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## SOCIO-POLITICAL APPROACHES TO GENDER ISSUES

**Abstract:** The article considers gender in the political life of the state and society. Initially, the term “gender”, its origin and description of gender and gender concepts are presented and analyzed by Western scholars who studied gender relations in their studies. With the help of data and statistical examples, the importance of gender policy in solving the political problems of public authorities in the political activities of women, which are becoming increasingly important in the modern world. International reforms in gender policy are focused on gender policy in Uzbekistan. Conclusions and suggestions are made about the need to ensure gender equality while expanding the political participation of women in public administration.

**Key words:** gender, politics, sex, gender politics, gender equality, gender inequality, social gender, gender studies, gender role, socialization, gender identity, gender relations, political factors, gender symmetry, gender stratification, gender identity, gender identity, expressive role, instrumental role, feminism, etc.

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### Introduction

The term “gender” is a relatively new concept in science. Since today this term is widely used in a number of areas, it is important to study the origin and use of this term. Gender relations are widely studied as objects of research in the social and human sciences. In particular, anthropology, psychology, sociology, philology, philosophy, political science, history, economics to some extent study gender issues. Scientific views on the social status and gender relations of men and women can be seen in the studies of Western scholars such as Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, Habermas, Bourdieu, Simmel, Giddens, Luhmann, Hoffmann and Garfinkel. Emile Durkheim linked sexual relations with the development of the social division of labor and civilization.

He explains<sup>1</sup> that as a result of social development, one of the sexes is emotional, and the

other performs intellectual functions and complements each other. This distribution will continue in family, daily life, social, professional and other social relationships. An accurate understanding of gender roles is complemented by scientific theories.

Talcott Parsons and Bales views on the sociological interpretation of gender relations are important. They promote the idea<sup>2</sup> that women are expressive in the social system, and that men play an important role. The expression of the expressive role of women is the balance of psychological and emotional balance in the family.

The instrumental role of men is to regulate relations between the family and other social groups, to support and provide for the family. They form the basis of a traditional family.

The struggle of men and women for equal rights, freedoms and opportunities has passed a long

<sup>1</sup> Durkheim, E. On the division of social labor. The method of sociology. M.: Nauka, 1991.S. 61.

<sup>2</sup> Zdravomyslova E.A., Tyomkina A.A. Sociology of gender relations and gender approach in sociology © 2000. p.16 Microsoft Word - 002.ZDRAVOMYSLOVA.doc [Date of access 13.02.2020]

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historical period. The practical steps that began at that time were taken to a new level by the introduction of the term "gender" in 1968 by the American psychologist Robert Stoller. The term "gender" can be understood as the process of socialization of an individual.

Stoller notes<sup>3</sup> that the term "gender" is a concept that has psychological and cultural characteristics, not biological ones. If you correctly define gender as male and female, then respectively gender can be defined as masculinity and femininity (masculinity and femininity). American psychologist John William Mann (1921-2006) suggests that gender arises in the process of learning the native language. This is approximately until the child is 18 months old.

Gender is defined as a system of behavior and characteristics of men and women, their way of life and thinking, their role and relationships as individuals in the process of socialization, formed by society and social institutions. The gender system is defined from the social, political, economic and social points of view.

It is necessary to distinguish between the concepts of "gender" and "sex". If the biological sex is given to a person from birth, then gender is formed in social relations and is determined by the culture of society in a certain historical period.

Gender is a social sex that forms behavioral, cultural, psychological, and other sociocultural differences between men and women.<sup>4</sup> Gender is a complex concept, in its scientific explanation, we refer to the following comments:

- Anthropologists (for example, Margaret Mead), psychologists (Stoller, Z. Freud, S. J. Mann, Hampshire) and sociologists (Durkheim, Parsons) analyze the sex ratio not biological, but social, cultural, and historical. Importance is given to social factors, not to the category, race, age, origin, gender, or sex of the individual<sup>5</sup>. In General, it should be noted that the analysis of gender relations is essentially an analysis of gender relations in the economic, social, and political spheres of society.

- According to the radical feminist approach, one of the universal models of social stratification inherent in any society is the division into men and women depending on their gender.<sup>6</sup> In some cultures, biological differences between the sexes may be shown, while in others they may be reduced. This controversial issue, that is, gender inequality, causes constant debate and disagreement.

- According to Giddens's definition<sup>7</sup>, it is necessary to clearly distinguish between sex and gender, since differences between men and women occur for unnatural biological reasons. If an individual's sex is determined biologically, then gender is determined culturally and socially. In other words, there are two types of gender (female and male), as well as gender roles such as femininity and masculinity. "Gender" is understood in different ways in Russian, and the term "gender" is used to avoid discrepancies in the definition of socio-cultural characteristics of a person.

- The state of self-awareness associated with definitions of masculinity and femininity in different cultures is called *gender identity* or *self-awareness*. Gender identity is an understanding of one's own attachment to men and women who practice in a particular culture. In other words, it means that this society accepts a model of psychological qualities and actions that are determined by their biological origin<sup>8</sup>. The main thing in this is how a person characterizes himself, his position in society.

- Gender inequality is a characteristic feature of the social structure, according to which there are constant differences between different social groups (including men and women) in society, as well as unequal opportunities. This expression appeared in 1980 as the basis of the feminist concept (according to John Scott). In other words, gender inequality is that women and men have unequal rights, resources, and powers. Although the roles played by women and men differ significantly in different cultures, a society in which women have more power than men does not yet exist. The main task facing a woman, in whatever society she may be, is the upbringing of children and the management of the household, political and military actions is largely considered as the right of the male sex.

- Based on traditional views of the roles of men and women, it follows that their social actions are based on biological differences. On this occasion, the famous psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, who lived in the early XX century, said that, "Anatomy - is fate". According to him, the upbringing of a son is traditionally aggressive, because a man must be strong, ambitious and persistent in relation to a woman. For men are given the role of creators of history and culture. Girls from an early age are imbued with the role of a future mother, she should not have personal interests, she should devote her life to her

<sup>3</sup> Voronova A.V. "Gender as a subject of interdisciplinary analysis" Yaroslavl pedagogical Bulletin. 2015, no. 2. UDC 159.922.1 <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/gender-kak-predmet-mezhdistsiplinarnogo-analiza>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions-about-gender-equality> [accessed 18.02.2020]

<sup>5</sup> Collins. The big explanatory sociological dictionary. Moscow: "AST", 1999, Vol. 1.Pp. 109-110.

<sup>6</sup> Fundamentals of gender studies course program T.: "Uzbekistan", 2003, 15-p.

<sup>7</sup> Giddens, E., Sociology Caste. Culture, personality, and social interaction. Chapter 6. Gender and sexuality [https://www.gumer.info/bibliotek\\_Buks/Sociolog/gidd/06.php](https://www.gumer.info/bibliotek_Buks/Sociolog/gidd/06.php)

<sup>8</sup> Glossary <https://gender.uz/ru/site/glossary> [accessed 12.02.2020]

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family, her husband and children. Girls are raised both physically and psychologically defenseless. This creates a favorable basis for accepting violence against women.<sup>9</sup> Proponents of gender equality argue that the traditional granting of biological roles to both men and women is the result of a certain socialization, education, public opinion, literature and art, advertising, media and television. Therefore, advocates of gender equality fight for the elimination of traditional stereotypes, for understanding the individuality of each gender, and for equal opportunities.

- Gender asymmetry in the political sphere (an imbalance in the number of women and men in the political decision-making process) is clearly visible, because women's participation in the political life of society is low. According to world statistics, women account for 10 per cent of seats in parliaments and 6 per cent in national authorities.<sup>10</sup> However, women make up more than half of the population. Women's

employment in the family, lack of funds or support for conducting election campaigns, lack of foresight of big goals in achieving high positions, and achievement of political goals can be cited as reasons for the unequal position of women in politics with men. It is also natural that women's leadership in politics is difficult to study, since society has difficulty rejecting existing gender stereotypes.

By the middle of the XX century, special attention was paid to the problem of gender in the world. This term, which has been widely used since the 80s of the last century, reflects the exploits of women and men, their gender characteristics, lifestyle, thoughts and aspirations. A number of reforms have been carried out in the world to increase the role of women in the life of the state and society, and their socio-political activity.

In particular, granting women the right to vote in elections on an equal basis with men is an important step in recognizing women's rights and freedoms on a global scale. We will see this in the table below:

**Table 1. Year and countries women are given the right to vote on an equal basis with men.** <sup>11</sup>

1893	New Zealand	1945	France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Bolivia
1902	Australia	1946	Albania, Romania, Panama
1906	Finland	1947	Argentina, Venezuela
1913	Finland	1948	Israel, Korea
1915	Denmark, Greenland	1949	China, Chile
1917	Central Asian countries	1950	El Salvador, Ghana, India
1918	Canada	1951	Nepal
1919	Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia	1952	Greece
1920	The USA	1953	Mexico
1922	Irish	1954	Colombia
1928	Britain	1955	Nicaragua
1929	Ecuador	1956	Egypt, Pakistan, Senegal
1930	South Africa	1957	Lebanon
1931	Spain, Sri Lanka, Portugal	1959	Morocco
1932	Thailand	1962	Algeria
1934	Brazil, Cuba	1963	Iran, Kenya, Libya
1936	Costarica	1964	Sudan, Zambiya
1937	Philippines	1965	Afghanistan, Guatemala
1941	Indonesia	1977	Nigeria
1942	Dominican Republic of Uruguay	1979	Peru, Zimbabwe

Traditional political science and law previously considered women only as objects. In other words, philosophers, politicians, theorists, and practitioners of politics have ruled out that women participate in the political process, and this is not typical of women's

nature. The liberal theory of human rights was created in practice as a theory of human rights. This situation was sharply criticized by feminists. At this time, they began to create their own concepts of politics, political participation, and women's human rights theories. The

<sup>9</sup> Svetlana A. " Gender equality in the context of human rights" <http://www.owl.ru/win/books/gender/2.htm> [accessed 13.02.2020]

<sup>10</sup> Introduction to the theory and practice of Gender relations package T.: 2007, 43-b. n\_uzb\_gender\_book\_uzb.pdf

<sup>11</sup> Tuttle L. Encyclopedia of Feminism. 1986. P. 370-1

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activation of feminist movements and the popularization of the ideas of democracy and human rights in public thinking have led to a change in the situation in political theory and practice. Feminism has seriously analyzed many important concepts that apply to political science, including such concepts as power, sovereign powers, political obligations, civil, private life, democracy, and justice. Women's rights have become an integral part of international instruments and international practice in the area of human rights.

In recent years, local gender research experts have been working on many different topics. Among them, the study of gender aspects of policy plays an important role. In particular, the concepts of gender equality, gender inequality, gender symmetry and gender asymmetry are widely used in the study of political processes.

In the last quarter of the former century, British and American politics have identified issues of women's political activities in a separate area of studying and have found a solution in the form of the Association of researchers dealing with the topic "women and politics". The study of topics such as "women and politics", "women and democracy", "women and political participation", "women and power", "women and political theory", and "women and social behavior" began. In the 80's, a comparative analysis of the political activity of women and girls was formed. In the late 80's, studies were published on the end of the social policy of individual countries, on some issues of the Western women's movement and political theory. V.Fesenko notes in his research that when studying the issue of "women and politics", a number of problems may arise, that is, the inability of women to be the subject of political relations, their participation and role in society are considered from a narrowly functional point of view, and they are not allowed to possess the qualities inherent in women<sup>12</sup>. According to the results of the study, the increase in women's political activity is due to an increase in their level of knowledge, an increase in the number of working women, and a reduction in the time they spend caring for children.

The work of the United Nations for the protection of women's rights begins with the publication of its Charter. Among the goals set out in article № 1 of the Charter, it is proposed to "implement international cooperation in the field of respect for and development of human rights and freedoms regardless of race, gender, language and religion"<sup>13</sup>. In the first year of activities of the United Nations Commission to study the status of women,

namely the economic and Social Council established the Council, which became the global governing body dedicated to gender equality and support women. One of the most important tasks of the Commission is to monitor the observance of gender equality on the basis of the draft Declaration of human rights.

In the 70s of the XX century, when feminist movements began to expand internationally, the UN General Assembly declared 1975 the International women's year and dedicated its first world conference in Mexico city to this topic. As a result of the strict recommendations of the organizers, the years 1976-1985 were declared the UN decade of women and a voluntary Fund was established for this period. In 1979, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), which Five years after the Mexican conference, the second world conference on women was organized. In 1985, the world conference "UN decade of women: a review and appraisal of the achievements of equality, development and peace" was held in Nairobi. was called the International bill of rights of women. Five years after the Mexican conference, the second world conference on women was organized. In 1985, the world conference "UN decade of women: a review and appraisal of the achievements of equality, development and peace" was held in Nairobi. This event was organized at a time when the movement for gender equality has reached a global level on a global scale. The forum was attended by representatives of 15, 000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This event has been called the "birth of global feminism". Gender inequality still persists in the economic and political spheres. According to the UN, despite some progress made in recent decades, women on the global labor market find work on average 24 percent less often than men. As of August 2018, the total number of women parliamentarians is at least 24%. In 1995, this figure was 11.3 per cent, as evidenced by the unsatisfactory pace of positive changes in this issue.<sup>14</sup>

In the 1990s, proposals from UN member States to create an international organization that deals directly with gender issues began to fall. In 1994, more than 10,000 delegates from 179 countries participated in the international ethics conference in Cairo, supporting the UN proposal to create a framework for gender equality and women's empowerment. The UN organization for gender equality and empowerment of women, which has been operating since then, will closely assist UN member states in the development and implementation of

<sup>12</sup> Fesenko V. " Dynamics of women's political participation: self-organization, political movement, entry into power (1989-1998)/Femina postsovietica. Ukrainian woman in the period of transition: from social movements to politics / ed. by I. Zhrebkina. Kharkiv: KCGS, 1999, p. 83-151.

<sup>13</sup> Chapter I / United Nations <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html> [accessed 18.02.2020]

<sup>14</sup> United Nations. Gender equality file:///C:/Users/fpb/Desktop/Gender [accessed 4.02.2020]

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relevant laws and programmes for the implementation of international instruments on the establishment of gender equality.

This is another step after the Nairobi conference of the fourth World Conference on women in Beijing in 1995. The Beijing Declaration and its platform of action affirm their commitment to a concrete action to ensure respect for women's rights.

The Commission on the status of women is the main governmental body at the global level that deals exclusively with gender equality and women's rights and opportunities. The Commission on the status of women plays an important role in protecting women's rights, determining the status of women in all countries of the world, and defining global laws on gender equality and women's empowerment. The documents of the fourth world conference of women (Beijing, 1995) introduce the term "gender integration" as a political strategy. According to him, without the active participation of women at all levels of the decision-making process and without taking into account the interests of women, it is impossible to achieve the goals of equality, progress and peace.<sup>15</sup>

On July 2, 2010, delegates of the UN General Assembly voted to create a single organization responsible for accelerating progress in achieving UN goals related to gender equality and empowerment of women.

The United Nations organization for gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN WOMEN) brings together four divisions of the world organization: UN Women's development jargon (UNIFEM), the women's development division (CEDAW), the special adviser for the advancement of women, and the United Nations international research and training Institute for women's development (INTRAW).

Meanwhile, all UN efforts are aimed at achieving the sustainable development Goals (sdgs). In order for women's rights to be respected worldwide, many States must make appropriate changes to their national laws. The light of light initiative, implemented in partnership with the European Union, was created to end violence against women and ensure gender equality.

The UN "Spotlight" initiative is a global multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. Women and girls make up half of the world's population, which is said to equal half of the capabilities of humanity. The European Union and the United Nations have established a partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, this Alliance will be funded from an initial financial package of 500

million euros, this initiative will ensure the creation of new multilateral partnerships and broad coverage and targeted support<sup>16</sup>. It encourages the highest political commitments and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals (in particular, gender equality). This initiative aims to eliminate domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, harmful customs, human trafficking, and economic exploitation.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most frequent and widespread human rights violations. According to the UN, today more than 700 million girls living around the world are transferred to marriage before the age of majority, about a third of them that is about 250 million people, were under the age of 15 at the time of marriage. Almost 70 per cent of all victims of Since the Foundation was established, they have received grants totaling \$ 426 million for 116 initiatives in 136 countries. Among the many activities of the programme, the Secretary-General's programme "Elimination of violence against women" proposed the inclusion of an Orange Day on the 25th day of each month was declared a day dedicated to violence against women. November 25 is marked as the international day for the elimination of violence against women. And March 8 was declared International Women's Day. On this day, women around the world celebrate their achievements regardless of national borders, ethnic, linguistic, racial, cultural, economic and political differences trafficking found worldwide are women and girls.

As an equal subject of international law and human relations, many decrees and decisions on gender equality are adopted and implemented in our country at the state level. As a result of consistently implemented large-scale reforms, economic stability is ensured. At the same time, within the framework of the fifth sustainable development goal, Uzbekistan has developed a set of tasks related to "ensuring gender equality and empowering all women and girls".

According to the fifth goal (gender equality), it is necessary to eliminate any form of discrimination against all women by 2030, to ensure equal opportunities for full and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and social life. In addition, this goal includes the introduction of gender equality principles in the process of adopting state programs at various levels of the state.

In recent years, efforts to ensure gender equality and increase the role of women in public and political life have been carried out in several areas:

- improving the legislation on women's rights;
- improving the institutional framework for women's protection ;

<sup>15</sup> Aivazova S. G. Gender equality in the context of human rights. Moscow, 2001. P. 76

<sup>16</sup> The Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls <https://www.un.org/en/spotlight-initiative/index.shtml>

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- raising public awareness of gender equality and women's rights ;
- training of officials responsible for ensuring their compliance in law enforcement practice on the basis of relevant legal norms.

If we talk about institutional measures to ensure gender equality in our country, at the same time, a new issue of equality of women and men was created in the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is engaged in harmonizing international standards in national legislation to ensure women's rights and eliminate any forms of discrimination. All these newly created institutional bodies, together with the women's party of Uzbekistan, in accordance with the UN Convention on women's rights, gender equality and the unified integrity of the elimination of discrimination against women, are an important aspect of this issue.

It should be noted that the adopted legal documents and practical measures are an important step in the field of gender policy in Uzbekistan and fully comply with international norms and standards of legislation and practice, while some of them are based on the recommendations of UN human rights bodies. With regard to legislative measures in this area, in order to further improve the legal framework for ensuring and protecting women's rights in Uzbekistan, the laws "on guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men" and "on protection of women and girls from harassment and violence" were adopted in September 2019.

At the same time, within the framework of cooperation between UN agencies, a special group on gender issues has been established in Uzbekistan, which includes representatives of almost all UN agencies. In turn, the UN team in Uzbekistan will continue to provide comprehensive assistance to the country in order to ensure gender equality within the framework of the partnership for Sustainable Development for 2021-2025, which is currently being developed on the basis of broad consultations of all national partners and other stakeholders. On November 28, 2019, Tashkent hosted an international forum on the theme "Development of cooperation on gender and youth issues in the XXI century", organized by the Commission on gender equality of the Republic of Uzbekistan together with a number of international organizations. Also on 16 and 17 February of this year Dubai hosted the Women's Forum Bulungan. Saida Mirziyoyeva, a member of the Commission on gender equality of Uzbekistan, also took part in the forum and made a report on the reforms carried out to ensure gender equality in our country.

In conclusion, in an economically stable society, equality between men and women is at a high level. Gender equality also means social equality. To ensure such equality, it is not enough to introduce the necessary norms in the Constitution and laws. To

ensure gender equality, women and men must have equal access to legal information resources and opportunities to participate in the management of the state and society. This means that gender equality implies equal conditions for men and women to exercise their rights as a contribution to the National, political, economic, social and cultural development of the country, as well as equal opportunities to enjoy the results of their activities.

World experience shows that the solution of many problems in the field of women's rights is largely due to the culture of equality of men and women in society, in many respects gender policy. What you need to pay attention to in the main part of the Bund:

First, it can't be achieved without educating a woman to have a respectful relationship as a person, without raising her status, without improving her position in the family and society, without strengthening her legal status. For this reason, the importance of creating a clear legal framework for the protection and enforcement of women's rights, a favorable social environment for women, strengthening their status in the family and society, and increasing participation in state power structures is increasing.

Secondly, in the National mechanism for implementing international human rights standards, the importance of coordinated work in various levels, the activities of women's and women's public associations to protect the rights of men and women is increasing. However, the level of women's participation in politics, especially in the higher echelons of power, remains low, despite the fact that it has increased compared to previous elections. There are still no women leaders in political parties. Training women for leadership, communication skills with a large number of people, and responsible decision-making is undoubtedly an important task.

Without changes in this area, we cannot expect the development of civil society, the strengthening of its democratic institutions, the development of a strong, independent private sector, as well as various public and women's organizations. Its activities are aimed at the democratization of society (including through gender equality), and decision-making and the development of political parties is a requirement of time.

Third, it is necessary to further promote the development of the legal and political culture necessary for women and men to achieve consensus between men and women in the gender dimension of law, especially in the area of fundamental human rights, and to bring this consensus to real action towards gender equality and positive social development. The strategy for effective use of legal and political processes by women was to change the negative attitude of society towards women, overcome obstacles to improving their social and

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family status, and respect their rights due to gender inequality.

It should aim to put an end to discrimination and violence against retiring women. It is difficult to implement a restructuring of public relations based on the idea of democratization of society, the superiority of men, without changing the traditional thinking, Patriarchal stereotypes about the role of women and men, their rights and responsibilities. The preservation of Patriarchal values, gender differences, and a civil, open society will undoubtedly stop the progressive movement.

Fifthly, women should become more and more influential in political parties, in business, that is, where they will have real means of power to expand the network of supporters of equality policies. The increase in the number of women in various authorities can be achieved much more intensively when implementing gender equality policies.

The protection of women's rights in conditions of independence is an important area of state policy. Uzbekistan supports all UN initiatives aimed at ensuring the rights and interests of women. Measures are constantly being taken to develop and implement legal guarantees for the equality of the social status (status) of men and women in the country. The

activities of women's public organizations (NGOs) are aimed at creating a mentality that can change traditional social norms, mores, norms and gender stereotypes that are ingrained in the minds of the masses, to put in place a system of certain restrictions, and normalize the development of creative potential.

The perceptions that women's status in public opinion is low relative to men remain, and the need to take timely measures to correct this situation remains an urgent problem. New social conditions contribute to the emergence of new goals, the elimination of women's distance from politics and power, and the elimination of gender discrimination in all spheres of life.

In conclusion, I would like to say that, as the feminist theorists pointed out, being a man or a woman means not having certain natural qualities, but performing certain sociological tasks. This will have a direct and indirect impact on the factors of socialization, first of all, on the person himself, then on the environment, family, community, state and society, and will lead to the development and improvement of the individual. As the French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir said: "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman."<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Simone de Beauvoir on woman and liberation <http://krona.org.ua/simona-de-bovuar.html>[accessed 18.02.2020]

**Impact Factor:**

**ISRA (India) = 4.971**  
**ISI (Dubai, UAE) = 0.829**  
**GIF (Australia) = 0.564**  
**JIF = 1.500**

**SIS (USA) = 0.912**  
**PIHHI (Russia) = 0.126**  
**ESJI (KZ) = 8.716**  
**SJIF (Morocco) = 5.667**

**ICV (Poland) = 6.630**  
**PIF (India) = 1.940**  
**IBI (India) = 4.260**  
**OAJI (USA) = 0.350**

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