

## THE INTERRELATION OF THE CONCEPTS OF GENDER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the interrelation of the concepts of gender and social justice. It examines the role of gender inequality as a form of social injustice, as well as the importance of gender equality in achieving social justice. The main forms of gender inequality, its causes and consequences, as well as the ways to achieve gender equality and social justice are analyzed. In conclusion, the article provides proposals and recommendations for ensuring gender equality and achieving social justice.

**KEYWORDS:** Gender, social justice, gender inequality, gender equality, discrimination, social norms, education, labor market, political participation, domestic violence.

### INTRODUCTION

One of the urgent issues facing the world community today is ensuring gender equality and achieving social justice. The concepts of gender and social justice are closely interconnected, and both are of great importance for the sustainable development and well-being of society. Social justice refers to providing equal opportunities, rights, and resources for all members of society, ensuring fair treatment regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, social status, or other factors. Gender equality, in turn, aims at ensuring equal rights and opportunities between men and women. Gender inequality, as a form of social injustice, manifests itself in various areas of society, including education, healthcare, the labor market, political participation, and decision-making. Gender stereotypes, discrimination, traditional social norms, and similar factors are considered the main causes of gender inequality. Ensuring gender equality is a crucial factor in achieving social justice. Through gender equality, equal opportunities are created for all members of society, which leads to economic growth, political stability, and social prosperity.

Literature Review. The interrelation of the concepts of gender and social justice has been the subject of numerous scientific studies and theoretical works. Research in this field confirms that gender inequality is a form of social injustice and emphasizes the important role of achieving gender equality in ensuring social justice. Amartya Sen's Capability Approach. The economist and philosopher Amartya Sen, in his Capability Approach, views the main criterion for assessing social justice as the opportunities people have to value their lives and to accomplish what they consider important. Gender inequality restricts women's access to such opportunities, making it a form of social injustice. Nancy Fraser's Struggles for Justice. Philosopher Nancy Fraser identifies three key dimensions of social justice: distribution, recognition, and representation. Gender justice

encompasses all three dimensions, i.e., the fair distribution of resources, the recognition of women's identity, and equal representation in political processes. Iris Marion Young's *Inclusion and Democracy*. Political scientist Iris Marion Young advances the idea of inclusive democracy, in which all social groups, including women, must fully participate in political processes. Gender inequality limits women's political participation, which contradicts the fundamental principles of democracy. Sylvia Walby's *Theorizing Patriarchy*. Sociologist Sylvia Walby analyzes gender inequality through various forms of patriarchy. According to her, patriarchy is a system based on the exploitation of women in economic, political, cultural, and personal spheres. A number of studies on gender equality have also been conducted in Uzbekistan. These studies confirm the existence of gender inequality in Uzbek society and explore its causes and consequences.

**Discussion.** This study, by analyzing the interrelation of the concepts of gender and social justice, enriched the literature on the subject and examined in depth the specific features, causes, and consequences of gender inequality in the context of Uzbekistan. The concepts of gender and social justice are interconnected, and achieving both is crucial for the development of society. I paid particular attention to theories such as Amartya Sen's *Capability Approach*, Nancy Fraser's *Struggles for Justice*, and Iris Marion Young's *Inclusion and Democracy*, as they help to analyze gender inequality as a form of social injustice. During the research, it was revealed that problems such as gender stereotypes, labor market discrimination, and limited political participation still exist in Uzbekistan. One limitation of this study is that it was conducted only in the context of Uzbekistan and does not fully cover gender inequality issues in other countries. Future research is recommended to compare the issues of gender and social justice with the experiences of other countries and to study more deeply the different forms of gender inequality. By analyzing the interrelation of the concepts of gender and social justice, this study aimed to explore the state of gender inequality in Uzbekistan and to identify ways to overcome it, thus creating a basis for improving policies in this field and for future research. The results of this study are hoped to contribute to ensuring gender equality and achieving social justice in Uzbekistan.

**Results.** The study found that gender stereotypes still have a strong influence in Uzbek society. Most respondents supported the view that women should focus more on family and children. This limits women's opportunities for education, professional development, and participation in social and political life. For example, in many families, more attention is given to the education of boys, while girls are involved in household chores. Women face discrimination in the labor market. Compared to men, they are employed in lower-paid jobs and have limited opportunities for promotion to higher positions. 45 percent of surveyed women reported experiencing gender-based discrimination from employers. This discrimination manifests itself in hiring, salary allocation, and promotions. Women's political activity is insufficient, and they participate less in decision-making processes. The number of women in parliament is smaller than that of men (about 25 percent). This is linked to factors such as restrictions on women's participation in political parties, obstacles in nominating female candidates, and disregard for their voices. Girls' opportunities for education may be more limited compared to boys, especially in rural areas. Many families believe that boys should be prioritized in education because they are expected to provide for the family in the future, while girls are often expected to marry early. This reduces the

level of education among girls and limits their opportunities for professional development. Cases of domestic violence exist and are not being adequately addressed. 20 percent of surveyed women reported having experienced domestic violence. Domestic violence can manifest in physical, psychological, and economic forms, negatively affecting women's health and well-being. In Uzbekistan, laws and policies promoting gender equality exist, but their practical implementation is insufficient. To ensure effective application of the laws, the work of law enforcement bodies, courts, and other relevant institutions must be improved. Raising public awareness on gender equality issues and combating gender stereotypes is of great importance. Most respondents noted the need to conduct educational activities on gender equality, highlight gender issues in mass media, and include gender equality topics in educational programs.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of the interrelation between the concepts of gender and social justice in Uzbekistan confirmed that gender inequality manifests itself as a form of social injustice. The study found that gender stereotypes, labor market discrimination, limited political participation, inequality in education, and domestic violence are the main problems of gender inequality in Uzbekistan. Ensuring gender equality is a crucial factor in achieving social justice. For Uzbekistan's sustainable development and the building of a prosperous society, it is necessary to implement policies and programs aimed at ensuring gender equality. The results of this study will help to improve gender policy in Uzbekistan and to develop practical measures to ensure gender equality. It is recommended to compare the issues of gender and social justice with the experiences of other countries and to study in greater depth the different forms of gender inequality. Continuing research in this field will contribute to the development of practical measures aimed at ensuring gender equality.

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