
SOCIAL POLICY OF THE STATE AND FOREIGN EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT:

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INTRODUCTION. The social policy of the state is the direction of its activities to regulate the socio-economic conditions of life of society and all its population groups.

The role of the state is especially great in conditions when social formations are changing, and social problems and contradictions are becoming more acute. The most difficult and socially explosive stage is the initial stage of the long process of economic reform.

Therefore, one of the leading principles of reform in Uzbekistan has become the principle of conducting a strong social policy, notes the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoyev.

The basis of the state's social policy at the stage of transition to the market is:

freedom of economic activity as a condition for raising the standard of living of the people;

activation of labor activity of the population as a basis for ensuring their own well-being and the well-being of the family;

social protection by concentrating state support on the truly needy strata of the population;

maintenance of stable relations between social groups and strata of society.

In the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Employment of the Population", which provided a solution to the following important problems:

eliminated the state's obligation to ensure full employment of the population, i.e. eliminated the requirement for mandatory participation of citizens in labor activities;

provided for the creation of an employment service and defined its functions;

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an Employment Fund was created to finance unemployment benefits.

Education occupies an important place among the branches of the social sphere. It is aimed at improving the quality of workers, increasing education, intelligence, and the spiritual potential of society. The country has provided full access to 11-12 year education for the entire population. A large number of schools, colleges, and lyceums are built annually.

Education plays a significant role in increasing labor productivity. At the beginning of the 21st century, successful socio-economic development of society requires high-quality labor force with a high level of education and professional training.

Highly skilled labor ensures the volume of gross domestic product, growth of product quality, efficient use of resources, etc.

An important branch of the social sphere is healthcare. Effective functioning of healthcare allows to get rid of the damage that could be caused to the national economy as a result of the incapacity of workers. Expansion of the healthcare system, use of modern medical equipment and high-quality medicines, increasing the level of qualification of medical workers leads to an improvement in the quality of medical care, which allows to prevent serious diseases, as well as to reduce the number of patients. All this allows to increase labor productivity, to increase the most important macro- and microeconomic indicators.

The main characteristic features of health care in any country are the health status of the population and the factors that determine it. Culture has a great influence on the state of the spiritual potential of society. The development of culture as a branch of the national economy is characterized by such indicators as the number of professional theaters, circuses, museums, club-type cultural institutions, the number of their visits, as well as the number of public libraries, circulation of books, brochures, newspapers, etc.

As the population's income grows, the importance of tourism, recreation, physical education and sports increases. These types of economic activity affect the health level of the population, its educational and cultural level. Tourism, recreation, physical education and sports services require an appropriate material base in the form of sanatoriums, holiday homes, hotels, motels, sports facilities.

The regions of Uzbekistan have significant potential for tourism development, primarily foreign. In the Bukhara, Samarkand, Khorezm, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions there are unique cultural and historical monuments of world significance. Their potential, but according to expert estimates, is used less than 50%. The rich recreational resources of the territory for the expansion and organization of sanatorium-resort, health and tourist services are not fully utilized. Most regions of the republic have such opportunities and reserves.

Let us turn to the experience of foreign countries. The task of most social protection systems is to maintain the stability of people's incomes, provide equal access to health care

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and provide necessary social services. As an organized system, it exists in many countries of the world. In economically developed countries, social protection is the most important part of the national economy, the costs of which today make up more than a quarter of the gross national product. The most developed social security systems are in the countries of the European Union. It was in them that the first social programs appeared and developed. As the experience of Western European countries shows, the existence of a well-thought-out system of social protection covering all citizens not only leads to an improvement in their well-being, expands and strengthens the country's labor force, but also contributes to economic growth and stabilization of the political and social situation in the country. Thus, social protection has a positive impact on society, promoting social harmony and ensuring a general sense of social security among its members. The current state of the social sphere of economically developed EU countries is the result of the gradual formation of national social insurance systems. They have come a long way from their creation in the late 19th - early 20th centuries. through subsequent development and transformation into universal social security systems.

Let us consider the role of the social sphere in a mixed economy using the Swedish model of economic development as an example. In their quest for equality, the Swedish Social Democrats have actually built a welfare state. It is responsible for providing quality services to all citizens in a number of important areas: education, health care, child and elderly care, and the social sphere.

The main element of Swedish social welfare policy is social insurance. Its purpose is to provide a person with economic protection in case of illness, when receiving medical care, at the birth of a child and in old age (universal insurance), in connection with accidents and illnesses due to work-related causes (insurance against accidents at work), unemployment (unemployment insurance and assistance from the labor market in cash). At the same time, the final guarantee, regardless of the reason for applying, is considered to be a cash benefit, known as public assistance.

Swedish social policy in the field of wages is permeated with the idea of equality. The main slogan here is "equal wages for equal work." According to the Swedish model, employment is the most important priority in economic policy. The actual level of registered open unemployment in Sweden is extremely low by world standards – about 2%.

The level of education in the country is very high – 25% of the population have higher or secondary specialized education, which is significantly higher than in Germany or France. Sweden does not skimp on science, allocating 3-4% of GDP to it, which is almost twice as much as the EU average. About 30% of the population believes that public (free) healthcare works well – such a high percentage does not exist anywhere else in the world.

The right to free medical care or to pay part of the cost of treatment is guaranteed in Sweden by bodies outside the healthcare system. Each landsting (regional authority) is

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responsible for ensuring that every resident has free access to good medical care, and about 80% of the income taxes collected go to funding healthcare.

Sweden's social policy flourished for several decades, when the country took first place in the world in terms of the share of social spending in GDP. But after the crisis of the early 90s, unemployment jumped sharply and the social security system underwent changes: benefits began to be paid for fewer days of health insurance and unemployment, the size of benefits was reduced, and pensions were not indexed in full. However, the subsequent economic recovery made it possible to partially restore what was lost.

Another example is Germany. The German model of socio-economic development can be considered one of the best policies of the 20th century: already in the 1950-60s, the German experience was adopted in Japan, and today the country occupies a leading position in the world in terms of per capita income, export volume and volume of social spending.

The social task of the state was not the distribution of social benefits, but the provision of conditions for the activities of individuals capable of creating these benefits and independently taking care of themselves. L. Erhard himself believed that the state should provide social assistance in accordance with the moral principles of society, if it concerns truly needy people (disabled people, orphans, etc.), but support competition and combat parasitic sentiments. During this period, it should be noted, the values of German society remained high loyalty to the state and the desire to work for the benefit of the whole society. An extraordinary example is the history of taxation: despite the fact that by 1946 the income tax rate was 95%, it was paid in full by the overwhelming majority of the population. By the mid-1960s, the tax burden had decreased to 35-40%, and the attitude towards their payment remained the same. After the resignation of Chancellor L. Erhard, social spending no longer decreased in absolute terms, and the state took on the role of distributor of national income. The social privileges of workers were declared inviolable, and the range of social services was constantly growing regardless of the economic situation. The other side of the coin was the increase in taxes, which led to an increase in wage costs. Although, for reasons of fairness, social taxes were divided equally between employees and employers, it is obvious that the decrease in demand for labor led to an increase in the share of payments by employees. To protect against economic instability, laws on protection from dismissals and tariff autonomy were adopted. On the one hand, this led to the fact that only three major players remained in the market: the state, trade unions and employers, which weakened competition and allowed trade unions to demand higher wages, a shorter working week, severance pay (or even a ban on staff reductions). The third feature of this period can be called the desire of the state to carry out redistribution not vertically (to reduce the differentiation of society), but horizontally (within the middle class). An indirect indicator is the concentration of capital, which did not change from the 1980s to the mid-1990s (the Gini coefficient was 0.27 and 0.25, respectively). Manifestations of this policy were sales

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guarantees for coal mining companies in the 1960s, the artificial preservation of jobs in rail transport in the 1970s, the stimulation of the shipbuilding industry in the 1980s and, finally, the policy of preserving “industrial cores” in the territory of the former GDR. Not only were resources invested in clearly ineffective projects, but a chain reaction was also triggered: other industries also demanded benefits and privileges.

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