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SCIENTIFIC SUBSTANTIATION FEATURES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL-ECONOMIC MECHANISM FOR MANAGING THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM OF THE POPULATION

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Abstract

This article analyzes the evolution of the theoretical and scientific foundations of managing the social protection system for the population and identifies the operational characteristics of the organizational-economic mechanism of system management. In particular, the possibilities of creatively applying globally established models for managing the social protection system to the context of Uzbekistan are determined.

Keywords: Social protection, management, system management, management of the social protection system for the population, comprehensive management, targeted social protection management.

Introduction

The development of market economic relations in the global economy has intensified the need to develop effective methods for establishing and managing a social protection system — one that enables various social groups of the population, including low-income and vulnerable segments, to live at a state-guaranteed level of well-being. This has elevated the issue to a matter of strategic

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importance at the national economy level, making it simultaneously a pressing problem both theoretically and practically. Moreover, the rapid decline in demand for mid-level skilled workers in the labor market — driven by the balanced adoption of innovative and digital technologies across various sectors of the national economy — has exacerbated unemployment among the population with secondary education, intensifying challenges associated with developing modern approaches to social protection systems and enhancing their organizational-economic efficiency.

Relevance of the Topic

Prioritizing reforms aimed at developing liberal market economic relations in Uzbekistan increases the necessity of fundamentally improving the management of the country's existing social protection system. Therefore, through an analysis of the theoretical foundations of the social protection system's operation across various periods of economic development in the global economy, it is essential to identify the priorities for enhancing the organizational-economic efficiency of social protection system management at Uzbekistan's current stage of development. Furthermore, based on such research, it becomes possible to assess the specific characteristics of implementing the theoretical foundations of social protection within the national context.

State of Research on the Problem

The effective directions for applying centralized management elements in managing the social protection system under market economy conditions have been studied by S. Bason[1], while D. Gasper[2] is distinguished by having investigated the priorities for ensuring balance between social and political theories in the organization and management of the social protection system.

Near-foreign scholar L.V. Matraeva[3] has conducted research aimed at identifying effective directions for implementing public-private partnership

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(PPP) projects within the functioning of the social protection system, while M.V. Kudina[4] is characterized by studying directions for improving the effectiveness of structural changes in the system through strengthening cooperation among institutions and organizations comprising the system.

In Uzbekistan, issues related to financing the implementation of social assistance programs in managing the social protection system have been studied by local economist B.Sh. Khusanov[5]. Additionally, B.B. Bakhtiyorov[6], having examined the practical characteristics of the organizational-economic mechanism of the existing social protection system in the country, developed scientific proposals and practical recommendations aimed at its improvement, while M.N. Umurzakova studied the priorities for introducing the insurance mechanism into the financing of the social protection system.

In general, the insufficient level of scholarly investigation into the improvement of the organizational-economic mechanism for managing the social protection system as a dedicated research object in economic science underscores the need for further research in this area.

Research Methods

In the research process, methods such as systematic analysis, historicism and logical reasoning, induction and deduction, analysis and synthesis, comparative and selective research, monographic analysis, and grouping were employed.

Analysis and Results

By comparatively analyzing the scientific-theoretical approaches to managing the social protection system — encompassing ideological priorities, degree of state intervention, sources of financing, coverage capacity, and the advantages and disadvantages of each theoretical perspective — the following scientific conclusions were drawn regarding the concurrent application of several theoretical frameworks in Uzbekistan's practice (see Table 1):

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First, within the operational mechanism of the social protection system in the country, the alignment between the Beveridge model and the elements of modern digitalization theories is increasingly being consolidated;

Second, in the functioning of the Unified Social Registry established for the purposes of social protection of the population, elements of the neoliberal approach are evident, with sustained priority given to increasing the targeting capacity of the social protection system;

Table 1 Characteristics of Applying the Theoretical Foundations of the Social Protection System Management in the Context of Uzbekistan[7]

No	Type of Theory	Expression in Uzbekistan	Advantages	Existing Challenges	Level of Practical Impact
1	Beveridge Model (Universal Approach)	Child allowances, pensions, social benefits, services for elderly living alone	Poverty reduction, universal coverage	Targeting challenges, bureaucratic barriers	Moderate
2	Bismarck Model (Insurance System)	Compulsory pension fund, unemployment insurance, labor relations	Insurance-based system is being developed	Informal sector workers not covered	In development (via medical insurance)
3	Neoliberal Approach (Targeting)	Targeted social assistance through the "Unified Registry" system	Focus on efficiency, orientation toward the needy	Accuracy of the registry and incomplete population coverage	Being implemented
4	Modern Approach (SDGs, Human Capital, and Digitalization)	"Human Capital" concept, digital government services, ijtimoiyhimoya.uz	Inclusivity, digitalization, and automation	Digital inequality, insufficient technical infrastructure	High potential, in growth phase
5	Islamic Approach (Waqf, Zakat, Charity)	Waqf fund, mahalla charities, community assistance	Effective as supplementary resource, functional at local level	Unsystematized, lacking oversight	Functions as a supplementary support mechanism
6	Keynesian Approach	Large budget allocations to the social sector, job creation programs	Stimulation of economic activity	Adequate monitoring and evaluation system lacking	Actively being implemented



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Third, one of the national features of managing the social protection system in Uzbekistan is manifested in the participation of the mahalla institution in the functioning of this system, with its activities providing practical opportunities for the application of Islamic approaches;

Fourth, in the process of managing the integrated social protection system in Uzbekistan, the mutual integration of elements is deepening simultaneously — universality from the Beveridge model, insurance from the Bismarck model (substantiated by the introduction of medical insurance and pension provision), targeted assistance from the neoliberal approaches, and digital transformation from modern frameworks — thereby expanding the possibilities for forming the New Uzbekistan national model of the social protection system.

At the same time, through the analyses conducted, it was determined that additional opportunities exist for systematically studying the essence of managing the social protection system — including the operational characteristics of its organizational-economic mechanism — in order to reveal its fundamental nature. Accordingly, the following definition was developed: the management of the social protection system, as an economic category, must ensure the effective implementation of the state's social policy by providing comprehensive social protection coverage to all social groups of the population based on their constitutional rights, envisaging a systematic form of collaborative activity among participating institutions — the state, the private sector, and non-governmental non-profit organizations — through functional distribution in the implementation of state social policy. This definition is distinguished from approaches developed by economists analyzed in the course of this research by being grounded in the deep mutual integration of the economic (financing and resource allocation), social (ensuring social justice, equality, and human rights in the livelihoods of various social groups), institutional (state social policy and organizational management), and developmental (expanding capabilities of

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socially vulnerable populations and increasing their economic activity) functions of social protection system management.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Furthermore, through a comparative analysis of social protection system management models — taking into account current legislation, institutional infrastructure, and the state of economic development and digitalization — the following generalized conclusions were formulated regarding the applicability of these models in Uzbekistan (see Table 2):

First, at present, in Uzbekistan, the centralized state and digitally transformed models of managing the social protection system are being predominantly utilized;

Table 2 Analysis of the Application Status of Social Protection System Management Models in Uzbekistan[8]

No	Model Type	Implementation Potential	Advantages (in the context of Uzbekistan)	Constraints and Challenges	Examples in Uzbekistan
1	Centralized State Management	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistent with existing legislation - Social protection expenditures covered through the state budget - Pension and social benefit systems are established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High level of bureaucratic barriers and centralization - Robust mechanism at the local level not yet fully formed 	Pension Fund, Unified Registry
2	Community-Based Management	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mahalla institution actively participates in social protection - Close engagement with local citizens established - Effective mechanism formed for identifying poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal frameworks require further improvement - Decisions made may be subjective - Lack of financial independence 	Social assistance distribution through the mahalla
3	Social Partnership Management	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public-private partnership is a developing field - Opportunity to provide social services to the population through NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal mechanisms not yet fully established - Low public trust in the private sector 	Active social protection programs for youth and women; NGO projects
4	Digitally Transformed Management	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The "Unified Social Registry" has been established - Applications submitted via my.gov.uz - E-government system is actively developing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital equity challenges (particularly in rural areas) - Data security not sufficiently ensured 	Unified Registry, electronic benefit applications

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Second, the community-based management model has characterized the country's practice over many years, alongside its use in organizing social assistance through the activities of mahalla bodies within the social protection management framework. At the same time, given the distinctive characteristics inherent to this model, there is a high necessity to institutionalize the role of mahalla bodies and strengthen the legal foundations of these processes in order to expand their contribution to managing the social protection system;

Third, in managing the social protection system in the country, the social partnership model emerges as a promising direction for transitioning to innovative management practices enriched with market-based elements — including expanding the participation of the private sector and non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) in organizing social protection, diversifying the sources of financing for social protection expenditures through public-private partnership (PPP) mechanisms.

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