

THE ROLE OF A COUNTRY'S ECONOMY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL SPHERE

Musurmonqulov Muhammad

Researcher, Institute for Social and Spiritual Studies
under the Republican Center for Spirituality and Enlightenment

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

investor.0523@gmail.com

Annotation:

The development of the social sphere is one of the key indicators of a country's progress. The advancement of sectors such as education, healthcare, culture, and social protection not only improves the quality of life of the population but also strengthens the intellectual and spiritual potential of the nation. From this point of view, the development of the social sphere is directly linked to the state of the national economy. Without a strong economic base, it is difficult to implement consistent reforms in the social field.

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Global experience shows that in developed countries, economic growth is accompanied by significant progress in the social sphere. For instance, Scandinavian countries and South Korea have successfully built robust social infrastructures on the basis of economic advancement. This clearly demonstrates the close interdependence between economic and social development.

One of the most important outcomes of economic growth is the increase in state budget revenues. The expansion of production, the establishment of new enterprises, and the broadening of the tax base all contribute to higher budget inflows. Consequently, the state gains greater capacity to allocate funds to social sectors such as education, healthcare, social protection, culture, and sports. Thus, economic progress provides the essential financial resources necessary for the development of the social sphere.

It can be observed from the example of Uzbekistan that between **2017 and 2024**, the amount of funds allocated to the education system increased by **2.5 times**. These investments enabled the construction of new schools and preschool institutions, the capital renovation of existing ones, and the introduction of modern information and communication technologies into the educational process.

Funding for the healthcare system has also grown significantly. In particular, while its share in GDP was **3.1 percent in 2017**, by **2024** this figure reached **5 percent**. This increase made it

possible to build new hospitals, establish modern family clinics in rural areas, and introduce high-tech medical services.

These indicators confirm that **economic growth serves as a fundamental factor** in ensuring the financial sustainability of the social sphere. A stable and growing economy expands the capacity of the state budget, creating opportunities to increase investments in social sectors and improve the population's quality of life.

The stable development of the economy also contributes to the **creation of new jobs** in the labor market. As employment levels rise, the social protection of the population strengthens, since a stable source of income for the working population is an essential condition for achieving economic equality. The creation of new jobs leads to an increase in citizens' incomes, which directly impacts their quality of life and overall well-being.

As real incomes grow, citizens gain greater opportunities to finance their own education — such as pursuing additional training, learning foreign languages, and attending professional development courses. They also become able to access higher-quality healthcare services, purchase modern medicines, and utilize preventive medical care. This, in turn, plays an important role in shaping a **healthy lifestyle** among the population.

Moreover, higher incomes stimulate **active participation in cultural life**. Citizens increasingly attend theaters, cinemas, sports, and other cultural events, thereby enriching their spiritual and cultural outlook. At the same time, high employment levels enhance civic engagement and contribute to **social stability** within society.

Referring to **international experience**, the **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** reports that sustainable economic growth and job creation directly improve key indicators of human development — such as life expectancy, education level, and living standards. Therefore, economic growth not only increases production volumes but also serves as a **strategic driver of social well-being**.

In summary, **economic progress strengthens social welfare** through employment creation and income growth. As a result, stability in society is consolidated, and favorable conditions for social development are established.

In the **21st century**, the development of the social sphere is no longer based on a traditional economic model but rather on the **principles of an innovative economy**. The key features of this model include the use of **digital technologies, artificial intelligence, automation systems, and environmentally sustainable approaches** to create new forms of services.

Firstly, **digital technologies significantly increase the efficiency and transparency** of social services. Through e-government systems, the interaction between state bodies and citizens has become much simpler. For example, in Uzbekistan, the “**my.gov.uz**” portal allows citizens to obtain various documents online, pay taxes, and apply for social benefits. This helps reduce

corruption risks and saves citizens' time and resources, thus promoting **good governance and public trust**.

Secondly, the use of **digital technologies in education and healthcare** is expanding social opportunities. Distance learning systems now provide access to quality education not only for residents of large cities but also for those living in remote areas. Telemedicine services create conditions for remote consultations with qualified doctors, online analysis of laboratory results, and access to preventive medical care. This played an especially important role in ensuring the **continuity of social services during the pandemic**.

Thirdly, the **“green economy” approach** integrates social services with ecological sustainability. Through environmental protection, the use of renewable energy sources, and waste recycling, not only is economic efficiency enhanced, but the promotion of a **healthy lifestyle** within society is also supported. For example, within the framework of the national project **“Green Space” (Yashil makon)**, the planting of millions of trees and shrubs in Uzbekistan contributes to strengthening environmental education in the social sphere while improving the overall quality of life of the population.

International experience also clearly demonstrates the impact of the **innovative economy on social services**. For instance, in **South Korea**, more than **90 percent** of the education system has been transferred to digital platforms, while in the **Scandinavian countries**, most healthcare services are organized on the basis of telemedicine.

Thus, the innovative economy makes it possible to **improve the quality of social services** and provide them to the population in a fast, affordable, and convenient form. This process plays an important role in **strengthening social equality** and **raising the standard of living** of the population.

In recent years, **Uzbekistan's economy has been steadily growing**, and this growth has yielded significant positive results in the country's social sectors. Strategic documents adopted by the state leadership — in particular, the **“New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026”** — identify the development of education, healthcare, and social protection as priority areas. The strategy outlines specific tasks such as gradually increasing funding for education, fully digitalizing the healthcare system, and strengthening social protection for the population.

Due to economic stability, major changes have been implemented in the field of **education**. In particular, the network of **Presidential schools, creative schools, specialized schools, and technical colleges** has expanded. On one hand, this process contributes to improving the quality of education; on the other, it creates broad opportunities for young people to acquire **modern knowledge and skills**. The establishment of Presidential schools across all regions of

the republic since 2019 is directly linked to economic opportunities and financed through cooperation between the **state budget and international financial institutions**.

The results of **economic growth** are also clearly visible in the **healthcare system**. In recent years, modern diagnostic centers and high-tech medical institutions have been constructed, and new family polyclinics have been launched in rural areas. Additionally, reforms are being carried out to **digitalize the healthcare system**, introduce **electronic medical records**, and expand **telemedicine services**. These measures are being implemented through financial resources generated as a result of the country's economic development.

In the field of **social protection**, mechanisms for supporting vulnerable segments of the population are being improved. Since 2021, the systems of the “**Iron Notebook**” (**Temir daftar**), “**Women's Notebook**” (**Ayollar daftari**), and “**Youth Notebook**” (**Yoshlar daftari**) have been introduced. Through these mechanisms, thousands of families have received financial assistance, and new jobs have been created for youth and women. The financial basis for such large-scale initiatives is ensured by the revenues generated from the national economy. Furthermore, the “**Prosperous Village**” (**Obod qishloq**) and “**Prosperous Neighborhood**” (**Obod mahalla**) programs are being implemented as a result of economic stability. Within the framework of these programs, thousands of houses, social infrastructure facilities, and roads have been reconstructed. These efforts not only improve the living conditions of the population but also contribute to ensuring **social stability** throughout the country.

International experts also recognize Uzbekistan's experience. The **World Bank**, the **Asian Development Bank**, and other international financial institutions have highly evaluated the **socio-economic reforms** being implemented in the country, providing both **financial and technical assistance** to support these initiatives.

Thus, Uzbekistan's experience clearly demonstrates the **close interrelation between economic stability and social development**. The expansion of economic resources enables the implementation of large-scale reforms in the social sphere, creating a strong foundation for improving the well-being of the population.

The country's **economy serves as the foundation and decisive factor** in the development of the social sphere. Without economic stability, it is impossible to ensure the consistent advancement of sectors such as education, healthcare, culture, and social protection. When a strong economic base exists, the **state budget is replenished sustainably**, which in turn makes it possible to **raise living standards, ensure employment, and enhance prosperity**.

Economic resources contribute to the development of **modern schools, higher educational institutions, and research centers** in the field of education; the introduction of **high-tech medical services** in healthcare; and the preservation of **national cultural heritage** as well as

the formation of modern infrastructure in the cultural sector. These processes not only meet social needs but also enhance the **intellectual and spiritual potential** of society.

International experience shows that **social reforms carried out in harmony with economic development** serve as a guarantee of **societal stability** and **national progress**. Therefore, in any state strategy, **economic growth and social development** must be viewed as **interrelated and complementary processes**.

In conclusion, **economic development** is the primary source that ensures **social welfare**, strengthens **social stability**, and lays the **foundation for future generations**. For this reason, the **integration of economic reforms with social development** should remain a **strategic priority** in state policy.

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