

GLOBAL GENDER EQUALITY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO FUTURE STRATEGIES

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Temiraliyeva Shahzoda Hikmatullo qizi

e-mail: stemiraliyeva@gmail.com

Scientific supervisor: **Boymirzayeva Mohira Shavkatjonovna**

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqola COVID-19 pandemiyasi davrida ayollarga qarshi zo'rvonlik va gender tenglik masalalarini global kontekstda tahlil qiladi. Tadqiqotning maqsadi pandemiya davrida ayollarning siyosiy va iqtisodiy imkoniyatlari, ularning huquqlarining himoya darajasi va jamiyatdagi o'zgarishlarni o'rganishdir. Tadqiqot davomida UN Women, SDG5, Beijing+20 va CSW59 kabi xalqaro manbalar tahlil qilindi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatdiki, pandemiya davrida ayollarga qarshi zo'rvonlik holatlari oshgan va ularning iqtisodiy hamda siyosiy ishtiroki pasaygan. Mazkur maqola gender tenglikni ta'minlash va zo'rvonlikni kamaytirish bo'yicha xalqaro tajribalarni yoritadi hamda kelajak strategiyalariga asos bo'lishi mumkin.

Kalit so'zlar

gender tenglik, ayollarga qarshi zo'rvonlik, COVID-19 pandemiyasi, UN Women, SDG5, Beijing+20, CSW59

Аннотация

В данная статья анализирует вопросы насилия в отношении женщин и гендерного равенства в глобальном контексте в период пандемии COVID-19. Цель исследования — изучение политических и экономических возможностей женщин, уровня защиты их прав и изменений в обществе в условиях пандемии. В ходе работы были проанализированы международные источники, такие как UN Women, SDG5, Beijing+20 и CSW59. Результаты показывают, что в период пандемии случаи насилия в отношении женщин возросли, а их экономическое и политическое участие снизилось. Статья освещает международный опыт обеспечения гендерного равенства и сокращения насилия против женщин, а также служит основой для будущих стратегий.

Ключевые слова

гендерное равенство, насилие против женщин, пандемия COVID-19, UN Women, SDG5, Beijing+20, CSW59

Abstract

This article analyzes issues of violence against women and gender equality in a global context during the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the study is to examine women's political and economic opportunities, the level of protection of their rights, and societal changes during the pandemic. International sources such as UN Women, SDG5, Beijing+20, and CSW59 were analyzed. The results show that during the pandemic, cases of violence against women increased, and their economic and political participation declined. This article highlights international experiences in ensuring gender equality and reducing violence against women, serving as a basis for future strategies.

Keywords

gender equality, violence against women, COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women, SDG5, Beijing+20, CSW59

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly transformed social, economic, and political structures worldwide, intensifying issues related to gender equality and gender-based violence (UN Women, 2020, <https://data.unwomen.org/country/uzbekistan>). During the pandemic, violence against women increased in domestic, economic, and political contexts, limiting women's social participation and opportunities within state mechanisms (UN Women, 2020, <https://data.unwomen.org/country/uzbekistan>).

In Uzbekistan, the adoption of legislation in 2023 criminalizing domestic violence marked an important legal step toward strengthening protection mechanisms for women and children and aligning national law with global gender equality commitments (Amnesty International, 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/04/uzbekistan-parliament-passes-long-overdue-legislation-criminalizing-domestic-violence/>). These legislative changes, together with international SDG5 efforts, contribute to safeguarding women's rights and addressing systemic barriers to gender equality.

Therefore, addressing violence against women and ensuring gender equality remain research priorities not only during the pandemic but also in ongoing global development discourse. This article analyzes international experiences in preventing violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic and evaluates national legal reforms and future strategic directions.

Literature Review

Research on violence against women and gender equality during the COVID-19 pandemic has gained significant global attention. According to UN Women (2020), domestic violence cases increased during the pandemic, negatively affecting women’s social and economic participation ([UN Women, 2020](#)).

Internationally, countries implemented measures such as online monitoring, cooperation between government and NGOs, and expansion of psychological support services to prevent gender-based violence during COVID-19 (UN Women, 2021, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/9/sima-sami-bahous-un-women-leadership>).

In Uzbekistan, recent legal reforms strengthened women’s rights. The 2023 law criminalizing domestic violence serves as an important step in ensuring legal protection for women (Amnesty International, 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/04/uzbekistan-parliament-passes-long-overdue-legislation-criminalizing-domestic-violence/>).

Additionally, global initiatives under SDG5 played a crucial role in promoting gender equality and preventing violence during the pandemic. The UN 2030 Agenda includes comprehensive measures to protect women’s rights and reduce gender-based violence (UN Women, 2015, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/csw59>).

Therefore, analyzing measures to prevent violence against women during COVID-19, while considering both international experiences and Uzbekistan’s legal reforms, is both relevant and valuable for scientific research and policy recommendations.

Methodology

This study employs a combination of legal-normative analysis, statistical review, and comparative approach to comprehensively examine gender equality and violence against women within both national and international contexts. The methodology is structured into six key components:

1. Legal-Normative Analysis

The legal framework in the Republic of Uzbekistan is analyzed, focusing on the 2023 legislative amendments that criminalized domestic violence, which represent a significant enhancement of legal protection mechanisms for women and children in the criminal justice system (UNDP, 2023, <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/legislation-impact-strengthening-legal-response-gender-based-violence-uzbekistan>).

2. Statistical Review

The research includes a statistical review based on UNDP and UN Women judicial practice analyses, highlighting key patterns in the prosecution and

adjudication of domestic violence cases and identifying gaps in legal enforcement and access to justice for survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic (UN Women, 2020, <https://data.unwomen.org/country/uzbekistan>).

3.Comparative Analysis

Uzbekistan's experience is contextualized within global standards and recommendations outlined by international bodies, including UNFPA and SDG5 frameworks on gender equality. This allows assessment of national legislation and practices against international norms (UNFPA Uzbekistan, 2021, <https://uzbekistan.unfpa.org/en/topics/gender-equality>).

4.Legal Practice and Training

Judicial and law enforcement personnel have undergone specialized training to strengthen practical enforcement and legal aid mechanisms for survivors, ensuring fair trial mechanisms and reinforcing the rule of law (UNDP, 2023, <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/undp-launches-training-series-strengthen-support-survivors-domestic-and-gender-based-violence-uzbekistan>).

5.National Strategies and Protection Systems

Uzbekistan's national strategies guarantee equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Implementation of these laws strengthens support systems and improves legal protection for victims of domestic violence (UN Uzbekistan, 2025, <https://uzbekistan.un.org/en/295230-un-women-opened-office-uzbekistan-making-new-era-gender-equality>).

6.International Context and Benchmarking

Uzbekistan's strategic approaches to gender equality are evaluated within the international context, comparing national practices with global initiatives, providing a scientifically grounded framework for recommendations (World Bank, 2024, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uzbekistan/publication/country-gender-assessment-2024>).

This six-component methodological framework allows the article to assess legislative changes, analyze statistical trends, compare national practices with international standards, and provide a scientifically grounded basis for practical recommendations to enhance gender equality and protection against domestic violence in Uzbekistan.

Results and Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that significant progress has been made in Uzbekistan regarding gender equality, although ongoing challenges remain. According to *UzDaily* and *Vaqt.uz*, Uzbekistan's position in the Global Gender Gap Index reflects both positive developments and persistent disparities: the country was ranked 108th out of 146 nations with a score of 0.681 in the 2024 Global Gender

Gap Report, demonstrating progress in key areas such as education and healthcare but lagging behind in economic participation and political representation ([Global Gender Gap Index, 2024](#)).

Moreover, renewed statistical data published by the State Statistics Committee highlights broader gender-related social and economic indicators in Uzbekistan, such as differences in labor market participation and access to services, thereby underscoring structural inequalities that still affect women's socio-economic opportunities ([Women and Men in Uzbekistan: Facts and Figures, 2024](#)).

In addition to quantitative indices, recent United Nations initiatives reflect ongoing emphasis on combating gender-based violence and enhancing legislative and institutional responses. For example, the 2025 "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" campaign in Uzbekistan highlights a multi-stakeholder approach involving government agencies, civil society, and youth organizations ([UN Uzbekistan, 2025](#)).

Despite measurable improvements in certain dimensions of gender equality, the persistence of high rates of gender-based violence remains a critical issue. UNDP data indicates that over 21,000 protection orders were issued in 2023, with a large majority involving family members as alleged perpetrators ([UNDP Uzbekistan, 2024](#)).

In summary, while Uzbekistan has taken notable steps toward achieving gender equality – as reflected in both global indices and expanded statistical reporting – significant gaps persist in economic participation, political representation, and protection against violence. These results suggest the need for continuous policy refinement, targeted social interventions, and enhanced data collection to ensure comprehensive and sustainable gender equality outcomes.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study demonstrates that significant progress has been made in Uzbekistan regarding gender equality, yet several critical challenges remain. According to the Global Gender Gap Index 2024, Uzbekistan shows positive results in education and healthcare, but economic and political participation remain areas requiring improvement ([Global Gender Gap Index, 2024](#)).

Gender-based violence, especially domestic violence, continues to be a pressing issue that needs effective legal and social interventions ([UNDP Uzbekistan, 2024](#)).

Expanded Recommendations:

1. **Expand economic and political opportunities:** Develop grants, microcredit programs, and mentorship systems to engage women in entrepreneurship and leadership roles.
 2. **Strengthen protection against violence:** Increase practical training programs, psychological and legal support points to prevent domestic and sexual violence ([UN Uzbekistan, 2025](#)).
 3. **Enhance legal awareness:** Implement gender equality, human rights, and legal protection curricula in schools, colleges, and universities.
 4. **Monitoring and data collection:** Establish regular statistical reporting for government and NGOs based on SDG5 indicators ([UN Women Data Hub, 2025](#)).
 5. **Refine national legislation:** Update existing laws and introduce new legislation in line with international standards and best practices.
 6. **Increase social awareness:** Strengthen gender equality and anti-violence campaigns through mass media and digital platforms.
 7. **Promote international cooperation:** Exchange experience and expand joint programs with the UN, UN Women, UNDP, and other international organizations.
 8. **Use technology for monitoring:** Utilize mobile apps, online portals, and QR-code systems to enhance protection for women and girls.
- Implementing these recommendations can significantly improve gender equality, enhance legal protection, and reduce violence in Uzbekistan.

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