



**IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION
POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE YEARS OF
INDEPENDENCE
(ON THE EXAMPLE OF SAMARKAND REGION)**

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Annotation: *This article analyzes the main social problems that have arisen in the Samarkand region since independence. It highlights problems in the areas of employment, education, healthcare, and infrastructure, and the reforms aimed at solving them. It provides detailed information on the approaches used to address the problems and their results. It also discusses the impact of this process on social stability and development.*

Key words: *independence, Samarkand region, social problems, employment, education, healthcare, infrastructure, reforms, social stability, development.*

INTRODUCTION

Independence marked the beginning of a new stage in the history of Uzbekistan. During this period, the country underwent profound changes in the social, economic, and cultural spheres. In this context, the Samarkand region was also one of the areas that faced various social problems in the early years of independence. This article analyzes the main social issues that emerged in the Samarkand region during the years of independence, the reforms implemented to address them, and their outcomes.

Analysis of Social Problems

1. Employment and Unemployment Issues

In the early years of independence, the transition of economic reforms in the Samarkand region caused certain difficulties. The closure of enterprises and the period of adaptation to new economic conditions left a large part of the population unemployed. Especially in rural areas, employment became one of the most pressing social problems.

The government introduced programs aimed at developing small business and entrepreneurship. State investments were attracted to create new jobs in Samarkand, and privileges were granted to foreign investors. In rural areas, agro-clusters and cooperative organizations were established to increase employment opportunities, which significantly expanded possibilities for providing jobs to the population.

2. Difficulties in the Education System

During the transition period, the reduction of funding in the education sector and shortcomings in infrastructure became one of the social problems. The weak material and technical base of rural schools, as well as the shortage of qualified teachers, had a negative impact on the quality of education.

In the following years of independence, special attention was paid by the state to the education sector. Schools in rural areas were reconstructed, a system of incentives for teachers was introduced, and modern educational programs were developed. In addition, in cooperation with international organizations, modern information technologies were introduced into schools and higher education institutions, which greatly contributed to improving the quality of education.

Table 1.

Main Social Problems in the Samarkand Region and Ways to Solve Them

Problem	Causes	Solutions	Results
Employment and unemployment	Closure of enterprises, lack of jobs in rural areas	Development of small business, establishment of agro-clusters	Decrease in unemployment rate
Difficulties in education	Reduction in funding, lack of infrastructure	Reconstruction of schools, encouragement of teachers	Improvement in education quality

Problems in healthcare	Financial shortages, lack of personnel	Construction of modern hospitals, introduction of mobile services	Improvement in the quality of medical services
Weak infrastructure	Underdevelopment of water, electricity, and road networks	Installation of water pipelines, modernization of electricity networks	Improvement in the quality of life in the region

3. Challenges in the healthcare system

In the early years of independence, the healthcare system in the Samarkand region faced financial shortages and a lack of qualified personnel. Serious problems emerged, especially in providing the rural population with high-quality medical services.

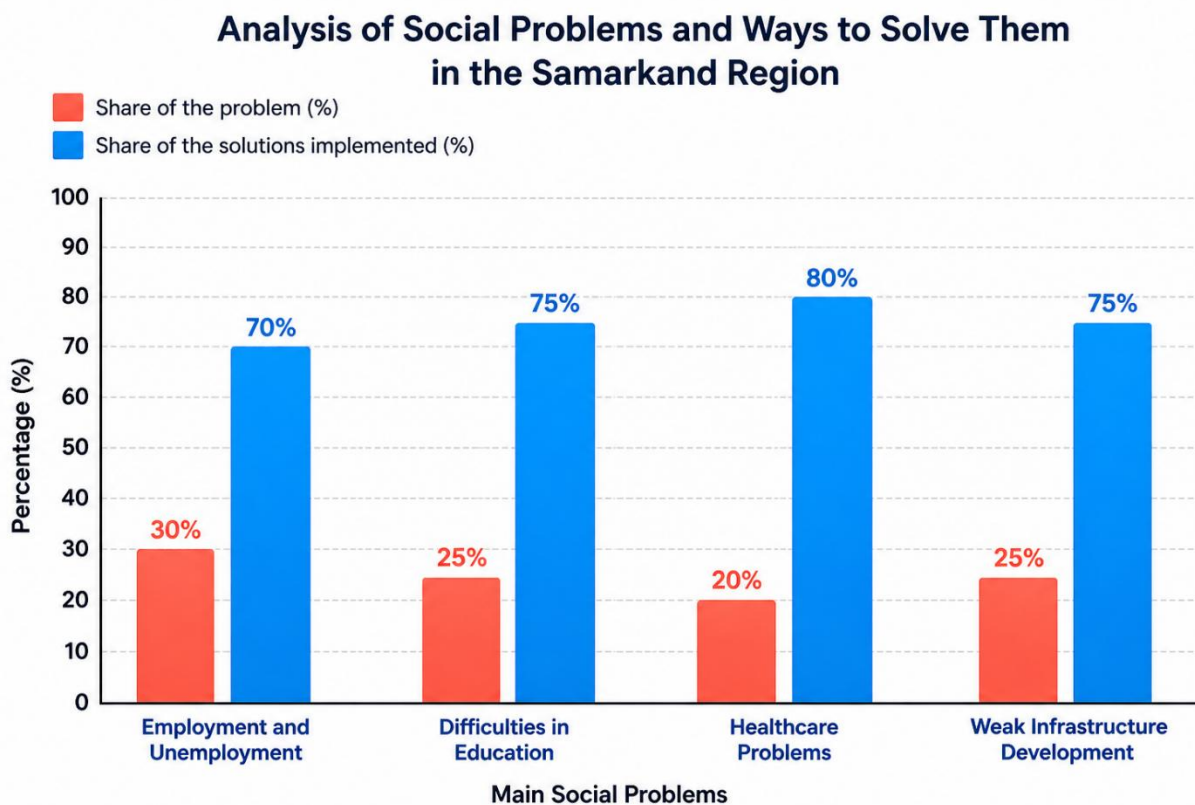
Reforms were carried out in the healthcare sector, and modern diagnostic centers and hospitals were built in the Samarkand region. In cooperation with foreign countries, training programs were implemented to improve the qualifications of medical staff. Family polyclinics were established in rural areas, and mobile medical services were introduced, which made it easier for the population to access healthcare assistance.

4. Slow Development of Social Infrastructure

During the years of independence, the development of infrastructure in Samarkand, especially in the supply of drinking water, electricity, and road networks, progressed slowly. This mainly hindered the improvement of the quality of life of the rural population.

Within the framework of state programs, drinking water pipelines were installed in rural areas, electricity networks were modernized, and road infrastructure was improved. With the support of international financial institutions,

projects for developing rural infrastructure were implemented. The development of tourism infrastructure in the Samarkand region was also launched, which contributed not only to economic growth but also to improving the quality of life of the population.



The diagram above analyzes the main social problems that have arisen in the Samarkand region during the years of independence and the achievements made in solving them. The diagram illustrates the main social problems faced by the Samarkand region during the years of independence and the effectiveness of the measures taken to solve them. Four major issues are highlighted: employment and unemployment, difficulties in education, healthcare problems, and weak infrastructure development.

The red bars represent the share of each problem, while the blue bars show the percentage of implemented solutions and achieved progress. According to the chart, employment and unemployment accounted for 30%, while the implemented reforms reached 70%. Difficulties in education represented 25%, with solutions achieving

75% effectiveness. Healthcare problems made up 20%, but reforms in this sector showed the highest result at 80%. Weak infrastructure development accounted for 25%, while improvement measures reached 75%.

Overall, the diagram demonstrates that despite serious social challenges in the early years of independence, consistent reforms and state programs significantly improved living conditions and social development in the Samarkand region.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, during the years of independence, Samarkand region faced many social problems. However, thanks to the joint efforts of the state and society, significant steps have been taken to solve these problems. Currently, Samarkand region has achieved significant achievements in the social sphere and continues to develop. Reforms in the fields of employment, education, healthcare and infrastructure have helped the region achieve social stability. To continue this process, a systematic approach, innovative solutions and continuous reforms are needed. Also, broad-scale cooperation involving all segments of society will help to further consolidate these achievements.

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