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Manzurahon Mirzajonovna Baltabaeva
Researcher,
Andijan State University, Uzbekistan
boltaboyeva68@mail.ru

**SECTION 13. Geography. History. Oceanology.
Meteorology.**

RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF WOMEN, ALL-SIDED SUPPORT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF BUSINESS: THE EXPERIMENT OF UZBEKISTAN (1991-2016)

Abstract: Article subjected to scientific analysis of the increase in socio-economic activities of women in society, and issues relating to the activities of women in small business and private entrepreneurship and financing.

Key words: small business, family proprietorship, woman proprietor, non governmental non commercial organization.

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Introduction

Today much is being done in Uzbekistan in the field of increasing the activities of women in business and proprietorship and supporting their abilities and possibilities as well as their effective use in the social life.

From the early days of Independence the problem of legal, economical and social protection of women, providing them with all necessary facilities for their further development has become an important component of the state policy.

The main aim of the state reforms in the field of transition to market economy and its further development was directed to the problems of development of the private property, small business as well as proprietorship. As a proof we can mention the laws, decrees of the President as well as the decisions of the government "On removing the properties from the state disposal and privatization" (1992), "On Social Unions" (1991), "On leasing"(1992), "On Proprietorship" (1991), "On Cooperation" (1993), "On Family Proprietorship"(2012), etc.

Materials and Methods

Our business women and woman-proprietors are permanently enjoying the measures taken by the government in the field of formation of private properties, small business, formation of family proprietorship, financial and spiritual support of the

women who wish get engaged in business and proprietorship as well as to release them from different taxations and necessary payments. Thanks to the intensive development of small business and proprietorship as well as introduction of new enterprises in our country only during the last 5 years around million new workplaces have been organized and it was the biggest practical step in the settlement of the most important problem [1]. In this field our women have their own noticeable contribution.

The contribution of small business and private proprietorship in the Gross Domestic Product is rising annually. If in the first years of Independence this amount was equal to 1,5%, in 2000 it has grown up to 31%, and in 2015 it was equal to 56%, i.e. in comparison with the results of 1991 it has grown as much as 37,3 times, in comparison with the data of 2000 it has grown as much as 1,8 times[1].

On December 2, 1991 at the conference of women of Uzbekistan held in the city of Termiz A Committee of Women of Uzbekistan has been established.

This non-governmental, non-commercial organization is engaged in the all-sided support of woman-proprietors united in 540 non-governmental, non-commercial organizations and coordination of their activities.

In the Decree of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, adopted on March 2, 1995 "On measures of increasing the role



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of women in the state an social construction” it has been pointed out that the Chairwoman of the Republican Committee of Women is at the same time the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Chairwomen of the Regional Committees of Women are the deputy ‘hokims’ of the regions.

In 1991 “The association of the business women” has been established and it is considered to be the first non-governmental, non-commercial women organization.

The main function of this association is to widen and to protect the economic, social rights and possibilities of women and support their proprietorial and social initiatives as well as to support them in the process of enjoying the financial resources.

Market relations require from women the proper skills of acting under the conditions of market relations as it is the case with any person. Therefore the association has been paying much attention to the problem of education of business women. In the regional departments of the association as well as in Karakalpakstan new consultative centers have been opened which teach the business-women the basic principles of business and provide legal advice. In the regional branches of these centers the would be business-women are taught the first steps in business and seminars and trainings are held there.

Since the time of organizing the association of business-women of Uzbekistan “A Woman proprietor” educational programs have been studied by more than 100000 women. 40000 women have been taught different skills of craftsmanship for women and 80% of them were provided with special workplaces, especially home-craftsmanship. 30000 women were taught the business skills and 75% of them have their own business. 4000 women were taught the skills of leadership in business[2].

Association is also taking an active part in the realization of governmental programmes. In 2013 in accord with the social order of the Public Foundation of supporting non-governmental, non-commercial institutions under the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan in company with the Ministry of Higher and Special secondary Education enlisted the graduates of the secondary special colleges to proprietorship.

As a result of this measure carried out under the project of the tradition “Master-learner” 837 graduates of colleges began their activities in private business.

Today there are a lot of documents of International scale which support the women in their activities such as “International Declaration Human Rights” (December, 1948), “International Convention on Liquidation of all forms of Discrimination of Women “(December, 1979), “Peking form of action” (September, 1995), “ Final documents of he General Assembly of the UNO on

the equal rights of women with men in the XXIth century” (June, 2000), “Declaration of development of the millennium and its aims” (September, 2000), etc.

It is to be noted that all the legal documents dealing with the protection of rights and benefits of women of Uzbekistan are based on the norms of the International Law.

The main directions of the permanent and systematic policy of the government of Uzbekistan on the protection of rights and freedom as well as the legal benefits of women are as follows:

1. to take measures on provision of performance of the documents adopted legal documents as well as further improvement of the legal base for protecting the rights and freedom of women, protection of motherhood and childhood;
2. permanent and complex monitoring of the situation of the protection of rights of women, improvement of their role in the family, in the society and in the government affairs;
3. to take effective measures in providing the business of women and carrying them out, to provide all sided help in providing them with necessary workplaces, especially to develop different types of proprietorship in far away villages;
4. to work out the measures for social-political and social-legal activities of women and carry them out, to assist the non-governmental, non-commercial organizations to take an active part in social and political life of the country;

In 2013 year_three big projects have been put into use. In the framework of the project “The factors and problems of proprietorship” the association with the help of all business structures defined some social and economic factors, which hinder the proprietorship and liquidate them and 323 women were helped to take credits, to take land for the business projects as well as to export their products.

During the last year more than 7000 beginner proprietor-women were taught the basics of business, more than 2500 women were directed to crafts which are required in the labor market.

According to Gulnora Mahmudova, the chairwoman of the “Tadbirkor ayol” (Woman-Proprietor) association 35%of business people and 10% of farmers functioning in Uzbekistan are woman. Association unites 12000 business units throughout the country. Around 200000 business women have been officially registered in Uzbekistan. About 300000 women are functioning independently[3].

In order to provide a full-length participation of women in the government of state and society, according to amendments of the election law political parties are given powers to allot 30% quota of the elected members for women.

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As a result of this quota 22% of deputies of the Legislative body of the Oliy Majlis are women. The association of business women in Uzbekistan is recognized as an organization which helps to settle the social problems. Today 2 senators of the Senate, 4 members of the Legislative body and 20 members of the local regional government are women.

The association has won prizes in the following competitions and exhibitions: in 2000 it won the prize of the UNIFEM in the nomination of "The best partnership", in 2005 it won the UN-Habitat prize of the UNO in the nomination of "Assistance to economic status of women by teaching them to profession and micro crediting", in 2006 it won the GFUND prize of the UNO in the nomination of Organization of new workplaces and teaching professional skills" [3].

50% of the workers laboring in different branches of social and economic fields of life are women and with their abilities and activities they are making worthy contributions to the development of our country. Among them there are lots of well known people, i.e. the leaders of enterprises, organizations, non-governmental, non-commercial organizations, farmers, doctors, representatives of science, culture and education.

If to approach the problem of participation of women in the social life from the historical point of view they have been active and had their own place in the development of social and economic as well as in the cultural life of both the khanate period of social life and that of the former Soviet regime. One of the peculiarities of the activities of the Uzbek women is that they are at the same time

House wives, others, and a proprietors making their own contribution to the development of society.

Educating their daughter by teaching them how to hold the household the mothers also teach them a definite type of skills of craft that would be helpful in their future life. Under the former Soviet grime the women engaged in craftsmanship and trade were treated as "speculants" and their labor was not appreciated.

In spite of such treatment home craftsmanship and proprietorship in the past historical period became a necessary component part of culture and served as the basis for the formation and development of small and private business level of the society.

It is not in vain that the problem of support of the private property, small business, and proprietorship and their development has risen on the state policy level in our country. On March 16, 2012 a new law "On Family Proprietorship" has been adopted by the Legislative body of Oliy Majlis. The third article of this Law says: «Family proprietorship is a kind of activity carried out by the family members on their own risk with the purpose of earning some benefit. The article 5 of the Law points

out that the participants of the family business may be the head of the family, his wife (her husband), children and grandchildren, parents, grown up relatives[4].

On May 15, 2012 the Decree (№4725) of the President of the country "On provision of reliable protection of private property, small business and private proprietorship, liquidation of barriers preventing them from further development" has entered into the force. This decree has established the main principles of creating necessary conditions and possibilities, widening the possibilities of enjoying credits and material resources, improvement of business environment, and some other measure have been pointed out [5].

The results of such reforms can be seen in the process of widening of proprietorship throughout the country, in the growth of the productive potential in different branches of the economy.

The contribution of this branch in the production of industrial goods in 2005 was 10% and in 2014 it has grown up to 31,9%, in agriculture, consequently from 87% in 2005 up to 98% in 2014, in trade from 43,7% up to 45,4%, in the amount of export this data has grown from 6% in 2005 up to 26% in 2014.

One of the main reasons of such a growth of small business and private proprietorship is that the privilege given to businesses in the field of taxation play the most important role. Particularly in 2010 the amount of taxes imposed on businesses has been lowered from 8% to 7%, in 2011 to 6%, and in 2012 to 5%. During the 1996-2014 the amount of taxes imposed on private businesses have been shortened from 38% to 5%, i.e. 7,6 times[1].

Foreign investments have also been widely drawn to the development of small business and private proprietorship. Particularly, Asian Bank of Development, Bank of Islamic Development, German Bank of Development (KfW), Government of China and other foreign investors allotted credits.

In 2010 International Financial institutions have allotted 146 million USD for the development of small business and private proprietorship and in 2015 this data has grown up to 155 million USD.

"Our Foundation has been effectively cooperating with the Committee of Uzbek Women and banks for 10 years in the field of development of women proprietorship, - says the Director of Foundation Department of Savings Banks of Germany Matias Foss, - in some territories we have organized consultative centers for business women. They help the business women to increase their financial literacy, to master the skills in the field of family business as well as in receiving credits. This helps the women in far away villages to widen their businesses, and organize the home craftsmanship.

Around 6,5 thousand women have been consulted in this field. More than thousand women

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have taken part in the measures organized to develop the business skills of women attracted to private proprietorship.

Women proprietors, especially those who live in the villages are the main directions of our collaboration in providing them primary capital fund by micro crediting. The general amount of credits allotted for them is over 14 billion sums" [6].

In Uzbekistan in 2001 for the field of small business and private proprietorship 171,5 billion sums were allotted, and in 2010 this sum has grown up to 2690,2 billion sums and in 2014 this data has grown up to 9158,0 billion sums. As a result of it during the 2001-2014 the amount of credits has grown more than 53 times[1].

With the purpose of introducing the best projects of woman-proprietors into public, especially of those who live in the far away villages since 2013 in collaboration with the Committee of Uzbek Women, Republican Central Bank at the head, and "Tadbirkor ayol" association of business women, Chamber of Trade and Industry, as well as "Hunarmand" (Craftsman) union hold competitions and exhibitions under the motto "The best project of the woman-proprietor".

In 2015 more than 1,5 thousand projects which took part in the first stage of demonstration under the directions "The best project in the field of production", "The best project in the field of service", "The best project intended to far away villages" and out of them 42 units were chosen to take part in the final stage.

For the first and second contestant projects were allotted more than 4,7 billion sums of credit.

With the purpose of supporting the initiatives of woman-proprietors the banks allot privileged credits. Particularly, during 11 months of 2015 for this field more than 1,2 trillion sums of credit resources have been allotted by commercial banks[6].

Moreover under the conditions of multi-party system Uzbekistan Liberal -Democratic Party – a union of proprietors and business people is functioning in our country. This party was founded in November, 2003 with its regional councils in cities and districts.

The main aim of the party is the integration of social layer of business people as a political power, to widen the possibilities for proprietors to activate their resources, and all sided assistance for business people in settlement of their problems.

The amount of membership to the party by women proprietors was in 2003 28, 3%, and in 2010 it constituted 35%, so today this data has grown up to 37,2%.

In the Andijon regional branch of this party there are 13879 members and 6050 of them are women.

According to information provided by Umidahon Isayeva, head of the department of

training political activities of women, since 2012 the Political Council of the Uzbekistan Liberal-Democratic party has been organizing project measures under the motto "From family proprietorship to strong family". The aim of this project s as follows:

- to increase the propaganda of the party and the membership of women proprietors to the party;
- to increase the legal knowledge of the members under the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Family proprietorship";
- to increase the social and political activities of women and attract them widely to small business and proprietorship, craftsmanship, particularly home craftsmanship, to assist them in the development of family business and receiving credit resources from banks.
- to create new workplaces.

In 2016 in accord with the decision of Executive Committee of the Political Council of LDPUzb (01-08/09 from January 19, 2016) in Andijon branch of this party council a new project "From family proprietorship to strong family" has been demonstrated. In this ceremony 69 women from 14 districts took part and 48 of them were able to receive credit resources with total amount of 848.800.000 sums, which allowed to form new and additional workplaces. Totally from the commercial banks were given credit of 848.800.000 sums to prize winners, created 141 new jobs [7].

From very old times the Uzbek people were famous for their mastership in craftsmanship. Today the increasing number of the tourists, foreign investors, and business people coming from foreign countries are interested first in seeing the historical monuments of his paradise-like legendary country and secondly to get introduced closely with the craftsmanship based on hand labor.

Uzbek skullcaps, silk materials like atlas, adras created by the neat hands of the Uzbek women glitter and shine in the eyes of the visitors. Uzbek women today are demonstrating their new and untouched sides of their creative abilities. They are working not only in the fields of craftsmanship like pottery, gravery, carvings, painting, sculpture and miniature, but also enjoying the possibilities of market economy. They are making their worthy contributions in the fields of agriculture, industry, service, and other branches.

The fact that our government has announced the government documents supporting the women proprietors and their activities in different branches of social and economic life and allotted capital funds for grants, privileged credits as well as support for the business people and other projects aimed at further development of private proprietorship made it possible for our women to take an active part in the

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government structures and made great positive changes in their social lives.

In the framework of total reforms in the health care system of Uzbekistan the national model of "Protection of motherhood and childhood" is permanently being introduced to life. Today even the women and children are provided with a qualified medical service. Around 3200 units of village medical service centers, a new granted medical first aid free of charge centers, Republican specialized medical service center, multi-branch service medical centers in the regions, perinatal and screening centers have organized and put into use. Their activities are primary and the best and they meet all the requirements of the World Organization of Health Care.

Involving women into sport affairs is one of the best and important ways of their health care. Throughout the country more than 35 thousand sections in 39 types of sport have been organized. Sport festivals for women are held annually. Today more than 3,5 million women are permanently engaged in sport.

As a result of these measures during the years of Independence women and children became healthier and mother and child death decreased three times and life expectancy of women has grown from 67 to 75.

The leader of the government is full of attention and care for women and the development of their spiritual, intellectual and creative potential has always been at the center of his attention.

Thanks to the initiative of the first President of our country in 1999 a new government reward under the name of a well known poetess Zulfiya was established for girls who reach great successes in their studies, creative activities, and social life. Today 196 girls are awarded with this prize.

'Mahalla' in our social life is becoming the center of social support for the development of family business and business of women.

Conclusion

As a conclusion we may mention that the article 63 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan says: "Family is the main pier of the society and it has the right to be under the protection of society and the government"[8]. In this meaning the fact that 1999 was declared as "The year of Women", 2000 was declared as "The year of Healthy Generation", 2001 was known as "The year of Mothers and Children", 2016 was declared as "The year of Healthy Mother and Child" may serve as an example of glorifying the women and protecting them, taking care of them, increasing their activities in the social and economic life.

As has been mentioned by our first President Islam Karimov "The women have good intentions and pure hearts. It is really our women who work much, who love their family much, and who do their best to make the family the real family and the man the real man"[9].

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