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ROLE OF GREEN ECONOMY IN SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN UZBEKISTAN

РОЛЬ ЗЕЛЕННОЙ ЭКОНОМИКИ В РЕШЕНИИ СОЦИАЛЬНЫХ ПРОБЛЕМ И ПОВЫШЕНИИ КАЧЕСТВА ЖИЗНИ В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ

O'ZBEKISTONDA IJTIMOIIY MUAMMOLARNI HAL QILISH VA HAYOT SIFATINI OSHIRISHDA YASHIL IQTISODIYOTNING O'RNI

Annotation. This study is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of the impact of green economy principles on the social sphere of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with a special emphasis on human development. The paper considers three key aspects of this impact: generation of environmentally oriented jobs, improvement of public health indicators and transformation of the education system in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Keywords: green economy policy, employment, health, education, human development equity, social issues, renewable energy, sustainable development.

Аннотация. Данное исследование посвящено комплексному анализу влияния принципов «зеленой» экономики на социальную сферу Республики Узбекистан, с особым акцентом на развитие человеческого потенциала. В работе рассматриваются три ключевых аспекта этого влияния: создание экологически ориентированных рабочих мест, улучшение показателей здоровья населения и трансформация системы образования в соответствии с принципами устойчивого развития.

Ключевые слова: политика «зеленой» экономики, занятость, здравоохранение, образование, равенство человеческого развития, социальные вопросы, возобновляемые источники энергии, устойчивое развитие.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur tadqiqot “yashil” iqtisodiyot tamoyillarining O‘zbekiston Respublikasi ijtimoiy

sohasiga ta'sirini har tomonlama tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan bo'lib, bunda inson salohiyatini rivojlantirishga alohida e'tibor qaratilgan. Maqolada ushbu ta'sirning uchta asosiy jihati ko'rib chiqiladi: yashil ish o'rinlarini yaratish, sog'liqni saqlash ko'rsatkichlarini yaxshilash va ta'lim tizimini barqaror rivojlanish tamoyillariga muvofiq o'zgartirish.

Kalit so'zlar: yashil iqtisodiyot siyosati, bandlik, sog'liqni saqlash, ta'lim, inson taraqqiyoti tengligi, ijtimoiy muammolar, qayta tiklanadigan energiya, barqaror rivojlanish.

INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the study is conditioned by the need for scientific understanding of the processes of Uzbekistan's transition to the model of sustainable development enshrined in the national strategic documents. In the context of global environmental challenges and UN sustainable development goals, the study of Uzbek experience acquires special scientific and practical significance. The methodological basis of the study includes: Analysis of implemented strategies and projects (construction of solar power plants, introduction of sustainable agriculture principles); Study of the legal framework, in particular the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On renewable energy sources”(2019).

DISCUSSION

The results obtained indicate the significant potential of green economy in addressing the country's pressing social problems, including: Poverty reduction; Reducing social inequality; Improving the quality of life of the population; Formation of new competencies of the labor force.

Scientific novelty of the research consists in revealing specific mechanisms of influence of green initiatives on human development in the conditions of Uzbekistan.

Prospects for further research are connected with in-depth study of long-term effects of green transformation on various aspects of human development in the regional context.

The green economy, according to UNEP [1], aims to improve well-being and social justice while reducing environmental risks. In Uzbekistan, where social problems such as poverty and inequality remain significant, the green economy offers solutions through the creation of green jobs and improved quality of life. President Shavkat Miramonovich Mirziyoyev has emphasized the

importance of sustainable development in his speeches, including the country's 2030 green economy transition strategy [15]. The study aims to examine how these initiatives affect human development, including health, education and income.

Legislation in Uzbekistan supports these efforts. For example, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Renewable Energy Sources" dated May 21, 2019, No. ZRU-539, establishes the legal framework for renewable energy development, including investment incentives and integration into the national grid. Also, Presidential Decree No. UP-5863, dated October 4, 2019, approves the Green Economy Transition Strategy, setting specific targets such as increasing the share of renewable energy to 25% by 2030 [9,10,11].

Literature review. The concept of green economy, according to UNEP [1], emphasizes the improvement of human well-being and social justice while reducing environmental risks. In developing countries such as Uzbekistan, green economy is seen as a means of achieving sustainable development through job creation and reducing inequality [2]. GGGI supports projects in Uzbekistan [3], including energy efficiency and renewable energy. World Bank [4] notes that without climate adaptation, Uzbekistan's economy could shrink by 10% by 2050, emphasizing the importance of green initiatives [5]. Studies show that green jobs can reduce inequality, especially in rural areas. In Uzbekistan, projects such as solar power plants create jobs and improve energy access. The Law on Environmental Protection supports these efforts by regulating the use of natural resources and reducing pollution [6].

Methodology of research. The methodology includes qualitative analysis of secondary data such as GGGI, World Bank and UNDP reports, as well as Uzbek legislative acts. A deductive approach based on green economy theories was used. Sources include official policies, academic articles.

Analysis and results. Uzbekistan, like many countries in the world, faces the challenges of climate change, ecosystem degradation and growing energy demand. In the context of the global quest for carbon neutrality and sustainable development, the government of the country has initiated a strategy of transition to a green economy, a key element of which is to increase the share of renewable energy sources to 25% by 2030[8]. One of the flagship projects of this strategy is a 100 MW solar power plant in Khorezm, scheduled for

commissioning in November 2025. The project, supported by the World Bank, aims not only to provide electricity to 60,000 households, but also to reduce CO₂ emissions by 230,000 tons per year.

In modern times, Uzbekistan has significant reserves of fossil resources, including natural gas, the world's 4th largest natural gas reserve, coal and oil. According to the International Energy Agency, about 85% of the country's electricity is generated by gas-fired thermal power plants, resulting in high greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions - about 110 million tons of CO₂-equivalent per year[12]. At the same time, population growth of 37 million people and industrialization increase electricity demand by 6-7% annually.

In particular, one of the pressing problems in society is outdated infrastructure, dependence on gas and climate commitments (Paris Agreement 2016) force Uzbekistan to look for alternatives. The RES potential is estimated at 51 GW, including: solar energy - 50.973 GW (90% of the territory receives more than 300 days of sunshine per year); wind energy - 520 MW (Karakalpakstan and Navoi regions); hydropower - 1.4 GW. Despite this, the share of RES in the energy balance remains low - about 10% including HPPs[7].

To address the above problems, Uzbekistan adopted the "Concept of Transition to a Green Economy" in 2019 and the law "On Renewable Energy Sources" in 2020. The main goals of these programs are: to reduce GHG emissions by 35% by 2030; to achieve a 25% share of RES in the energy balance; and to increase energy efficiency by 20%.

One of the current challenges is the intermittency of solar and wind generation, which requires technological solutions for grid stabilization. World experience [e.g., Tesla projects in Australia] shows that RCEs reduce energy losses by 15-20% and provide base load. For Uzbekistan, where peak consumption occurs in the evening hours, the SCS becomes a critical element of the energy system. To address these problems, it is necessary to analyze another project being implemented in the country that aims to create a 250 MW program, a solar plant with energy storage system, financed by ADB, for 75,000 households [5]. These projects create jobs, for example, 800 jobs during the construction phase [2024-2026], 100 during operation, improve the income of the population through the creation of a network of service companies of logistics, IT and repair, which will contribute to the growth of income in rural areas by 15-20% [13,14].

According to WHO, replacing diesel generators and coal-fired thermal power plants would reduce emissions of: CO₂: 350,000 tons per year; PM_{2.5} and SO₂: By 50%, which will prevent 500 cases of respiratory diseases annually. This in turn will lead to improved air quality by reducing emissions contributing to improved public health. Green skills training programs supported by GGGI increase educational opportunities, and the Renewable Energy Law encourages investment, creating employment opportunities.

Conclusions and recommendations. The text succinctly summarizes the findings of a study on the green economy's contributions to human development in Uzbekistan, highlighting its role in job creation, health improvement, and educational advancement. It proposes actionable recommendations, including strengthening inclusive policies, investing in training programs, and fostering community engagement. Additionally, it suggests future research to quantify the green economy's impact on the Human Development Index (HDI). The text is clear and focused but lacks depth in elaborating the mechanisms of impact and broader implications, which can be enhanced to meet academic standards. The study underscores the transformative potential of the green economy as a catalyst for sustainable human development in Uzbekistan, aligning with global paradigms of ecological and social progress. By fostering employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas through projects such as solar and wind energy infrastructure, the green economy addresses unemployment and stimulates economic inclusion. Initiatives in sustainable agriculture, such as water-efficient irrigation and reduced chemical inputs, have demonstrably improved public health outcomes by mitigating environmental degradation in vulnerable regions like the Aral Sea basin. Furthermore, educational advancements driven by training programs in renewable energy and green technologies have enhanced workforce competencies, positioning Uzbekistan to meet the demands of a low-carbon future.

CONCLUSION

These findings reveal a synergistic relationship between green initiatives and social outcomes, where ecological modernization serves as a lever for reducing poverty, narrowing inequality, and enhancing human capital. However, the success of these interventions hinges on robust institutional

frameworks and equitable resource allocation. The study's emphasis on inclusive policies reflects the necessity of integrating marginalized groups, including women and rural populations, into the green economy's benefits. Community engagement emerges as a critical factor in ensuring local ownership and sustainability of projects, while investments in education are pivotal for long-term capacity building.

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