

## ISSUES OF WOMEN'S LABOR AND RESTORATION OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND AFTER IT

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### Abstract

This article covers the processes of restoring the national economy in Uzbekistan in the years after World War II. After the war, due to the shortage of labor resources, the involvement of women and youth as the main force in the economy, their increase in social status, and their role in demographic policy are analyzed. Also, the measures taken by the state to expand production, improve material and living conditions, and train personnel are considered. The article highlights the socio-economic significance of this period based on statistical data and historical sources. The results of the study serve as an important scientific source in studying the post-war period.

**Keywords:** World War II, Uzbek SSR, restoration of the national economy, women's labor, labor resources, demographic policy, state measures, material and living conditions, construction of communism, historical sources.

World War II not only claimed the lives of millions of people, but also dealt a powerful blow to the economic, social and cultural development of countries around the world. In the post-war years, the Uzbek SSR also actively participated in the process of restoring and developing the national economy on an all-Union scale. In particular, due to the shortage of labor, women's labor was involved as the main supporting force in all sectors. Their work in many areas, work in leadership positions, as well as attention to increasing the population by encouraging mothers with many children became one of the important directions of state policy. During this period, a number of measures were implemented, such as the restoration of production, improvement of material and living conditions, education of young people and training of personnel.

After World War II, the number of able-bodied men in the country decreased. Therefore, women's labor was widely used to restore and develop the country's national economy[1]. Women's labor was also relied on in the most difficult sectors of the national economy.

During the war years and in the post-war period, women were recognized as the main force of labor collectives. In 1943, more than 6,800 women worked permanently on collective farms in the region. Since 1946, maternity leave for women has been established by law, and in the

city of Karshi, special medical services for mothers and "mother and child departments" have been established[2].

According to official data on labor resources, in 1946 the available labor force was only 50-60 percent of the total need. Agriculture was deprived of technical support, and the machinery sent to the front was replaced by manual labor and horses. In such conditions, a number of measures were taken by the state to restore production: improving the material and living conditions of workers and engineering and technical personnel, forming a director's fund and directing it to housing construction, increasing wages and introducing special benefits.

Also, effective measures were improving the material and living conditions of workers and engineering and technical personnel, forming a director's fund and directing it to housing construction, expanding production, increasing the wages of low- and medium-paid employees, and introducing benefits for workers in the mining, metallurgical and chemical industries. At the same time, mass training of young workers and organized recruitment of workers through the Ministry of Labor Resources were launched.[3] For example, by the end of the war, 438 women were working as collective farm chairmen, 2,937 as foremen, and 434 as farm managers in Uzbekistan.[4]

Based on the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR No. 854 of April 14, 1953, and the Resolution of the Ministry of Light Industry and Food of the Uzbek SSR No. 270 of July 9, 1953 "On additional measures to attract Uzbek women to production", Uzbek women were more widely involved in industrial production. These statistical figures are official data, and in reality these percentages were even higher. In these years, a number of awards were established in order to increase the population and the number of births. By decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Order of "Heroic Mother" was introduced for mothers who gave birth to and raised 10 or more children. Also, by this decree, mothers who gave birth to five to nine children were awarded the three-degree medal "Glory of Motherhood". Mothers with such titles were awarded a cash prize of more than 90 rubles[5]. Thus, the main directions in the post-war period of economic recovery were the expansion of the means of production, the effective use of labor resources, the creation of jobs for the population, the improvement of working conditions, and the increase in the level of education. The most important factor in this process was the state's redirection of large capital investments towards recovery. In subsequent years, the path of building communism was chosen, and in the late 1950s and early 1960s of the 20th century, Khrushchev's policy aimed at finding new means of stimulating labor, relying on the enthusiasm of the people, strengthening democratization processes, and transitioning from state rule to collective self-government[6]. The economic policy of the party and the state was aimed at the efficient use of labor resources. In this process, methods such as the mobilization of youth through Komsomol and party organizations, the organization of socialist competitions, and the involvement of convicts and

prisoners of war in labor were widely used[7]. Reparations received from Germany (\$ 4.3 billion), the labor of GULAG prisoners and prisoners of war also played an important role in this process.

Thus, although the process of restoring the national economy in Uzbekistan in the post-war years was complex and arduous, significant results were achieved in a short time. The shortage of labor resources was compensated mainly by women and young people, industry and agriculture gradually began to develop. The role of women in social work increased, and their activities in production were strengthened by legal foundations. At the same time, a demographic policy was pursued by encouraging mothers with many children. Large capital investments directed by the state, improving material and living conditions, attention to the social protection and education system played a decisive role in the restoration of the national economy. This process served as the basis for political and economic reforms related to the ideas of building communism in the country in subsequent years.

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