

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE

Mirzayeva Barnokhon Adkhamovna

Deputy Head of the Spiritual and Educational

Work and Personnel Support Service of the Internal Affairs Directorate of
Andijan Region for Women's Affairs, Researcher of the ASPI.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21217060>

1.4 billion women on Earth live in countries where economic violence is not legally recognized.¹ If we add the same number of men, we will be convinced that economic violence is not recognized and, consequently, not prohibited in almost half of the world. Economic violence is a form of violence used to limit or harm a person's financial independence. It includes restricting access to a person's financial resources, controlling their economic actions, or putting the individual in an economically vulnerable position. According to the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan: "economic violence - a form of violence against women in the home, at workplaces, and in other places, an action (inaction) that leads to a restriction of women's right to food, housing, and other necessary conditions for normal life and development, property rights, and the right to education and labor."²

According to the internet publication: "Amnesty International writes that Uzbekistan has become the fifth country to criminalize domestic violence as a separate crime. According to Hesa McGill, an international organization's Central Asia researcher, the government of Uzbekistan is taking an important step towards fulfilling its international human rights obligation to end gender-based violence... "Amnesty International is concerned that while physical violence is now considered a crime in Uzbekistan, economic and psychological violence will be ignored," said McGill.³ According to the World Bank: The latest report on "Women, Business and the Law" shows that in the period from October 1, 2022 to October 1, 2023, only 18 countries - less than 10 percent of those assessed - implemented legal reforms on these indicators. In total, these countries have implemented 47 reforms aimed at improving gender equality under the law. In the Europe and Central Asia region, five economies - Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, and Moldova - implemented nine reforms.⁴ In general, Uzbekistan has certain achievements in the fight against violence, which are recognized by the international community. However, it is difficult to manifest itself in the fight against such latent manifestations as economic and psychological violence. The reasons for this are discussed below.

Why does economic violence remain hidden, and are there effective ways to combat it? In what forms does economic violence manifest itself?

¹ <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2024/06/1453801> - Главный правозащитник ООН призвал положить конец «экономическому насилию» в отношении женщин и девочек. Мурожаат этилган сана 28.06.2024 й.

² Қонун ҳужжатлари маълумотлари миллий базаси, 03.09.2019 й., 03/19/561/3680-сон; Қонунчилик маълумотлари миллий базаси, 21.04.2021 й., 03/21/683/0375-сон, 10.12.2021 й., 03/21/736/1144-сон; 12.04.2023 й., 03/23/829/0208-сон; 19.10.2024 й., 03/24/977/0831-сон

³ <https://www.qalampir.uz/news/-2375-80686> - Оиладаги зўравонлик: Ўзбекистон дунёда бешинчи бўлди. Мурожаат этилган сана: 11.04.2023 й.

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/03/04/uzbekistan-reaches-the-ranks-of-top-five-improvers-in-the-world-banks-women-business-and-the-law-2024-study> - Uzbekistan Reaches the Ranks of Top Five Improvers in the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2024 Study Мурожаат этилган сана: 04.03.2024 й.

First, in economic violence, the perpetrator controls the victim's financial actions. One of the important directions in this regard is to make efforts to ensure that the victim receives education independently and, as a result, does not have the opportunity to acquire a profession and earn income. Based on the fact that the spouse should have a low social status and under the guise of national and religious views, it prevents him from acquiring knowledge and skills. In some cases, girls studying in higher educational institutions are forced to leave their studies after marriage at the insistence of their spouses and relatives. Such cases can be explained and justified in various ways, but in international legal documents adopted by the United Nations, such cases are defined as economic violence, and states are tasked with strengthening legislation in this regard.

Secondly, the seizure of the victim's wages, reducing their financial capabilities. For example, one of the family members restricts the use of a plastic card - the salary earned by the husband, mother-in-law, and father-in-law of the daughter-in-law. Under the guise of family traditions and values, he manages these funds. This is considered the most vivid manifestation of economic violence. Although no large-scale sociological surveys have been conducted in this area, based on the level of cultural development in the regions, according to our observations, in some cases, up to 100% of young brides' wages are managed by their spouses or their relatives.

Thirdly, it manifests itself in the artificial reduction of women's wages in economic relations. Why in Uzbekistan, which is based on market relations, although gender equality is established at the constitutional level, in practice, women receive a significant difference in lower wages. Below we present the World Bank's analysis on this matter.⁵

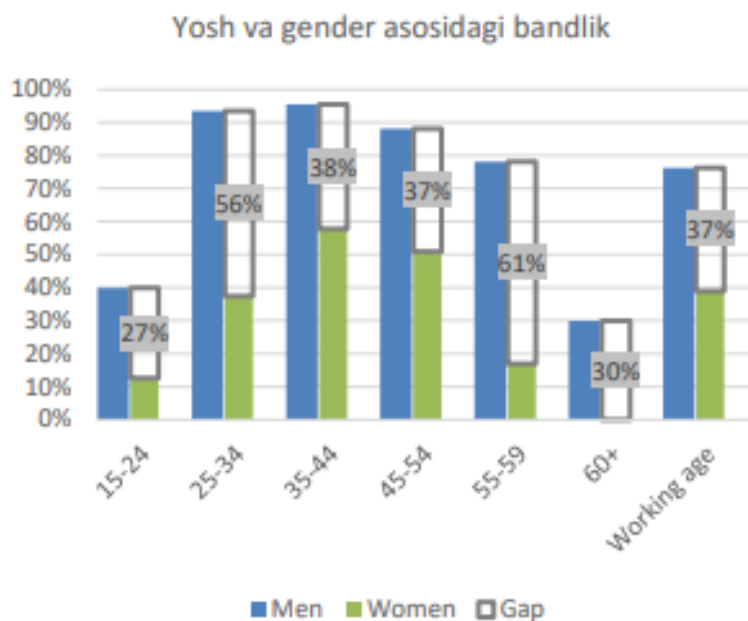


Figure 2.3. Age and gender employment.

⁵ O'zbekistonda gender tengligi tahlili. Xalqaro Tiklanish va Taraqqiyot Banki / Jahon Banki. Vashingtonda chop etilgan va ishlab chiqarilgan. Ilk chop etilgan: May 2024. – B. 7.

As can be seen, in practice, women give way to men in terms of employment at the age of 25-34 with a difference of 56 percent. This is related to the reproductive function of women, and at this age, women are engaged in pregnancy, childbirth, and upbringing. Let's look at how the World Bank analyzed these indicators: "About 30 percent of World Bank respondents believe that women should earn less than their husbands to maintain peace in the family, and about 75 percent believe that women should work less than men to focus on household chores. These relationships put a double burden on women, as they typically take on almost all the responsibilities of caring for children, the elderly, and other household members in need of support at home, along with earning money. Men dedicate an average of only 2.15 hours a day to housework, while for women this figure is 5.27 hours. In 2022, about 75 percent of non-working, working-age women reported not working due to housework and care responsibilities, and women were 30 times more likely than men to not work for these reasons. A strong tendency for disproportionate distribution of responsibilities, especially among young women and those with young children and/or elderly family members, limits career advancement and income potential.⁶ Without doubting the reliability of the World Bank's statistical data, it is impossible to agree with some of its conclusions. A woman's natural function includes giving birth to and raising a child. In this process, the time allocated to household chores naturally increases. The World Bank draws this conclusion based on the principle of mutual competition in the labor market - that is, the more labor, the cheaper. However, the second side of the issue is that if women are engaged only in services and production without conceiving, having children, and raising them, then in the next 15-20 years there will be a huge shortage in the labor market. For example, birth rates have decreased in countries such as Russia, Germany, Spain, and Italy.⁷ Scientists believe that if depopulation continues, it is impossible to increase GDP.⁸ Therefore, any gender, feminist policy and the process of combating violence should not serve to create an inevitable crisis. Because the issue of maintaining a stable population or ensuring its growth is a very acute problem, some alarming figures on this issue have also been published in Uzbekistan. In particular, in January-July 2023, natural growth amounted to 768 thousand people, and in the corresponding period of 2024, it amounted to 761.8 thousand people.⁹ Of course, this figure is not a large number. However, if we listen to social processes and public opinion, we can see that there is economic and social potential for increasing this number. Therefore, we must not give impetus to the depopulation process under the pretext of economic violence. Because when Uzbekistan faces demographic problems, unlike developed countries, there's no attraction for young migrants to come and participate in solving problems.

Adabiyotlar, References, Литературы:

1. <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2024/06/1453801> - Главный правозащитник ООН призвал положить конец «экономическому насилию» в отношении женщин и девочек.

⁶ Ўша манба. – Б. 7.

⁷ Перевадинцев В. Демографическое настоящее и будущее России // Вопросы экономики. 2002, № 4. – С. 152.

⁸ Jacobs, Andrew James. The world's cities : contrasting regional, national, and global perspectives. New York: 2013, Routledge. p. 355.

⁹ O'zbekiston Respublikasining demografik holati. O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi statistika agentligi. https://stat.uz/img/demografiya-press-reliz-22_07_2024-uzb- p11729.pdf Мурожаат этилган сана. 15.08.2024 й.

Мурожаат этилган сана 28.06.2024 й.

2. Қонун ҳужжатлари маълумотлари миллий базаси, 03.09.2019 й., 03/19/561/3680-сон; Қонунчилик маълумотлари миллий базаси, 21.04.2021 й., 03/21/683/0375-сон, 10.12.2021 й., 03/21/736/1144-сон; 12.04.2023 й., 03/23/829/0208-сон; 19.10.2024 й., 03/24/977/0831-сон
3. <https://www.qalampir.uz/news/-2375-80686> - Оиладаги зўравонлик: Ўзбекистон дунёда бешинчи бўлди. Мурожаат этилган сана: 11.04.2023 й.
4. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/03/04/uzbekistan-reaches-the-ranks-of-top-five-improvers-in-the-world-banks-women-business-and-the-law-2024-study> - Uzbekistan Reaches the Ranks of Top Five Improvers in the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2024 Study Мурожаат этилган сана: 04.03.2024 й.
5. О'zbekistonda gender tengligi tahlili. Xalqaro Tiklanish va Taraqqiyot Banki / Jahon Banki. Vashingtonda chop etilgan va ishlab chiqarilgan. Ilk chop etilgan: May 2024. – Б. 7.
6. Ўша манба. – Б. 7.
7. Перевединцев В. Демографическое настоящее и будущее России // Вопросы экономики. 2002, № 4. – С. 152.
8. Jacobs, Andrew James. The world's cities : contrasting regional, national, and global perspectives. New York: 2013, Routledge. p. 355.
9. О'zbekiston Respublikasining demografik holati. О'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi statistika agentligi. https://stat.uz/img/demografiya-press-reliz-22_07_2024-uzb-p11729.pdf Мурожаат этилган сана. 15.08.2024 й.