

THE PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

There exist some problems connected with the regulation of employment and assurance of the population social protection. In the countries of the CIS there exist important matters such as non-stability in the labor market and impossibility to cover all population layers with social protection, insufficiency of funding and other difficulties which are based on the formed political and social atmosphere in emerging market relations.

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MAIN PART

The activity on the social protection of all layers of the community and the elaboration of the effective social policy strategy is the most scaled task of the state economy in the forming market sector. The form of its realization is the actual way of the state actions implemented into the social policy which covers all the spheres of economic relationships in the country. There exist some problems connected with the regulation of employment and assurance of the population social protection. In the countries of the CIS there exist important matters such as non-stability in the labor market and impossibility to cover all population layers with social protection, insufficiency of funding and other difficulties which are based on the formed political and social atmosphere in emerging market relations.

It is known that if in the country an economic decline is observed, the production decreases, the outcome of the national production reduces, the government's possibilities to allocate additional assets for the population social protection are limited that was demonstrated by the global financial and economic crisis. The load of the state budget increases, the government has to resort to increasing taxes. Thus, the workers' incomes decrease and this creates new social strains.

The analysis of the global financial and economic crisis has demonstrated that a complete social protection of the population from the decrease of life conditions in such situations is extremely difficult. The governments have made decisions on social protection of separate layers and groups of the population that are more needed.

While referring those or other groups of people to the category of the most socially vulnerable ones it is reasonable to take into account not only their current financial incomes but also their savings, accumulated wealth so called property qualification. However, since it is hard to get trustworthy information on people's property status, one has to use a person's official financial income as the criteria characterizing his circumstance. In the existing practice the following families are considered to be socially vulnerable: the ones with the low financial income per member of the family (more often these are the families with many children), the ones who have lost their breadwinner, the mothers who bring up their children on their own, the disabled, the aged, retirees getting insufficient allowances, the students living on bursary, the unemployed, the people who suffered from natural disasters, political and social conflicts, an illegal pursue.

In a number of cases children are also related to the socially vulnerable layers of the society. The social support can be revealed in

the most various forms such as financial aid, presenting material benefits, nourishment free of charge, shelters, rendering medical, legal and psychological aid, patronage, guardianship, adoption. The problem concerning the types, forms and volume of rendering a social support is related to the most difficult ones in the social economy. As it is impossible to assist all those who need and wish to be helped, a number of economists and sociologists offer the following recommendation: "To help only those who can not help themselves".

In the period of global financial and economic crisis the problem of social protection of the population from prices increase (inflation) and unemployment appears to be the most critical. The adjustment of incomes is partially applied for the prices on goods and services not to bring to catastrophic decrease of consumption and living standards. It means that wages, pensions, living allowances for students and other types of incomes increase as long as retail cost grows. Unfortunately, at the decrease of production neither government nor enterprises have the possibilities to increase incomes as much as the prices increase. As the quantity of goods reduces, the payment of excessive amount of money will bring to the market flood with money supply and consequently to the inflation. The social protection of the population is not only the government's obligation. It is the function of enterprises, social associations, trade unions and so on. The national system complexity of the social protection of the population is in the fact that one has to integrate all levels of executing protective functions.

To increase the effectiveness of functioning the general national system of the population social protection it is necessary to apply widely the program and target method of solving social tasks and problems, occurring in the process of the post-crisis situation, to enforce legislatively the priorities directions of the population social protection subject to the branch specification related to separate social layers and socio-demographic groups of the population, to ensure the comparability of the population social protection forms for all levels of management and realization of the active

social policy by means of distinguishing tasks, functions, liabilities and priorities.

In the social programs on supporting the living standards and consumption it is reasonable to enhance the measures on ensuring state guarantees for all the socio-demographic groups and layers of the population (minimal social norms, salary standards, pensions, bursaries, social allowances, payments and so on), to broaden the measures on social support of the able-bodied population, including the creations of conditions for the independent solution on the improvement of families' living standards, to broaden the measures on targeted population social protection of incapacitated members of the society, to review the measures on the social protection of the citizens who have faced difficult social situations. It is necessary to use more completely the resource, information and organizational service and provision with the social development programs, social support and protection of the state citizens.

The support of economic, political and social conditions is the basis for the stability of the society, especially in the conditions of the economic crisis. Any changes in one of these spheres reflect on others immediately. Ignoring these links leads to the social destabilization but on the other hand, this structure changes are necessary for the society's successful development. The improvement of living conditions of the population is the goal of reforms. In the light of these changes the need for the population's social support increases sharply and it keeps growing up to now.

The analysis has shown that social aids services are the integral part of Uzbekistan's social policy. In Uzbekistan the work on supporting "socially unprotected layers of the population are being continued, unique social policy is being implemented into life, the wide range of selecting social services is carried out, and absence of social inequality. In Uzbekistan the political structures conduct the policy on softening the social inequality; the government is creating the conditions to meet people's material and spiritual needs, the social work on protecting the most vulnerable layers of the population is widening and deepening.

The comparative analysis of different countries' social policy content enables to enrich significantly the theory and practice of this activity. At the same time while considering the foreign experience in the sphere of the population social support it is necessary to regard historical conditions and national peculiarities to a certain extent. One should bear in mind the formed system of the population social provision in our country and also the peculiarities of culture, mentality, society's lifestyle, supplementing it with innovations, proceeding from social and political situation. In the sequel it is predominately expedient to maintain the national assistance in the sphere of health-care, distribution of housing habitation and so on, first of all for the indigent and low-income population. If in the USA the focus is made on the private sector, social organizations, charity, in the majority of the EU countries the state plays the main role in solving these problems. The following pro-

blems such as studying the population social protection in the conditions of post-crisis period are analyzed and the state employment policy and also the social protection in foreign countries are considered in the report.

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