OVERVIEW OF LIVING STANDARDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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One of the main goals of Uzbekistan's transition to a socially oriented market economy is to improve the living standards and quality of life and ensure the sustainable development of the social sphere. It is known from the experience of socio-economic development of the world that the country's economy is based on objective laws of its development, existing economic opportunities, well-designed economic policy based on the specific way of life, thinking, national values and traditions of the people living in this country.

From the first days of independence, the socio-economic development of our country has been determined in all respects, which is the result of the work carried out, which deeply and truthfully reflects the vital interests of our people. As noted by President Sh.M.Mirziyoev, "Our main goal is for everyone living in our country, regardless of nationality, language and religion, to live freely, peacefully and prosperously, to be satisfied with today's life. The development of our country and the well-being of our people are closely linked, first of all, with the results of our social reforms. We need to educate our young people and realize their aspirations for science"[1].

In this regard, the object of our study is to assess the effectiveness of public socio-economic policy, although the standard of living depends on a number of factors, such as living standards and welfare, income, health, literacy, cultural life, leisure, environment is the most important criterion and increasing it is the main goal of social development. There are various methods of studying the living standards of the population, and based on statistical research, we have scientifically analyzed the issues of improving the living standards and welfare of the population of our country on the basis of foreign experience, prepared conclusions and recommendations.

ANALYSIS OF THE RELEVANT LITERATURE
Since the second half of the nineteenth century, the economic and statistical direction of the assessment of living standards in political and economic terms has been emphasized in the scientific views of Western scholars. At that time, the researchers mainly analyzed real living conditions and consumption levels, while the study of living standards focused on mitigating conflicts and harmonizing the interests of different segments of the population, increasing incomes and applying poverty alleviation in practice.

The operationalization of the concept of "standard of living" began in the mid-1960s. Based on the concept of "social indicators", the following scientists conducted research: in the United States - F. Convers, Y. Rogers, F. Andrew, L. Milbright; In the UK - A. McKennel and S. Wright.

N.D. Kremlyov gave a broader definition of the standard of living of the population, according to which "the standard of living - in the narrow sense - is reflected in the level of consumption and the level of satisfaction of needs (measurement of income, expenses, consumption of goods and services); in the broadest sense, through the nature of the level of human development (population capacity and health status) and the living conditions of the population (security status of the population)"[2].

On the basis of the information provided by the Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan, scientific and theoretical research has been conducted on the issues of improving the living standards and welfare of the population of the country.

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[2] Кремлев Н.Д. Проблемы оценки уровня жизни населения / Н.Д. Кремлев // Вопросы статистики. – 2000. – № 8. – С. 18-23.

METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

Due to the fact that the subject of our research is devoted to improving the living standards and welfare of the population, first of all, the decrees and decrees of the President of the country, the tasks set by the government and the scientific work of economists have been studied. Statistical research, comparative analysis of the literature, and hypothesis substantiation methods were used as research methodology.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The income of the population serves as an important source in meeting the personal needs of the population. Therefore, the income of the population has a special place in the set of indicators that describe the lifestyle of statistics.

According to official statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in 2020 the share of the population living below the national poverty line fell from 17.7% in 2010 to 11.5% in 2020. In 2010-2020, there was a tendency to increase per capita income, wages and pensions. If in 2010 the per capita income amounted to 1.7 million soums, in 2020 it increased to 11.7 million soums, the annual real growth rate was 7%.

One of our goals is to introduce a unified system for assessing the complex development of regions, the efficiency of use of natural resources, economic potential, as well as other advantages for sustainable development.

In recent years, various surveys, surveys and analyzes have been conducted to study the living standards of our population. For example, in May 2020, the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan studied the impact of inflation on the income and income levels of the population, different groups of the population by region. At the same time, a survey on household expenditures and income was conducted, and the results were analyzed with the data of the consumer price index by regions. According to the results of the survey, the main part of the respondents in the distribution of household income - 38.7% belong to the group with an income of 2-4 million soums per month.

Total per capita income by region, thousand soums

Territories	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Republic of Uzbekistan	**2928,9**	**3501,8**	**4175,1**	**4759,6**	**5410,6**	**6215,9**	**7314,1**	**9128,6**	**10891,3**	**12125,6**	**14769,0**
Republic of Karakalpakstan	1972,2	2414,4	2856,6	3317,1	3908,0	4372,0	5233,1	6808,7	8136,2	9437,4	11391,6
Andijan	2523,9	2945,8	3754,5	4267,6	4835,0	5637,3	6777,7	8412,0	9941,5	10765,7	12862,9
Bukhara	3505,6	4145,2	4954,0	5698,9	6411,6	7354,2	8823,0	11270,6	13075,7	14680,8	17847,1
Jizzakh	2441,0	2905,5	3385,5	4099,0	4809,6	5459,4	6498,4	8512,9	9723,3	10935,9	13229,7
Kashkadarya	2599,0	3096,7	3685,7	4179,4	4642,7	5498,4	6442,4	7827,9	9149,6	10203,9	12299,8
Navoi	5053,8	5527,7	6471,9	7377,7	8761,4	9745,0	11139,6	13921,4	16926,9	19938,7	24156,2
Namangan	2170,0	2644,0	3168,1	3636,5	4113,2	4745,5	5733,3	6887,6	8293,1	9267,5	11329,1
Samarkand	2619,6	3029,9	3654,6	4207,3	4631,0	5603,4	6594,1	8087,7	9447,9	10529,1	12874,4
Surkhandarya	2511,5	3064,9	3530,9	4054,5	4560,8	5079,8	5946,5	7622,5	8906,0	9748,4	11884,7
Syrdarya	3124,8	3600,3	4489,5	5010,9	5813,9	6772,1	6833,5	8353,5	9998,4	10935,4	12675,3
Tashkent	3285,3	3955,1	4531,3	5226,0	6123,7	6749,9	7667,1	9401,6	11296,2	13130,0	16331,7
Fergana	2295,2	2918,0	3399,3	3857,2	4418,3	4994,1	5600,3	7096,8	8111,8	8858,9	10929,8
Khorezm	2815,8	3362,8	4066,0	4629,1	5052,2	5840,3	7218,0	9536,1	11213,4	12276,8	15484,5
Tashkent city	5640,9	6867,7	8306,8	9251,9	10614,4	12316,1	14921,1	18432,1	23674,3	25545,3	30232,0

The highest real growth rate was recorded in Khorezm - 13.9%, Tashkent - 11.9% and Fergana - 11.8% regions. Real growth rates below the national average were noted in Tashkent city - 4.9%, as well as in Syrdarya - 5.3%, Andijan - 8.1%, Jizzakh - 8.7%, Kashkadarya - 8.9% regions and Republic of Karakalpakstan - 9.7%

In recent years, per capita income, the average nominal and real wages of workers and employees, has increased significantly. The main reason for this is the targeted implementation of socio-economic reforms in the country, special

attention is paid to the development of social spheres. Today, the provision of socio-cultural services to the population in our country is also carried out at a high level. The growth rate of incomes of employees in the past period reached 125.4%, which ensured an increase in nominal incomes of the population by 6.9%.

According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 27, 2021 No. 544 "On the introduction of the procedure for calculating the amount of minimum consumer spending", we calculated the minimum cost of consumer spending based on surveys of 10.6 thousand households throughout 2021 in all regions of the republic.

At the same time, based on the international methodology, when calculating the minimum consumer spending, the surveyed households were divided into 10 groups according to their size with the lowest expenses (income), and thirty percent of them were selected for analysis.

Based on the survey, it was calculated that the minimum per capita consumption of food (2200 kcal) per capita and the necessary non-food goods and services in these households is 498 thousand soums per person per month.

Meanwhile, it is known that, according to the survey for 2020, in 5.4 thousand households, the estimated minimum consumer spending at 2021 prices amounted to 440 thousand soums, which was announced in May 2021.
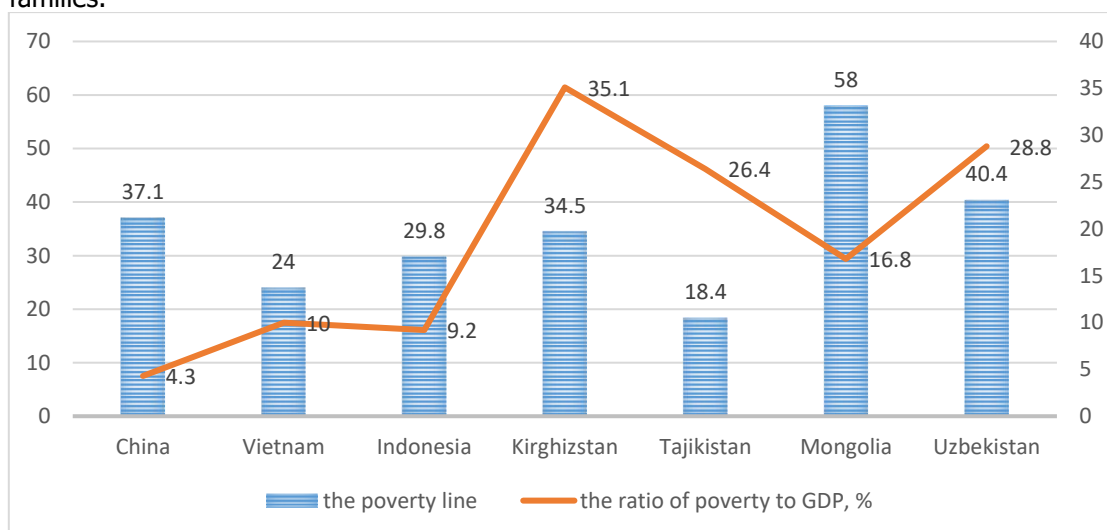
In world practice, the use of the minimum consumption indicator as a poverty line is widespread, which looks as follows:

identification of target groups (targeting) of the population in need of material and other social assistance from the state;

the use of the poverty line in the country, taking into account the real consumer characteristics and the needs of the population of the target groups;

increasing the effectiveness and relevance of the tasks and measures outlined in the strategies and programs to combat poverty, as well as their regular monitoring;

determination of the minimum amount of pensions and benefits, as well as other types of material assistance to low-income families.

In particular, the proportion of minimum consumption costs per capita ($37,1 per month) in China is 4.3%, in Indonesia ($29,8) - 9,2%, in Vietnam ($24) - 10%, in Georgia ($56,4) - 15,4 percent, in Armenia ($67,2) - 18,7 percent, in Mongolia ($58) - 16,8 percent, in Uzbekistan ($40,4) – 28,8 percent.[3]

According to our statistical analysis, the volume of consumption by the most important food commodity per capita in recent years has been growing steadily, while at the same time, the amount of expenditure paid for the purchase of non-food products and services has also increased significantly.

Average monthly consumer spending structure of households

(based on the data of household selection observations; in%)

per capita,a thousand soums

	2015 y	2016 y	2017 y	2018 y	2019 y	2020 y
Republic of Uzbekistan	**330,6**	**388,5**	**456,6**	**572,3**	**694,8**	**780,8**
Republic of Karakalpakstan	259,4	268,8	338,8	464,5	576,8	652,9
Andijan	285,4	341,9	471,1	585,0	616,3	723,4
Bukhara	450,7	482,6	520,4	608,0	826,0	1093,8

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[3] Ўзбекистон Республикаси Статистика Қўмитаси маълумотлари.

Jizzakh	280,7	287,8	335,0	394,8	444,6	460,5
Kashkadarya	233,7	297,4	344,6	476,2	614,6	673,5
Navoi	424,1	418,9	472,0	609,0	692,7	916,6
Namangan	289,5	313,9	405,7	536,4	642,2	562,5
Samarkand	267,2	325,2	402,3	475,5	616,7	664,8
Surkhandarya	306,7	333,9	398,0	504,9	609,3	666,6
Syrdarya	332,1	332,6	399,6	419,0	613,5	665,0
Tashkent	436,0	511,7	585,0	725,7	896,1	994,2
Fergana	236,6	335,4	370,3	476,7	561,1	660,3
Khorezm	399,8	396,8	515,4	669,8	718,6	814,5
Tashkent city	552,6	729,9	759,9	911,9	1130,5	1266,3

The increase in the population's monetary revenues has led to a more perfect cost structure. Since 2002, the share of expenses for the purchase of goods in the structure of expenditure of the population decreased by an average of 2.1 per cent annually, and the share of remuneration for services increased by 0.6 per cent annually on average.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

There are many changes in the structure of income and expenditure of the population in our country. As a result of the development of the banking and financial system, as well as increasing the capacity of the population to use private property, dividends, interest, business income and sales of foreign currency play an important role in the overall income of the population.

In conclusion, in the period of transition to a market economy, reforms are becoming increasingly important, and the structure of the population's income is constantly changing. Within it, the share of wages is formed and improved with almost no change in the income of private entrepreneurship, personal subsidiary farms and families from their own property, and similar incomes. The share of various benefits and social transfers provided at the expense of the state tends to decrease.

To improve living standards in Uzbekistan, it is necessary to develop an effective strategy to combat this problem. In our opinion, the composition and methodology of calculating the consumer basket should be improved, first of all. The modern method of calculating the consumer basket does not allow us to understand that minimum needs are the basis of the subsistence minimum.

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