Social Factors in The Prevention of Early Marriage and Premature Childbirth in Uzbek Families (On the Example of The Fergana Valley)

MANZURAKHON MIRZAJANOVA BALTABAeva
Assistant professor, Phd in history of Uzbekistan, National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek
Email: boltaboyeva68@mail.ru

Abstract: The article is based on a study of the social situation, the results of the practical work of civil society organizations on the social protection of adolescent girls who marry early in Uzbek families and affected by the negative consequences of early childbirth were analyzed. There is also new methods for solving these problems by conducting sociological surveys among mothers of adolescent, elder and olders on the problem of changing attitudes towards early life and early childbirth in Uzbek families, and development of a methodological guide based on the analytical results, organizing roundtables on "How to radically change the worldview of mothers and mothers-in-law in the preparation of girls for safe childbirth in Uzbek families?".

Keywords: early marriage, marital relations, childbirth age, early childbirth, reproductive health, family problems, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, happy family, divorce, disability, disabled children.

INTRODUCTION
By the second half of the twentieth century, as a result of changes in the world community, the human factor has become increasingly important in the process of changing social attitudes, and attitudes towards women have changed radically. The international instruments adopted by the United Nations set out the tasks of improving the economic and political status of women, raising their professional literacy, protecting their health, ensuring all forms of equality, and, this, in turn, led to the need for special research to develop modern mechanisms of social protection of women.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS
In many universities and research centers around the world, research has begun on women's issues: violence in public and private life, discrimination, solving reproductive and family rights. For example, social features of providing gender equality among women are performed. In this area, support for gender research projects, the development of ethical theory, research in areas with special emphasis on the prospects of social policy through scientists, non-governmental organizations and the media.

Today in our country it is important to bring up girls, who are the successors of the nation, on the basis of all-round maturity, health, high morals, education, national values. It should be noted that the fate of the girl, her future depends on the future of the family, nation, country, and this task should be performed on the basis of cooperation between the state and the general public.

A number of scholars, including Ubaidullaeva R.A., Kholmatova M.H., Murtazaeva R.H., Safaeva S.H., Karimova M.S., Matkarimova G.A., Khanaeva Sh.H., Davirova G., Ganieva G.Zh., Bakieva M.K., Hasanova N.M., Juraeva N.D have studied the universal and national aspects of women's issues, new approaches and views on the protection of their rights.

Today, scientific research is being conducted around the world on the basis of a completely new approach to women's issues. In particular, European researchers Krolokke, Charlotte; Anne Scott Sorensen., Klammer, U., Walter. K. Allmendinger, J. and other foreign researchers are successfully working to find practical and theoretical solutions to the problems that arising in women's lives. In their research, they have studied the trends in the tensions between the two poles of Western society, "Family" and "Professional Activity", based on public opinion polls, they determined that women and men are paying the same attention to family and professional activity.

The above research shows that women play an important role in the spiritual and moral development of the family and society through their spirituality, morals, education, profession.

The emphasis of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev: "Attention to women should always be at the center of all our efforts, it should be the duty of all of us" reveals the essence of the ongoing reforms in the field of social protection of women in our country. A girl is a mother to the nation and a refuge...
for generations. Mother’s upbringing is the upbringing of the nation. It determines the future of the nation. One of the important tasks today is to positively address the issue of social and spiritual development of future mothers, to expand the experience that can be learned in this area. Every young man and woman entering marriage should first and foremost think about the family in all its aspects, that is, its physiological and spiritual health, readiness, readiness of the family to become mothers and fathers in the future, to raise children. The reason is that it is a fact of life that only a healthy generation can build the foundation of a great state. For this reason, the republic pays great attention to the upbringing of a spiritually mature and physically healthy generation.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that “The family is the fundamental unit of society and has the right to protection by society and the state. It is stated that marriage is based on the voluntary and equal rights of the parties. The age of marriage is 17 for girls and 18 for boys[1]. However, it should be borne in mind that the physical and mental preparation of each young man and woman for the family is different. Today, in some families a girl marries at the age of 16-17. Well, a girl of this age, first of all, develops a character of spirituality, attitude to work, to the people around her, and the ability to analyze reality. Of course, a teenage girl cannot be expected to have a a duty of a family, a mother-in-law, a father-in-law. Second, a girl is burdened with hard work like a mother. It is not because a healthy mother gives birth to a healthy child. For a girl, getting married at the age of 21-22 is suitable, besides its natural biological features, she also meets the requirements of spiritual and cultural development. The future mother will also have a professional culture. It is the duty of parents, the state and the wider community to bring up a girl to be intelligent, enterprising, and to have good manners and bright thinking. Only then will there be more healthy families, more strong families, and more prosperous society.

During the years of independence, Uzbekistan has implemented targeted national programs on women, mainly on the prevention of early marriage, the elimination of violence against women in the family, legal base was created to the protection of motherhood and childhood, approving mother and child, special attention was paid to providing them with targeted assistance. In particular, the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Family Code, the Labor Code, the Law of May 3, 1993 “On labor protection”, Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to increase the role of women in the state and social construction of the Republic of Uzbekistan” of March 2, 1995. Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to increase the role of women in the family, state and society, to improve the system of protection of their legal, social, economic and spiritual interests”, articles 224-237 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which came into force in April 1996, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of January 27, 1998 “On the state program of measures to ensure the interests of the family in 1998”, Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to strengthen the social protection of women" of March 17, 1999, Resolution No. 117 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On preferential taxation of income of women working in extremely hazardous and difficult working conditions", the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan Resolution No. 171 “On Approval of Normative Documents Necessary for the Implementation of the Family Code”, Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Additional Privileges for Women” of April 14, 1999, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 212 of May 4, 1999 "On measures to promote the production and sale of goods for children and women's hygiene", Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 10, 1999 "On support of proposals for the establishment of the State Prize" Zulfiya "(in the field of literature, culture, art, science, education); Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Additional Measures to Strengthen the Health of Women and the Generation" of January 25, 2002, No. 32, Resolution No. 242 of July 5, 2002 "On measures to promote medical culture in the family, strengthening women's health, the birth of a healthy generation and the implementation of priority areas for its upbringing”, Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Additional Measures to Support the Activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan”, Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 30, 2004 "On the Program of measures to ensure the implementation of the Decree No. PF-3434: On Additional Measures to Support the Activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan", Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to protect the health of mothers and children, the formation of a healthy generation", “About the Program of measures for further strengthening and increase of efficiency of work on strengthening of reproductive health of the population, healthy birth, upbringing of a physically and spiritually mature generation for 2009-2013 ”, Decree No. PF-5325 "On measures to support women and radically improve their activities in the field of strengthening family institution ".

In the years of independence, the country has a number of serious social problems with women related to the cotton monopoly inherited from the former Soviet Union. Among them the problem of early marriage and early childbirth of girls belonging to Uzbek families led to suicide of women, which is a serious problem and it increased among rural women. In the years of independence, more than 90 percent of women in Uzbekistan were anaemia, ranking second only to Tajikistan in the former Soviet Union in terms of maternal and infant mortality [2].
During the years of independence, as a result of measures taken to address the problem of women in the country, from 1991 to 2017, the overall mortality rate decreased by 20%, maternal and infant mortality by 3.1 times. Life expectancy increased by 4.6 years compared to 1995 and in 2017 was 73.7 years [3]. Nevertheless, it is a pity that this serious problem still exists in the country. According to statistics, more than half a million women commit suicide in Uzbekistan every year[4]. As noted above, the social problems in preventing early marriage and premature childbirth in Uzbek families are seen by the large number of family divorces in the cities of Andijan and Namangan in the Fergana Valley, where the majority of the population lives.

Analysis of the negative consequences of this problem, which is the cause of family problems showed that conversations in the "People's Reception" in the "2017 - the Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests," methods did not yield the expected results.

The problem of early marriage and prevention of premature birth in Uzbek families also affects the socio-economic status of the family. Because in 2017-2020, an effective system of cooperation based on the principle of "neighborhood - sector - People's Reception - neighborhood" has been introduced to identify and solve the problems of the population, to ensure a reliable "bridge" between the local people and the state. However, the fact that citizens' assemblies carry out tasks that are not within their power, the lack of a comprehensive system of assistance to families, women and the elderly, the ineffectiveness of the measures taken, and the lack of social and social implications for society affected negatively on providing priority of law. In particular, the consequences of early marriages and premature births, which are the cause of family problems, are leading to the deterioration of socio-economic relations in the family.


Many of the guidelines, orders and laws and decisions adopted, in particular the draft law adopted on August 20, 2018, provide for the elimination of the problem of changing attitudes towards early marriage and premature birth in Uzbek families. Adoption of this bill will give women the right to use the property of the household in which they live in the event of divorce, as well as the right to move their children into the house, and will prevent a divorce. However, given that the fact that this issue is important for many members of our society, for this reason, it is important not to make hasty decisions, it should be studied and discussed deeply.

The rights and freedoms of children are guaranteed by several laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan. These include the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law on Guarantees of the Rights of the Child, the Family Code, the Civil Code, and other normative legal acts. However, no matter how strong the legal framework, the reality is that there are many problems.

According to the data, in the middle of 2017, the courts received 47.4 thousand applications for non-compliance with alimony, and in the first quarter of 2018 - 11.8 thousand. As of June 1, 2018, the state executors have 245.4 thousand alimony enforcement documents, of which 60 thousand (24%) are for recovery [5]. In 2017, 3,700 alimony debtors were prosecuted by criminal courts. More than 2,300 people who have not yet paid alimony are wanted. It was found that 180,000 indebted parents could not pay alimony due to the fact that their parents did not have a regular source of income[6].

These issues are becoming one of the most pressing issues in our society. This is due to the fact that family issues and the causes of divorces are not yet analyzed in depth. The scale and consequences of the problem are not being studied in detail. At the same time, the situation after the ruling, that is, its consequences, as well as the damage it causes, must be analyzed on a deep, scientific basis. However, this does not solve the problem. In this case, it is planned to develop proposals and recommendations that will serve to solve these problems. The project also talks about ensuring the strength of families, improving the family environment and upbringing.

As a negative consequence of early life and premature birth, social problems in families have become the most pressing problem not only in Uzbekistan, but also in many countries around the world. Millions of girls around the world are married off before they reach adulthood. In some cases, there are girls who oppose this family tradition. Although underage marriages are illegal in many countries, UNICEF estimates that 10 million girls under the age of 18 are married worldwide each year. Desmond Tutu, a South African priest, for example, draws on his experience with a global campaign called “Girls Are Not Brides,” in which he emphasizes that early marriage destroy millions of girls’ childhood, their rights, and their values[7].

India and Bangladesh have the highest rates of marriage among young girls. In particular, 40% of child marriages worldwide are in India. In India, early marriages of girls are illegal but they don’t follow it. Although they are fined 100,000 rupees ($ 2,000) and sentenced to two years in prison to prevent the incident, they marry their girls at a very young age. At a time when girls are being married off at a very young age, grooms are not so big. Sometimes, although the couple is the same age, they begin to live together as a couple after reaching the age of 15 or 16 [8].
According to local NGOs, the practice of child marriage in remote villages is supported by the whole community. On very rare occasions, someone in a police uniform will come and try to stop it. Anyway, young children's marriages limit their ability to find their place in life.

According to the International Center for Women's Research, in some states in India, most girls under the age of 18 who are married are beaten or threatened by their spouses. The number of girls sentenced to such a life was twice as high as those who later married [9].

The biggest problem for early marriages is deprivation of education, one of the members of NGOs Shiv Shiksha Samiti prevent girls’ early marriage by going to the girls’ houses to persuade parents to go to school, the presence of a free secondary school in the village also plays a key role. Similarly, in Bangladesh, where South Asia ranks fourth in the world in terms of underage marriages, children are more likely to marry at an early age, even though immature marriage is illegal in the country. Of course, this is frightening in a country where a large part of the population lives in poverty, "said Farah Kabir, head of Akshin Eid in Bangladesh[10]. Girls are usually married men who are able to support a family, so the solution for Bangladeshi girls is to gain economic independence by working in the country's clothing industry and to reject the demand for early marriage.

In Uzbekistan, the number of girls getting married each year is "growing younger" and conversations are made for decreasing the effect of the notion of "old girl" is widespread in Uzbek society. Today is the time to pay more attention to the legal aspects of this deepening problem. In particular, it is necessary to increase the parental responsibility of young people who want to get married to their children. To do this, it must be scientifically substantiated that the most important document, the marriage contract, should include conditions that specify their liability as a result of a possible divorce.

Also, the fact that the father and mother are equally responsible for the payment of alimony to minors, of course, serves to reduce the number of divorces and provide social protection for orphans. In other words, it is useful to open a special bank account for child support and to establish an operation that allows the child to spend alimony only for his own needs. It is also important to discuss in detail the economic situation of divorced families, child support, the essence of the norms established by our current legislation in this regard, a comprehensive analysis of law enforcement operations.

The Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis has previously proposed amendments to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Enforcement of Judicial and Other Bodies' Documents" [10]. In particular, it was noted that it is expedient to establish a fund to support minors entitled to alimony. In addition, it was noted that the funds paid by the fund can be forcibly recovered from the debtor, creating an effective mechanism in this direction. For example, based on the experience of a number of foreign countries, a proposal has been put forward to introduce a process of temporary deprivation of debtors of the right to drive vehicles. There is a scientific basis for these issues.

Within the framework of state grants, measures will be taken to promote healthy lifestyles in society, to improve the medical culture of girls in the field of anemia and hygiene, to ensure the employment of people with disabilities, and events to prevent early marriages.

Today, the country pays special attention to preparing young people for independent living, strengthening their responsibility to the family and society, improving the medical culture of the population. Practical measures on medical examination of young men and women on the eve of marriage, providing them with the necessary psychological, legal and social assistance, the allocation of preferential loans for young families are a vivid evidence of this. In Fergana region, some work is being done in this direction. In cooperation with the regional women's committee, the health department and other organizations, roundtables and meetings on such topics as "Healthy family", "Healthy life", "Reproductive health", "Child care" are organized in the regions. "Fundamentals of a Healthy Generation" and "Health Lessons" are taught to secondary school students. Vocational colleges have introduced classes on "Reproductive Health and Forming a Healthy Family", "Family and Marriage", "Healthy Lifestyle and Family". The "Family university" classes organized in the city and district civil registry offices also play an important role in the formation of a healthy family. In these classes, doctors, lawyers, members of women's committees, activists of the regional branch of the Republican Institute of Health and Medical Statistics give information about the need for pre-marital medical examinations for young people, early marriage and intermarriage, health of family.

Specific measures in this direction are being implemented in Toshloq district of Fergana region. Consistent work is being done by the mahallas with the support of partner organizations in the field of socio-economic support of families, the formation of a healthy spiritual environment, the implementation of the concept of family - school - mahalla in the upbringing of children. In order to promote a healthy lifestyle in families, sports competitions such as "Future of our football", "Wrestlers of our neighborhood", competitions like "Exemplary family"; "Learning the history of the neighborhood" were organized. All the virtues in a person are formed in the family environment. Therefore, in Toshloq district of Fergana region, serious attention is paid to the preparation of young people for marriage, the formation of a healthy lifestyle, the strengthening of awareness among students about the negative consequences of early marriage. The School of Young Family Builders
operated regularly in five colleges in the district, while more than 3,000 third-year college students took part in the school. It was noted that the participation of experienced doctors, psychologists and members of women's committees in the training was fruitful.

Protecting women's health, creating a healthy environment in society, and promoting reproductive health in the family and society, upbringing of healthy and knowledgeable generation are among the priorities of the state programs for the elimination of problems related to early life and early childbirth, as well as family separations. The country pays special attention to the protection of maternal and child health and the provision of modern medical services. In this regard, it is important to increase the medical culture among the population, to further strengthen the work in the field of sanitation and hygiene, to take care of pregnant women, to raise young mothers and children to the required level, to improve their diet, quality and caloric intake.

Meetings, roundtables, open meetings promoting healthy lifestyles are held in mahallas, universities, colleges and lyceums, schools with the participation of qualified medical professionals. Protecting women's reproductive health and building a healthy family, preparing teenage girls for family life, the negative consequences of in-law marriage, congenital diseases, and the importance of premarital health care. At the heart of these efforts we can see the emphasis on the health of expectant mothers.

From time immemorial, our people have paid special attention to the upbringing of girls. Even today, it is considered an important task to bring up girls to be mature, healthy and mature in all respects. For this reason, the development of sports for children and adolescents, especially in rural areas, is of great importance. Reproductive health means controlling when and under what conditions a woman becomes a mother and creating the right conditions for the health of both the mother and the unborn child. Such issues have been studied by medical researchers. According to them, at the age of 16-18, a woman's body is not yet fully formed to have a healthy child. The mother's body expends a lot of energy in the processes associated with pregnancy and childbirth. It will take at least 3-4 years for a woman's body to recover. On the one hand, this ensures that the baby grows to satiety in the mother's milk, and on the other hand, the mother avoids the next pregnancy.

Not only should women maintain their health during pregnancy, but parents should also pay close attention to the healthy growth of adolescent girls from an early age. The best age for women to have children is 20-30 years old. If the pregnant is younger than 20 years, then up to 30% of the fetus is underdeveloped, the baby is underweight, the number of deaths at birth doubles, and the number of deaths among young mothers triples [12]. Young mothers and children who die early as a result of early birth are dying at the same time.

The divorces in 2020 were recorded less than every year. In particular, 20,952 families on the verge of divorce were reconciled, and 12,851 marriages were legalized. Most importantly, the number of family divorces decreased from 31,389 in 2019 to 28,232, or 3,157[13].

As a result of systematic work carried out by the members of the Working Group initiated by the Ministry, a total of 15,360 cases of unrest in various families were eliminated. In particular, in 2020, 19948 disputes, 13 early marriages, 144 cases of early childbirth were identified in the country, and these families have various social problems and insecurities. [14] These social problems, especially the economic disadvantages of single-parent families as a result of divorce, the spiritual condition of single mothers raising children with disabilities, and the problem of providing them with housing, are not diminishing. The solution to such social problems is the need to take a different approach to changing the worldview of mothers who made their daughter to marry and mothers-in-law who are torturing brides experiencing premature births.

Ensuring gender equality, eliminating gender-based discrimination, as well as all forms of oppression and violence against women, is a priority of our state policy. Because the real development of society and the state is carried out on the condition of protecting and respecting the rights and freedoms of every citizen, regardless of gender, race, nationality and other characteristics. In particular, in line with the priorities of the Comprehensive Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, on February 2, 2018, "On measures radically improve the activities in the field of supporting Women and strengthening the Family Institute” has played an important role in defining the tasks aimed at overcoming the problems associated with early marriage and early childbirth, as well as family separations [15].

Article 9 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" (O’RQ-562, 02.09.2019) equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the field of state policy which the main directions are the formation and improvement of the regulatory framework in the field, the development and implementation of state programs, national action plans and strategies, the formation of a culture of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, the development of society and the state, ensuring equal participation, equal rights and opportunities for men and women in the joint performance of labor and family responsibilities, social protection and support of the family, childhood, responsible motherhood and fatherhood, motherhood and fatherhood. define the responsibilities of protecting society was given [16]. In carrying out these tasks, the development and implementation of state programs, national action plans and strategies in this area will involve citizens' self-government bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society organizations. To promote effective cooperation at the national, regional and international
levels in order to finance measures from the state budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other sources not prohibited by law, as well as to achieve equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

CONCLUSION
The Uzbek people also have a long history and rich cultural heritage, we weren’t existed yesterday, our nation is living here from ancient times[17]. It is based on its own national values and oriental norms in family relations. "Understanding national identity is an event that is directly related to human life and destiny." [18] Awareness of national identity begins with the family, the family is a place that nurtures the perfect people who are the successors of society. Thus, efforts to prevent and eliminate the problems of early marriage and childbirth in Uzbek families are a key factor in ensuring the future of the nation.

REFERENCES