

IMPROVING THE MECHANISM OF SUPPORTING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Malikova Gulhayo Turdali qizi. Doctoral student (DcS) in Economics

Article history:		Abstract:
Received:	14 th October 2025	This article analyzes advanced foreign experience in financing women's entrepreneurship in developed and developing countries. In particular, financial instruments, government programs, microfinance mechanisms, and private sector participation are examined using the examples of the United States, European Union countries, South Korea, and Bangladesh. The research findings indicate that credit guarantee systems, grants, interest-free or preferential loans, and financial literacy programs play a significant role in the development of women's entrepreneurship. The applicability of these experiences in the context of Uzbekistan is discussed.
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INTRODUCTION.

Businesses established and managed by women play a significant role not only in creating new jobs but also in introducing innovations, reducing poverty, and ensuring economic inclusion. According to the World Bank, women's entrepreneurship has substantial potential to contribute to global GDP growth.

Despite this potential, women's entrepreneurship remains a sector with limited access to financial resources. In many countries, women face various barriers compared to men in accessing bank loans, investments, and financial services. These barriers are mainly explained by the following factors:

1. low levels of ownership of property and assets by women;
2. lack of sufficient collateral;
3. relatively low levels of financial literacy;
4. higher gender risk assessment by banks and investors;
5. traditional gender stereotypes in society.

As a result, women's entrepreneurship is often underfinanced, which limits opportunities for business expansion, innovation, and competitiveness. The experience of developed countries shows that market mechanisms alone are insufficient to address the financing challenges faced by women entrepreneurs. Therefore, governments have introduced special financial programs, preferential loans, grants, guarantee funds, and microfinance institutions. In addition, in many countries, financial support for women entrepreneurs is integrated with financial literacy, business education, and mentoring programs.

In Uzbekistan, the development of women's entrepreneurship is also considered an important direction of state policy. However, comparative analysis with foreign experience shows the need to further improve institutional mechanisms for financing women-owned businesses. In this regard, in-depth study and adaptation of advanced foreign experience to national conditions have significant scientific and practical importance.

The main objective of this study is to conduct a systematic analysis of advanced foreign experience in financing women's entrepreneurship and to assess its effectiveness. To achieve this goal, the following tasks were set:

1. to study the theoretical foundations of financing women's entrepreneurship;
2. to analyze financial mechanisms used in foreign countries;
3. to identify and classify advanced practices;
4. to determine directions applicable to the conditions of Uzbekistan

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

This study is based on generally accepted methodological principles of scientific research. A comprehensive and systematic approach was applied to the analysis of women's entrepreneurship financing. The methodological framework includes concepts of economic theory, institutional economics, and gender economics. The following research methods were used:

Analytical method – analysis of scientific articles, reports of international organizations (World Bank, UN Women), legal documents, and government programs related to financing women's entrepreneurship.

Comparative method – comparison of financing mechanisms for women's entrepreneurship across different countries, including the United States, European Union countries, South Korea, and Bangladesh.

Statistical analysis – examination of statistical data on the share of women's entrepreneurship in the economy, credit volumes, and sources of financing to identify general trends and challenges.

Systematic approach – consideration of women's entrepreneurship financing as an integrated system involving financial institutions, state policy, social factors, and the institutional environment

Inductive and deductive methods – derivation of general conclusions from country-specific experiences and application of theoretical concepts to practical cases.

The object of the research is the system of financing women's entrepreneurship. The subject includes financial mechanisms, institutions, and programs used to support women entrepreneurs in foreign countries.

RESEARCH RESULTS.

The analysis of international experience shows that in the United States, the Small Business Administration (SBA) plays a key role in financing women's entrepreneurship through:

- the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program;
- 7(a) and 504 loan programs;
- special grants and business incubators for women.

Within this system, the state provides guarantees on bank loans, thereby reducing financial risks for women entrepreneurs.

European Union Experience

In the European Union, financing of women's entrepreneurship is implemented through programs such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs. The experience of Sweden and Germany demonstrates the widespread use of:

- interest-free or low-interest loans;
- public-private partnership-based funds;
- business mentoring programs for women.

South Korea Experience

In South Korea, women's entrepreneurship is supported under the Women's Enterprise Promotion Act. The government provides:

- preferential loans for women-owned businesses;
- tax incentives;
- special innovation grants.

Bangladesh Experience

In Bangladesh, the microfinance model is widely used to finance women's entrepreneurship. The Grameen Bank implements:

- collateral-free microloans;
- group-based lending for women;
- socially responsible financing mechanisms.

DISCUSSION.

The research results indicate that financing women's entrepreneurship in foreign countries is carried out based on systematic and long-term strategies. Advanced practices show that support for women-owned businesses is implemented not only through financial instruments but also through institutional reforms, legal guarantees, and educational programs. This approach enhances women's economic participation and ensures sustainable development of women-led enterprises.

In developed countries, special credit lines and microfinance programs for women are widely used, characterized by low interest rates, simplified collateral requirements, and flexible repayment terms. As a result, women with limited access to financial resources can start entrepreneurial activities. Although Uzbekistan has preferential credit programs for women entrepreneurs, compared to foreign experience, the simplification of lending procedures and diversification of financial products remain insufficient.

Grants and subsidies also serve as important financial sources for the development of women's entrepreneurship, particularly in innovative projects, startups, and social entrepreneurship.

Expanding the participation of the private sector and international organizations in grant financing could increase effectiveness in Uzbekistan.

The study also highlights the importance of financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills development alongside financial support. Foreign countries actively implement training programs, mentoring, business incubators, and accelerators for women entrepreneurs. While such programs exist in Uzbekistan, there is a need to expand their regional coverage and strengthen their practical orientation.

Furthermore, digital financial technologies play an increasing role in financing women's entrepreneurship. Online lending platforms, digital banking services, and fintech solutions significantly expand women's access to financial infrastructure and help reduce regional and social inequalities. Although digital banking services are developing rapidly in Uzbekistan, the introduction of women-oriented digital financial products remains a relevant issue.

Public-private partnerships are another key factor enhancing the effectiveness of financing women's entrepreneurship. A favorable legal environment and incentive mechanisms created by the state encourage private financial institutions to actively finance women-owned businesses. Strengthening such cooperation in Uzbekistan is essential for attracting private investment and expanding collaboration with international financial institutions.

CONCLUSION.

The experience of foreign countries shows that financing women's entrepreneurship is an important factor in economic development. Preferential loans, microfinance, grants and state guarantees for women play an important role in starting and expanding their business activities. The combination of financial support with institutional mechanisms ensures the sustainable development of women's entrepreneurship. Adapting these experiences to national conditions will help increase women's economic activity and strengthen socio-economic stability.

The advanced foreign experience in financing women's entrepreneurship shows that the introduction of effective financial support mechanisms is crucial for the development of women's businesses. In particular, preferential credit lines, microfinance programs, grants and startup financing mechanisms aimed at women significantly increase entrepreneurial activity.

In addition, along with financial resources, business education, mentoring, consulting services, and the development of digital financial technologies will expand women's market access opportunities.

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