activity freedom as the foundation for enhancing people's well-being.
2. Increasing work activity in order to break free from reliance on the government and secure one's own and family's well-being.
3. The social guarantee system, which uses public funding to provide the population with minimal standards of living that are legally institutionalized.
4. Population-specific social protection, or the focus of governmental assistance on less economically disadvantaged groups of people.
5. Income regulation.
6. Encouragement of citizen employment.
7. Reduction of the republic's demographic deficit.

According to the "Uzbek model," social stability, social peace, and well-being are guaranteed by the state, which is also the primary reformer. Although there were many different ways to provide social support for the populace, the primary ones were price subsidies for industrial items followed by the distribution of funds for focused social assistance. [12], [13]

The state used to introduce subsidized pricing for food products sold to the public, which were subsequently paid for by increasing transfers. This was how the state used to provide enormous amounts of social support. Subsidies, however, were later limited to a select range of consumer products and utilities that were used by all members of society.

This condition of events can be explained by the entry of market principles into the social sphere, where the social self-defense of physically capable individuals takes precedence over other market principles. The market law of distribution, whose fundamental idea is that the tangible commodities and services produced by society's collective labor are allocated in proportion to how well each economic organization uses its resources, grew in scope as the reforms progressed. This law forbids dependency and the consumerist understanding of economic resources. With the passage of this legislation, social protection gets a new address. Its goal is to assist the specific socioeconomic classes that are unable to provide for themselves with consumer goods out of their own free will because of their particular circumstances. [14]

The humanistic notion of providing aid to underprivileged people of society is what drives the reorientation of population protection measures, rather than the laws of market distribution. The state's social programs are used to put this idea into practice.

In the domestic scientific literature, there are usually two steps to the deployment of substantial social protection. The preceding phase, spanning from 1991 to 1994, is distinguished by the subsequent priorities: [15]

- protecting the domestic consumer market, which was still heavily reliant on imports of goods;

- bolstering household income in the face of increasing inflation and price liberalization;
- assistance for the underprivileged who were unable to adjust to the new economic climate.

Typically, the period from the end of 1994 to the present is used to define the scope of the second stage. This stage is distinguished by the gradual transition from the system of universal social protection to the creation of a system of reliable social guarantees and assistance for the most vulnerable groups. An equalizing system of social support for all population strata was eventually replaced by a diverse approach to certain socioeconomic strata and groups. The republic started implementing the so-called targeted social protection system, which is the most popular and well-received system globally. [16]

The main characteristics of this system in Uzbekistan are as follows:

- setting up legislative and organizational frameworks that encourage people to save money and invest it in various insurance funds;
- providing free social services to certain groups of citizens;
- giving priority to paying legally mandated minimum wages, pensions, benefits for socially vulnerable populations, and other benefits;
- a strong system that protects workers' social and financial interests by guaranteeing prompt payments and consistent wage indexation.

The entire social support system is becoming better, and its resources are expanding, as the economic reforms become more profound and productivity rises. The republic's shift to a focused social assistance program made it possible to avoid an unduly severe division of society into the rich and the destitute. In global practice, the income gap between the richest 10% and the poorest 10% in the best form is thought to be limited to a factor of ten. Generally speaking, it is important to highlight that the array of social policy initiatives that Uzbekistan has actually put into place enables us to declare that we have established a successful social management system. As one of the characteristics of the Uzbek model of a socially conscious market economy, it is crucial to draw attention to the expanded macroeconomic functional role of social management. [17], [18]

Studying the process of social policy formulation and evolution during the years of independence is essential when examining the contemporary model of social policy in Uzbekistan.

In the initial phase of the transition, which spanned around the second half of 1991 to July 1994, Uzbekistan implemented a liberal policy concerning employment and income generation for the populace, amidst accommodative budgetary and monetary policies. In actuality, the following steps were taken to guarantee this:

- Ensuring a high rate of employment;
- Managing the denationalization and privatization of property while defending the rights of labor unions;
- Preserving the labor relations guarantees that were previously set,
- Production-related objectives include, for example, establishing the ideal atmosphere for the expansion of small enterprises. [19]

**Regarding the distribution and redistribution of income**, some examples include:

- setting minimum wages; providing pensions, benefits, and scholarships;
- indexing household incomes to reflect inflation;
- and redistributing a portion of income to assist residents with lower incomes.

Regarding consumption, these include:

- safeguarding the domestic consumer market;
- averting a rapid decrease in the consumption of staple foods;
- increasing the production of consumer goods;
- establishing the circumstances for free exchange of goods;
- slowing the rate at which the level of consumption of health and education services

is declining. [20]

**In the social protection system:**

- making sure that the population's social protection is targeted;
- dropping many social benefits that contribute significantly and replacing them with family-focused advantages;
  - gradually cutting back on state support and incentives for high birth rates;
  - the attraction of state funding sources, sponsorship, and other charitable organizations in addition to funds for population social protection;
  - the rejection of complex and costly programs for identifying low-income families in favor of more straightforward and affordable programs for allocating governmental funding via neighborhood associations (mahallas).

Accordingly, the following key characteristics of the first phase of changes from the perspective of income policy were present:

1. Weak control over the income of the populace.
2. A sizeable portion of consumer subsidies relative to the population's overall income.
3. Creation of new in-kind revenue streams for the populace by means of the growth of individual plots owned by residents.
4. The "softness" of the policy releasing workers from failing enterprises and the insufficiency of the recently established "On Bankruptcy" Law have caused the official unemployment rate to slow down. All of this meant that the population's "losses" from price liberalization could be minimized and its real disposable income could be essentially maintained.

During the second stage of market reforms, which took place between 1994 and 1996 and featured the implementation of stricter fiscal and monetary policies, the following changes were made to income policy:

1) Price increases have resulted in a sharp decrease in both the quantity and amount of wage indexations. Wages were indexed five times in 1994, twice in 1995, and twice in 1996 if they were indexed seven times in 1993;

2) The pay of economic entity personnel were linked to the rise of production volumes (0.7% increase in the salary fund for every percent increase in production volumes) or to the decision of a special commission on monetary politics, with indexation restricted to the budgetary domain;

3) Consumer subsidies were reduced to an absolute minimum and set aside for particular.

Consequently, this strengthened the population's market behavior in terms of determining their own salaries and allowed for a decrease in inflation along with other macroeconomic stabilization measures.

The percentage of the population's monetary income structure that came from wages (from 57% to 44.2%) and other financial system receipts (from 3.3% to 1.1%), decreased between 1991 and 1995. Agricultural product sales revenue went from 9.7 percent in 1991 to 19.2 percent in 1995, while income from various types of entrepreneurship increased from 2.4 percent in 1993 to 13.4 percent in 1995 during the same time period.

Considering the intricacy of the ongoing transformation in our republic at this point in time, social priorities have been established with the goal of efficiently allocating scarce financial resources to strategically significant areas that impact social policy's long-term prospects.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The goal of Uzbekistan's economic and social reforms is to establish circumstances that allow every person living in the country, regardless of nationality, religion, or belief system, to express who they are as a person, demonstrate their abilities, and improve their lot in life.

Maintaining a robust social policy is the cornerstone of Uzbekistan's own road of revitalization and advancement. Social safety and social guarantees that the public can rely on are essential at every stage of the market transition and throughout the massive process of changing our society. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan developed a new system for social protection of the populace that takes into account the country's actual economic circumstances as well as its resources and opportunities. Every phase of social and economic reform has produced its own ideas about social policy.

Proactive social protection for the whole population was implemented throughout the early stages of the market revolution. Subsequently, there was widespread use of the consumer subsidy system and other measures to shield the domestic market from the smuggling of low-quality produced items abroad. This is how our republic was able to keep social order.

Simultaneously, these social safety nets aided in the infiltration of luxury and dependency mentality. As a result, as market relations and reforms intensified, considerable changes were made to the current social policy's priorities. Specifically, attention was given to helping low-income families and developing and executing a system for population-specific social protection. The goal of the social support system was to eradicate reliant and egalitarian mindset. Differentiating how it approaches various demographic segments is one of the new social protection system's unique features

. The implementation of a social policy like this is correlated with the expansion and stabilization of production, the strengthening of the national economy, the increase in investment activity, and the approach adopted to support small companies and private entrepreneurship. Funds from labor unions, public and charitable organizations, and foundations have begun to garner significant attention for the social support of those in need, in addition to state funding. Another factor was the development of a potent

motivational system that could provide the fullest possible activation of people's powers and skills.

Family support is the cornerstone of Uzbekistan's social policy. Taking into account the distinctive features of the national psyche and lifestyle of the people, it was established and generally supported to identify the poorest families and provide them with assistance through the mahalla committees. Our people has been using this strategy for centuries, and it guarantees the most focused allocation of financial resources meant to assist residents who are socially vulnerable.

In our nation, there is a special focus on eradicating poverty and bolstering government assistance to marginalized populations. The latter category included numerous members of average-income groups and individuals who did not belong to their wound throughout the transition period. As a result, many social assistance programs are carefully considered and developed, mainly for the elderly, the disabled, and orphans who are most vulnerable to poverty as a result of the current situation. An even stronger targeted orientation and targeting are becoming a part of social protection.

Price liberalization and the denationalization of businesses are known to have caused significant inflation at the start of the transition period, as well as an increase in part-time employees and the unemployed. The state has to provide him with more social support in order to accomplish this.

Recall that at the time, boosting aggregate demand was a key component in bringing the economy out of the recession and out of the crisis. From this vantage point, it was critical to keep people's incomes stable and their current employment. However, there was already overemployment in several economic areas during the pre-reform era. The institutional characteristics of the planned economy, the low level of technological production, the use of ineffective and low-productivity machinery, and the higher labor intensity of the products—which increased their price—were the causes of this state of affairs.

Price liberalization during the initial phase of reforms raised inflation rates, which had a detrimental effect on people's standards of life. In order to lessen this effect, in our republic's government was compelled to index social transfers in favor of the present income of the populace, particularly those with fixed salaries and jobs in budgetary areas. But since this was essentially an inflation of demand, the indexation of incomes exacerbated the situation and resisted attempts to lower it.

The real wages of employees in budgetary sectors, such as government agencies, healthcare, education, and the arts, were severely impacted by the decline in budgetary financial resources and the high rate of inflation. At that time, the pay was not high enough to keep skilled employees on staff. The final, most crucial sectors of the economy that comprise human capital have been depleted as a result of this. Over time, there's a chance that the established industries that are making the most of the country's potential will become less developed.. However, the condition of affairs has started to significantly improve in this direction as a result of the recent concerted state initiatives.

It should be highlighted that even in our republic's pre-reform era, an illogical nutritional structure was established, favoring excessive consumption of carbohydrates over foods high in protein and fat. In the former Soviet Union, Uzbekistan ranked among



the least consumers of meat and dairy products. All of this had a detrimental effect on the population's health and incidence rates. Price liberalization's quick increase in the price of staple foods could exacerbate these trends, thus the government had to take steps to protect the population's level of consumption of these essential goods.

The protection and welfare of the populace are the foundation of a robust social policy, which also serves as the impetus for the republic's growth. One of the primary tenets of Uzbekistan's leadership's policy is this notion of a market economy. Since the day of our nation's independence, deliberate steps have been made to raise the standard of living for the populace.

Strong instances of this are the annual proclamation of the year in a certain social direction and the ratification of a corresponding governmental program with comprehensive and specific measures. At every stage of market reform, social policy in Uzbekistan covers a wide range of topics, such as controlling population incomes, creating new labor relations and employment opportunities, providing social protection and assistance to specific population groups, advancing health care, physical culture and sports, and education. The republic has recently placed a greater emphasis on topics related to education reform and improvement. Uzbekistan spends roughly 10–12% of its GDP annually on education, which is nearly twice as much as the corresponding UNESCO recommendation of 6-7%. Such investments in education are necessary to maintain the state's sustained development.

The state's social policy throughout the market transition phase is predicated on two ideas: First, improving people's well-being is based on the freedom of economic activities; second, growing labor activity is a requirement for ensuring people's personal and family well-being. - focused social protection of the populace, with state assistance going only to the most vulnerable sections of society. During the country's economic transition to market relations, Uzbekistan's state social policy has focused on the following areas:

- regulating household income;
- providing social guarantees and social protection for the populace;
- resolving employment issues; closing down environmentally harmful industries;
- restructuring the nation's health, education, and cultural funding; and improving the republic's demographic situation.

Labor issues hold a distinct place among the most significant social policy issues. As it comes from the tripartite principle, the importance of labor as the foundation of society dictates the necessity of developing and implementing state policy in order to solve associated issues in collaboration with employers (entrepreneurs) and trade unions. One of the main goals of governmental labor policy is to create the economic and social framework necessary to support the incentives and justifications for highly productive work. Other objectives include:

- creating state programs to boost labor productivity and efficiency through the prudent use of labor, material, technological, and natural resources;
- enhancing labor laws and expanding state guarantees, benefits, and compensations in the field of labor and its payment;
- establishing a system for regulating rates and salaries of employees, regardless of the ownership structure.

## CONCLUSION

The expansion of the state's social cooperation in resolving labor-related issues and remuneration, as well as collective labor disputes (conflicts), with labor unions and other worker groups, entrepreneurs (employers);

- developing and putting into practice the state's employment strategy;

- projecting population growth and the formation of society's labor potential while accounting for socioeconomic and demographic variables.idea of social protection. The population's social protection in Uzbekistan The idea of "social protection of the population" has to be introduced immediately as a result of the shift to a market economy. A system of specifically targeted assurances from the state that ensures the people has normal living conditions is known as social protection of the populace.

In other words, the core of the social protection system should not be narrow assessments of the functioning of the market system, but rather the settlement of problems pertaining to real socio-economic efficiency. Simultaneously, social protection is consistently determined objectively by the needs of the world economy, the human community, and the economic relations system in which it functions.

An efficient social protection system is required in a contemporary economy, which aims to be a "economy for a person"—one that permits utilizing each person's labor potential regardless of his socioeconomic situation or the socioeconomic group to which he belongs. This is the path to realizing the full potential of people and developing "confidence in the future." If this kind of security isn't provided, using skilled labor—which ought to be able to learn new skills, retrain, and create—becomes impossible or at least very difficult. In other words, a modern economy that relies on the labor of skilled workers must have an efficient social protection system in place.

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