

UDC 396

**THE MAIN TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WOMEN'S
MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA**

Ospanova Dayana Gabitkyzy
invictus0609@gmail.com

MA Student of regional studies department of the
L.N.Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
Scientific advisor – Bekebayeva A. D.

Any development and progress of the political and legal life of society is unattainable if it does not affect changes that relate to specific categories of the population, minorities and other groups of society. Underestimation of the transformation of gender policy is a direct path to the destruction of democratic institutions, the ineffectiveness of civil society, causes distrust on the part of society, and also provokes confusion among the population. The same applies to women. It is obvious that the rights of women to participate in public power were approved in the world relatively recently and various changes are taking place to this day. Despite the fact that in the world there is a process of active inclusion of women in the political and legal way of life, the gender factor that generates stereotypes and negative consequences is still relevant. According to world statistics, there are trends regarding women in politics. For example, the participation of women in electoral power is several times less than the participation of men. The same can be said about women's interest in political processes. This is explained by the fact that the main authorities have historically been created and formed by the male half of the population. Even the population census in the 18th century included only the male part.

In the case of women's participation in pre-election races, the following happens: their campaigns are not promoted as intensively as the programs of men, and the population, in principle, does not have such confidence in their candidacies. In world practice, there have been and still are many cases where a woman, in order to maintain her authority and political status, is forced to adapt to the traditionally “male” political environment. Such cases are relevant even in Western countries, which are globally recognized as a more advanced and tolerant society, where the promotion of their rights and opportunities by women to the masses is considered a more common and common practice, especially against the backdrop of states in the eastern regions, where traditionally leading positions are occupied by the male part of the population.

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, men and women have completely different ideas about managerial opportunities, as well as different political views and ways of developing the state. Representatives of the female gender are critically underrepresented in various political structures of power, hence it follows that women cannot make up a “critical minority”, that is, about 30-40%, so that their voice is “heard” and has an impact on the socio-political situations in the country. Thus, at the beginning of the 20th century, Kazakhstan achieved high rates in the educational sphere, so the government set new priorities in strengthening the role of women in the political life

of society, as well as in the areas of legislation and executive power. According to the statistics of the Civil Service Agency of Kazakhstan, the percentage of women holding leadership positions has risen to 52% of the total number of all employees, however, only about 10% of women hold high positions in political bodies.

In 1991, Kazakhstan gained independence, after which there were some changes in the local authorities: the number of women in national and local authorities has sharply decreased. Twenty years later, after the elections at the beginning of 2021, the number of women in the lower house of the Parliament, that is, in the Maslikhat, increased from 16% to 21%, that is, by six people, while in the upper house of the Parliament, namely in the Senate, the situation remained unchanged. Women there are about 5% of the total number of assessors [1].

Throughout Kazakhstan, in Maslikhtas, the number of women is several times lower than that of men: only 20% of the total number of deputies. Maslikhat region plays a very important role. Thus, in the northern regions, the percentage of women in the lower chambers exceeds the percentage in the southern regions. For example, in the Pavlodar region in Maslikhat, the percentage of women is about 20%, and in the South Kazakhstan region, the percentage has never been higher than 5 of the total number of assessors. In the southern region, the number of women is declining every year, despite the fact that every year more women run for election.

From all of the above, the data shows that only 33% of women are represented in power structures. At the moment, there are no mechanisms in Kazakhstan to correct these shortcomings, so the possibility of changes in the near future is extremely small. Kazakhstan, as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, has an obligation to provide equal opportunities for both sexes. The government has already planned to combat this disparity by issuing a quota for all those who run for Parliament in order to get rid of gender inequality, but this plan has not been successful. In recent years, there has been a clear increase in the activation and interest of women in socio-political events. For example, in the last parliamentary elections, the number of women running for office almost doubled, but this did not affect the final composition of deputies. None of the currently active political parties in Kazakhstan has focused on the concept of gender equality in their programs. Thus, no effective strategies have been developed to engage women in political change.

In the Republic of Tajikistan, the participation of women in leadership structures has remained consistently low for thirty years since independence. According to the latest data for 2020, in Tajikistan, only 17% of women are deputies in both the Senate and the Mazhilis in general. In 2014, the participation of women in local government or in central bodies was only about 21% of the total. In the central executive branch, the results are even lower: only 523 women work in this area, which is 16% of the total, respectively. However, progress has been made at the local level, since the last time about 38% of women were elected to jamoats [2].

The government of Tajikistan has not developed specific quotas for women to participate in the political life of the country, but, as in Kazakhstan, there are special schools for building the capacity of women leaders, also sponsored by regional organizations. Civil society in Tajikistan, in recent years, has begun to become more active regarding issues of gender imbalance, so many nongovernmental organizations provide their services and develop programs for women who aspire to work in the governing bodies of Tajikistan.

In Kyrgyzstan, after gaining sovereignty in the early 90s, the number of women participating in the political environment has significantly decreased. Under the Soviet regime, a quota effectively operated in Kyrgyzstan, allowing 30% of women to run for various structures (also for Parliament). After the collapse of the Soviet Union, this quota was abolished, subsequently, the number of women in the political environment decreased accordingly. A weak amount of women's representation is noticed at all levels of Kyrgyzstan across the republic. For example, in 2002, during the elections to the Parliament, there were only 5.9% of the total number

of women deputies. At the moment, according to the latest data of 2020, now only 2% of the total amount in the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan are women deputies. Since independence, only the following ministers have been women in Kyrgyzstan: they are the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection. In the 1990s, only one woman was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, and there were no women working in the Ministry of Finance at all.

The situation described above is similar in relation to the district, rural and regional levels. According to the National Statistical Committee, over the past 10 years, out of all 260 deputies of regional keneshes, only 11% of the total number were women, that is 27 people [3].

Turkmenistan, like other countries of Central Asia, has signed all the necessary conventions and documents related to the improvement of equality within the state. These include the

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which they ratified in 1997, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was joined by Turkmenistan in 2009. Turkmenistan, in order to progress, is issuing its own National Plans and Strategies, where each time the topic of inequality regarding women is raised, namely, methods for eradicating these problems. The last important document was the “National Action Program for Ensuring Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020”, which described the necessary measures and mechanisms for attracting women to relevant structures and increasing the level of women’s employment in any sectors of production [4].

An important factor in the analysis is the degree of women's participation in the political processes of the state. In Turkmenistan, according to the latest information, there have never been quotas that would help women to be active in the country's politics. According to the results of the elections of deputies of the fifth convocation, in 2013, the number of women deputies in the Turkmen Parliament was about 27%, which exceeded the international norm, which is only 22%. In Turkmenistan, there are also cases where a woman held high positions in the Mejlis (for example, vice-chairman, etc.) or the prosecutor's office (for example, Gurbanbibi Atajanova, who was the country's chief prosecutor for 10 years). As for the local, regional and district level, the indicators are also quite good. At the moment, the participation of women at the city and district level is about 20-22%, at the local level about 16% and at the rural level about 18%, respectively [5].

Uzbekistan is a country where positive trends took place, the result of which was an improvement in the status of women in the country, compared with the experience of other states. For example, from independence in 1992 until the early 2000s, women's participation in the political sphere was stable, with female employees accounting for 9.5% of the total. In 2003, the government of Uzbekistan developed a quota system related to the Electoral Law. These quotas required the participation of at least 30% of women in the political sector of the state. It was this innovation that helped Uzbekistan achieve personnel changes and achieve a sufficient gender balance in the political system. If earlier, then the introduction of constitutional reform and the creation of a bicameral Parliament in Uzbekistan, the number of women in the Parliament was less than 7%. After the elections in 2005, they received new seats, with a number of 17%. Despite this, relatively few women remain in selective positions in the state. A critical minority is considered to be 30-40%, and in Uzbekistan women make up only 15% of the Senate and 20% of the members of the Legislative Chamber, in general, this is only 19% of Oliy Mezhlis [6].

All political parties in Uzbekistan have a women's wing, but none of them promotes gender equality and other issues related to it as something important.

Thus, in total, women's participation in political processes is considered an experience of non-traditional political action. Given this judgment, women who hold high public positions always tend to raise very specific but necessary issues that require immediate solutions: domestic violence, gender equality, trafficking in women, rape, and the like.

Despite the initiative of women, the role of traditions, stereotypes and prejudices is still strong in the Central Asian countries, which to a greater extent are a deterrent. After the collapse of the USSR and gaining independence, the states began to return to that heritage and previously established values. Traditionally, Central Asia is a region with a primordially patriarchal way of life, where women have to adapt, maneuvering between the accepted framework and foundations and new trends in order to ensure a prosperous future for themselves and their children.

References

1. Asian Development Bank (2013), Kazakhstan: Gender Country Assessment, Philippines, www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/34051/files/kazakhstan-countrygenderassessment.pdf.
2. Пресс-конференция Комитета по делам женщин и семьи при Правительстве Республики Таджикистан. 30 июля. <http://kumitaizanon.tj/ru/news/id/150>.
3. Национальный статистический комитет Кыргызской Республики. 2014. О положении сельских женщин в Кыргызской Республике. (размещено по адресу: <http://www.stat.kg/media/publicationarchive/66bd4835-30f0-4dcc-b321-694e9b12e336.pdf>).
4. Государственный комитет Туркменистана по статистике. О Туркменистане. (размещено по адресу: <http://www.stat.gov.tm/ru/main/info/turkmenistan/>).
5. Олкотт М. Второй шанс Центральной Азии. URL: http://carnegieendowment.org/files/9429CentralAsia_book-full_text.pdf (дата обращения: 4.08.2020)
6. Ганиева г. Гендерные исследования в центральной Азии. Gender researches in uzbekistan: modern condition and V international scientific conference of the germankazakh university, Almaty (kazakhstan) 13 – 15 march, 2008 p. 51 – 59)