

The Role of The Social State Principle in Ensuring Human Interests and Enhancing Human Dignity

Botirov Zafar Saydullayevich

Lecturer at the Department of Social Sciences, Alfraganus University, Uzbekistan

Received: 31 March 2025; **Accepted:** 29 April 2025; **Published:** 31 May 2025

Abstract: This article analyzes the role of the social state principle in ensuring human interests and elevating human dignity from a socio-philosophical perspective. It highlights the importance of key issues such as improving living standards, creating equal opportunities, and ensuring social justice through the concept of the social state.

Keywords: Culture, human, values, norms, progress, justice, equality, healthy lifestyle.

Introduction: The socio-economic changes occurring in society have significantly influenced the improvement of people's lifestyles and their rapid manifestation. These efforts aim to uncover the qualities of individuals associated with continuous improvement and to enrich them with new criteria. Such actions empower society to enhance all aspects of human life through positive relations. In this regard, ensuring human rights and freedoms and promoting human dignity are fundamental factors in the development of any democratic society.

As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized: "Today, the ideas of ensuring personal dignity, rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests, as well as cultivating a human rights culture in society, have become the cornerstone of the state's internal and foreign policy, the driving force behind democratic reforms in New Uzbekistan, and the foundation of deep reforms across various sectors."

The core of ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan is centered on the individual and their interests. Honoring human dignity, providing comprehensive support, and improving quality of life are closely linked to the concept of the "social state." This concept refers to a governance system based on guaranteeing rights to work, education, and healthcare, as well as ensuring social protection for vulnerable population groups and promoting fair and equal opportunities.

In parallel, maintaining a socially stable environment is

essential for ensuring public cohesion. Therefore, in the course of reforms, it is crucial to define and implement strategic tasks, as well as address emerging issues. One of the most significant characteristics of reforms focused on the social domain is the advancement of human dignity. According to B. Omonov: "When analyzing the reforms, it becomes evident that the processes of modernization in Uzbekistan are accelerating. The goal is to ensure the well-being of the population by creating full conditions for high economic growth, strengthening democracy, and increasing economic competitiveness."

Thus, high economic standards and material well-being form the basis for implementing the important principle of prosperity in daily life. This plays a crucial role in shaping society's development toward progress, fostering advanced modern competencies, and enriching developmental criteria from new perspectives.

In the historical development of society, the human factor, which has evolved over millennia, is reaching a new and higher stage. At the core of these transformations lie systems of relations between the individual and society based on harmony, social justice, and solidarity. Respecting human dignity and prioritizing individual interests have become fundamental benchmarks of humanitarian principles. This approach not only underpins the idea of the social state but also serves as one of the essential elements for elevating human dignity.

The following principles can be identified as fundamental in this regard:

Mutual support and compassion – strengthen social solidarity and human connections among citizens;

Highly developed moral consciousness – reinforces justice, integrity, and humanism in social life;

Philosophical and social reasoning – defines the essence of social policy through deep reflection on the individual and society;

Positive aspects of national mentality – help form a system of social interests in line with public consciousness;

Natural conditions and resources – provide the necessary economic foundation for social development;

Unique demographic situation – determines the need to shape social policy considering the population's age structure and social needs.

The consolidation of the system of social interests and the establishment of a social state that deeply understands and responds to the needs of the population play a decisive role in enhancing human dignity.

Such a comprehensive approach to elevating human value lays a firm foundation for societal stability and progress. These principles, which have held significant importance in the social life of the Uzbek people for many years, have long served as a factor in sustainable development. Historically, our people's lives have been enriched with examples of compassion and benevolence — a claim that is far from exaggerated. Even in the face of various difficulties, these traditions encompassing tolerance and generosity have never faded, instead continuing to manifest extraordinary examples.

The implementation of these principles in society demonstrates a systemic nature, revealing the humanistic dimension of society itself. Thanks to the effective realization of the human factor and its enrichment with modern foundations, complex and unstable situations in society are overcome, and the boundaries of development are steadily expanded.

As new social traditions centered on honoring human dignity emerge within society, the level of responsibility placed upon related institutional structures increases accordingly. Government authorities and their subdivisions actively engage local self-governing bodies — including neighborhood (mahalla), rural, and village citizen assemblies — in organizing targeted social support and assistance to disadvantaged groups. As a result, a significant portion of those in need gains access to social support

mechanisms.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has noted: “Today, life itself places at the forefront the most fundamental goal enshrined in our Constitution — the comprehensive provision of human interests.”

Within the process of societal development, the prioritization of human dignity, along with the protection of human rights and freedoms, is regarded as a fundamental mission. The rights granted to individuals and the modern opportunities and privileges afforded to them define the essence of social life and guide it toward continuous improvement. Human freedom and well-being do not arise spontaneously; rather, their realization depends on the consistent implementation of clearly defined goals and meticulously developed legal norms within state policy.

Moreover, the effectiveness of social reforms plays a crucial role in advancing human dignity. By promoting social interests, developing infrastructure that meets the population's needs, and improving systems of education, healthcare, and employment, the principles of a social state are being actively implemented. This contributes to the formation of a governance model rooted in social justice, which in turn promotes respect for human dignity, strengthens public trust in the state, and serves as one of the key criteria for achieving sustainable development and determining social policy priorities.

In modern Uzbekistan, a consistent policy aimed at meeting the social needs of citizens and improving quality of life is being pursued. The newly revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan firmly enshrines the principle of the social state in legal terms. This principle plays a vital role in ensuring the comprehensive fulfillment of human interests, fundamentally improving living conditions, and implementing the principles of justice and equality in practice. Indeed, the ultimate goal of establishing a social state is to exalt human dignity and ensure its realization in daily life.

The new edition of the Constitution of Uzbekistan contains several important provisions regarding the protection of human dignity and the provision of social interests. Article 2 states: “The state expresses the will of the people and serves their interests. State bodies and officials are accountable to society and citizens.”

This demonstrates that, today, strong social protection and care for the needy are among the highest priorities of state policy. In contemporary society, the state has assumed principal responsibility for addressing poverty, ensuring employment, and protecting citizens from unemployment — all while accepting increased obligations toward its citizens.

In general, in today's New Uzbekistan, the scope and quality of the state's social obligations to its people are expanding day by day. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev articulates the harmony between the individual and society through the following vision: "New Uzbekistan is an era in which the noble idea — 'The interests of the people are above all' — is being confirmed through practical deeds. New housing, modern enterprises, educational, medical, cultural, and sports facilities, as well as flourishing villages and cities, are embellishing the beauty of our homeland."

These words reflect the elevated expression of the people's will in the historical context of New Uzbekistan. They testify to the success of forward-looking and comprehensive programmatic results, which not only define today's achievements but also hold promise for lasting and future-oriented developments, continually advancing through noble ideas and progressive stages of transformation.

In today's modern conditions, the question of why the principle of the social state is emerging as an important life rule gives rise to a significant logical foundation in the reasoning. The state has defined its great objectives, and the main directions of these goals are aimed at elevating the individual. At this point, another foundation of the social state is the formation of an information society. "An information society is one that creates conditions for socio-economic development, primarily by preparing, processing, storing, and delivering information to members of society."

Raising the population's standard of living plays an invaluable role in enabling citizens to find their rightful place in society, and efforts are being made to provide equal opportunities to all. Comprehensive and systematic efforts are being undertaken to ensure that people can exercise their rights in social life. These processes reflect that ensuring fundamental interests is regarded as a responsibility of both the state and society.

Among the most important features is the full employment of people with disabilities and the creation of suitable workplaces for them. Additionally, conditions are being prepared to support their access to education and to help them achieve effective educational and scientific outcomes. At the same time, measures to monitor their health regularly and to provide exemplary social services locally are being implemented as a practical expression of the principle of the social state.

These forward-looking processes, based on the logic of the relationship between individuals and society, are interconnected with the creation of real living conditions in social life. Ensuring that a person finds a

decent place in society and gains access to essential privileges is a key criterion in upholding the supremacy of human rights. Furthermore, it is considered a primary condition for the actual implementation of laws that state institutions perform their functions strictly within the framework of ensuring human rights and realizing their interests.

Creating decent living opportunities and ensuring human dignity depend significantly on the continuous renewal and reform processes in society. Why does society care for individuals and constantly enhance their opportunities? Because the foundation of these actions lies in human-centered policies and their realization. Following these norms allows the people to witness the implementation of measures and be satisfied with the process, which itself is one of the logical bases of social development.

Ensuring human interests, applying their legal and social guarantees in real life, and improving the system of targeted assistance to vulnerable groups through modern management technologies and advanced methods play a crucial role in enhancing human dignity. From this perspective, our people's centuries-old mentality and historically rooted sense of social justice are reflected in today's social policies. This, in turn, has a positive influence on the formation of effective mechanisms aimed at protecting human interests in society.

The implementation of these mechanisms through the principle of the social state is of particular importance, as it places the individual and their interests at the center of state policy. Through the concept of the social state, tasks such as fully encompassing the fundamental interests of the population, raising them to a higher level, and improving the quality of life are being consistently realized. Indeed, honoring human dignity is regarded as the most fundamental criterion of societal progress.

According to N. Kondratovich, "A socially based state is understood as one in which the economic and social rights and freedoms of the population, as well as the state's responsibility in this regard, are constitutionally enshrined."

In upholding human dignity, the primary aim of comprehensive social protection is to prevent a sharp decline in the standard of living for the broader population. To achieve this objective, a range of measures and direct regulatory instruments of the state are employed, including monetary payments, provision of various benefits, subsidization of price differences for consumer goods and services, as well as the distribution of essential food and non-food items.

One of the most crucial aspects of this process is the

unconditional adherence to the norms established by the Constitution, laws, and by-laws in realizing human dignity. This ensures that the protection and guarantee of human rights and freedoms are aligned with all internationally recognized principles. As R. Ubaydullaeva notes, "Social protection is a system of direct and targeted guarantees by the state aimed at creating the necessary conditions for the population to meet their basic needs and maintain an acceptable standard of living."

Therefore, analyzing the challenges related to enhancing human dignity within the context of social development is vital. It is important to study the causes that influence the dynamic relations between individuals and society and draw appropriate conclusions. The state system actively participates in creating real conditions for individuals. It is capable of promptly responding to both negative and positive developments in the social sphere, with ample resources available to do so. This emphasis reflects the fact that in our country today, addressing human issues is considered a top priority.

Social protection of the population is a continuously operating and evolving system. In state policy, it manifests through pensions, benefits, material assistance, preferential services for the elderly, the sick, and persons with disabilities, and special care for children. Under the conditions of real and modern relationships shaped by the market economy, the state continuously refines the mechanisms of social protection and periodically clarifies the roles and responsibilities of all relevant institutions and enterprises. In practice, this may also imply a decrease in the share of budgetary funds allocated for social protection and a reduction in the scope of state guarantees.

An analysis of individuals' material security and social freedoms reveals that in many countries, the social protection system contains significant contradictions. While equal rights are acknowledged in some societies, uniformity in material provision is lacking. Income inequality restricts individuals' legal and economic opportunities. This inequality becomes particularly evident in cases of aging, illness, loss of work capacity, the death of a breadwinner, or childhood dependency, where the need for material support and access to services arises.

In organizing social provision, it is important to acknowledge the role of executive and administrative bodies in implementing key programs. These bodies initiate crucial work based on their local capacities. As the social profile of the population constantly changes, regional authorities and management structures are

required to regularly update their decisions in accordance with the nature of these changes. This necessitates that local authorities and all subordinate entities operate with heightened responsibility and incorporate ongoing analysis into their daily activities.

Ensuring full social benefits and creating fair conditions for all segments of the population play a significant role in elevating human dignity. From this perspective, the social protection system is regarded as one of the key instruments of a social state. The provision of material assistance to various groups and the improvement of their living conditions are organized on a regulatory and institutional basis by the state. The public social protection system serves to meet the vital needs of vulnerable groups through financial and material support. This system is built on the principles of social protection, which include:

1. Universality – every citizen has the right to access social protection;
2. Inclusiveness – social assistance covers all vulnerable segments of the population;
3. Equity – ensuring fair and justified distribution of support;
4. Sufficiency – the assistance must be adequate to meet basic human needs;
5. Targeting – support must be directed specifically to those in need;
6. Adaptability – social policy and assistance mechanisms must align with real-life conditions.

In the system of social protection, it is essential to adhere to universally accepted international norms and principles. Among the most important of these is the principle of encouraging the role of personal income and other material means in improving the population's living standards and family welfare, and in meeting their material, social, economic, and spiritual needs. The significance of this principle lies in harmonizing citizens' opportunities to earn material benefits through labor and production with the state's assistance mechanisms.

An analysis of global trends and strategies shows that in recent times, the world has been experiencing significant geopolitical, geoeconomic, geosocial, and ideological transformations. Furthermore, humanity is facing new global challenges such as the worldwide financial and economic crisis, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which have left lasting negative impacts.

It must also be acknowledged that all material resources and social relations should be aimed at benefiting human beings. The fact that all resources are directed toward improving human life corresponds

with both religious and secular worldviews. These views support the idea of preserving human dignity and providing decent living conditions. Taking these considerations into account, operating with a focus on social interests and placing high priority on the human factor becomes the only effective approach to overcoming global challenges. These characteristics are critically important in ensuring the continuous development and refinement of programs and policies aimed at securing a dignified life for individuals and sustainable development of society.

Such social programs aim to elevate the qualitative status, role, and position of the individual within social life. They are also related to solving some of the pressing social and economic problems faced by individuals. Showing empathy toward people's struggles and sharing in their sorrows have long been part of the cultural fabric of our nation. These processes emerge thanks to the high spiritual awareness of our society. If spirituality does not develop, humanity in society will also decline, resulting in moral decay and indifference.

Through constant self-exploration, individuals develop their potential. Their creative abilities contribute uniquely to solving social issues. Simultaneously, the assurance of full enjoyment of rights and freedoms leads to an upward shift in their social standing. These emerging features redefine the pathways of human life, enhancing their status as the highest social value. This shared sense of moral unity positively influences society's future, rapidly increasing its humanistic orientation.

In a society where well-being is achieved through the proper use of material and moral resources, an individual's ability to choose from a variety of alternatives and benefits contributes to improving their quality of life. Meeting people's daily needs and demands in a timely manner requires considerable social experience. This experience is a reality that develops not only in individuals but throughout society. It serves as a foundation for social development and sustainable progress. These processes draw strength from the established laws of social life and generate new positive patterns in interpersonal relations. These relations are interconnected, and in their mutual linkage, they give new meaning to human life.

Moreover, principles associated with social development strategies, the implementation of the human welfare concept, and the accelerated integration of national economies into the global community lay the groundwork for the gradual improvement of public well-being. The prioritization of modern approaches and the innovative factor in

realizing these principles is a key criterion. This situation calls for further development in this direction and the mobilization of all available resources to achieve these goals.

One of the main indicators expressing the standard of living of the population is the growth of income, which in turn contributes to the improvement of indicators such as healthcare, satisfaction of basic daily needs, access to education, and opportunities for cultural and physical recreation. The high standard of living of the population can be categorized into the following criteria:

Well-being, i.e., full access to material goods as factors enabling comprehensive human development and ensuring decent living conditions in society;

Normal level, meaning a consumption standard that fully corresponds to scientifically and legally established norms, enabling individuals to realize their physical and intellectual potential;

Realization of the human factor, meaning the assurance of comprehensive material and spiritual provision by society, which allows positive social transformations and reflects the practical implementation of development norms;

High engagement, i.e., not only meeting material needs but also realizing spiritual potential, including the effective use of scientific capacity and accumulated educational experience.

The psychological state of the people and the formation of their stable mindset are closely linked to the satisfaction of their needs. Though individuals' psychological perspectives may differ, there are shared interests. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, human rights and freedoms are recognized and guaranteed in accordance with universally recognized norms of international law. Human rights and freedoms are inherent from birth. In this context, Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: "All citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall have equal rights and freedoms, regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, religion, beliefs, social origin or social status. Privileges shall be established only by law and must correspond to the principles of social justice."

Everyone strives to meet their daily needs, which can occur through various processes. The realization of these criteria is closely linked to democratic values established within human society and at the national level. The primary goals of ensuring prosperity are also aimed at creating favorable living conditions. Furthermore, the content of ongoing state reforms, focused on the human factor, holds great practical

importance.

In the implementation of democratic values in society, the principle of social justice also plays a vital and motivating role. A person must live freely and with dignity in society. How can they achieve these freedoms? In this process, the principle of justice serves as a key factor. According to the Legal Encyclopedia: "Social justice is a state policy that determines the level of democratic development of society, compliance with human rights and freedoms, and serves as a moral image of national life. It ensures the distribution of national wealth in the interests of the socially vulnerable strata of the population."

Thus, social justice is a fundamental principle for realizing the core interests of individuals and ensuring their rightful place in social life. It embodies the criteria of equality before the Constitution and the law for all citizens. The principle of justice includes respect for every individual regardless of their social status or origin and creates conditions for their comprehensive development. These principles extend widely across social infrastructure—employment, education, cultural and healthcare services, housing, and care for the elderly, disabled, mothers, and children.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the establishment of social justice in any community is fundamentally connected with recognizing the dignity and honoring the social interests of the individuals living and working in that environment. Those who respect the interests of others and contribute to the prosperity of society raise their own dignity. Indeed, the ultimate goal of human beings is to benefit others and the community as a whole. The principle of justice is what protects human dignity and integrity, reinforcing mutual respect, solidarity, and social harmony.

From this perspective, ensuring the implementation of social justice principles in the education system is of great importance. Social justice finds real-life expression through the guaranteed protection of the rights and interests of all educational stakeholders—students, teachers, and parents. In particular, the expansion of social support for youth promotes their development based on equal opportunities. This, in turn, contributes to the institutionalization of social justice as a criterion of stability and positively influences the formation of principles of national development.

REFERENCES

Barak A. Human Dignity: The Constitutional Value and the Constitutional Right. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. – 432 p.

Häberle P. The Social State Principle // The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany: Essays on the Basic Rights and Principles of the Basic Law. – 2002. – P. 39–60.

Marshall T. H. Citizenship and Social Class. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1950. – 88 p.

Rawls J. A Theory of Justice. – Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971. – 560 p.

Sen A. The Idea of Justice. – Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009. – 496 p.