

Social Reforms Aimed At Eliminating Gender Inequality In Our Society

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Received: 19 July 2025; **Accepted:** 15 August 2025; **Published:** 17 September 2025

Abstract: This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the historical, philosophical, social, and cultural roots of gender inequality and its manifestations in different epochs. By applying a comparative approach to Eastern and Western philosophical traditions, the study highlights the evolution of views on women's roles and rights from antiquity to modernity. Particular attention is given to the mechanisms of overcoming gender disparities through contemporary reforms, with a special emphasis on Uzbekistan's recent experience. The findings demonstrate that ensuring gender equality is not merely a matter of social justice, but also a prerequisite for sustainable development, social stability, and national progress. Furthermore, the study underscores the interdependence between theoretical understanding and practical reforms, showing that effective social transformation requires both conceptual foundations and political will.

Keywords: Gender inequality, social reforms, historical-philosophical perspectives, women's rights, Uzbekistan's experience.

Introduction: Gender inequality has remained one of the most persistent challenges of human civilization, deeply embedded in cultural traditions, socio-economic systems, and philosophical worldviews. Across centuries, the unequal distribution of rights, opportunities, and responsibilities between men and women has significantly shaped the trajectory of social progress. Scholars argue that this inequality is not a product of natural differences, but rather the consequence of historically entrenched ideological, religious, and institutional structures that favored patriarchal dominance.

The issue of gender inequality has always been more than a private or individual concern; it is a structural and societal phenomenon. For centuries, women have been marginalized, restricted to domestic roles, and denied access to education, politics, and economic opportunities. These limitations hindered not only women's potential but also the development of society at large. In the modern era, international organizations, national governments, and civil society have increasingly recognized that achieving gender equality is a necessary condition for sustainable development, democracy, and human rights.

In Uzbekistan, the problem of gender equality has become a central concern of state policy. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has repeatedly emphasized that strengthening the role of women in society is a strategic priority. The current wave of reforms is directed at creating equal opportunities for men and women in all spheres of life, promoting women's active participation in politics, business, and education, and ensuring the protection of their rights. Against this backdrop, the present study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the historical and philosophical roots of gender inequality while also evaluating contemporary strategies designed to achieve equality in Uzbekistan.

METHODS

The study employs a qualitative and comparative approach that combines historical, philosophical, and socio-political analysis. The research methodology rests on several key dimensions. First, historical analysis was used to trace the roots of gender inequality across ancient, medieval, and modern societies, revealing the ways in which cultural and religious traditions shaped perceptions of women's roles. Second, comparative philosophy provided the

framework for juxtaposing the perspectives of Western thinkers, such as Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, and Martin Luther, with those of Eastern traditions, including Confucius and Islamic scholars. This comparative lens helped to identify similarities and divergences in approaches to women's status.

Additionally, content analysis was applied to examine a wide range of primary sources, including legal documents, presidential speeches, international conventions on gender equality, and policy papers. Finally, a case study approach was employed to assess Uzbekistan's recent reforms in gender policy. This approach made it possible to link theoretical insights with practical developments, thereby offering a multidimensional exploration of the issue.

RESULTS

The findings of this research can be grouped into three interrelated areas: the historical and philosophical roots of gender inequality, the global developments aimed at eliminating gender disparities, and the specific reforms implemented in Uzbekistan.

From a historical and philosophical perspective, Western thinkers such as Aristotle argued that women were "naturally subordinate" and therefore destined to occupy a lower status within society. Later philosophers like Thomas Aquinas and Martin Luther reinforced this patriarchal worldview by defining women's roles primarily within the domestic sphere. In Eastern traditions, similar restrictions were evident. Confucian philosophy emphasized women's responsibility to family duties, while Islamic teachings initially granted women significant rights in property, inheritance, and education, though these were gradually curtailed by social conservatism and rigid interpretations of religious norms. Despite these obstacles, history has also produced figures such as Joan of Arc in France or Émilie du Châtelet in the Enlightenment era, who challenged prevailing norms and demonstrated women's intellectual and political potential.

Globally, the twentieth century marked a turning point in the struggle for gender equality. The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 established the principle of equality as a universal legal norm, while the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) created binding obligations for member states. More recently, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5) identified gender equality as a central pillar of global progress, recognizing that no society can achieve sustainable development without equal participation of women and men.

Turning to Uzbekistan, the last decade has witnessed a

series of substantial reforms. The 2019 Law "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" laid the foundation for gender-sensitive legislation. The creation of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality institutionalized state support for women's empowerment. Socio-economic initiatives have expanded women's access to entrepreneurship, higher education, and employment opportunities, while their representation in politics has steadily increased, with more women now serving in parliament, local governance, and executive bodies. These reforms confirm that Uzbekistan is aligning itself with international standards while adapting them to the nation's specific cultural and social context.

DISCUSSION

The results of the study illustrate that gender inequality has never been a natural phenomenon but a historically constructed system rooted in socio-philosophical traditions. Patriarchal values restricted women's contributions for centuries, thereby depriving societies of a vast reservoir of talent and creativity. However, the historical record also shows that women repeatedly resisted these restrictions and made significant contributions in areas ranging from politics to science.

In contemporary Uzbekistan, the transition from historical legacies of inequality to modern frameworks of equality illustrates the transformative power of systematic reforms. The country's comprehensive approach—combining legal measures, institutional support, and socio-economic initiatives—demonstrates that meaningful change is possible when political will aligns with societal needs. Nonetheless, challenges remain. Cultural stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes are still deeply embedded in certain communities, which can hinder the full implementation of reforms. Moreover, while women's representation in political and administrative structures has increased, it remains lower than that of men. Ensuring that legislative reforms are effectively enforced at the grassroots level is another critical challenge.

To address these issues, reforms must be accompanied by broader educational and cultural strategies that promote gender-sensitive values among younger generations. Media campaigns, school curricula, and community-based programs should emphasize equality, respect, and shared responsibility between men and women. Economic empowerment programs, particularly in rural areas, are also essential to ensure that women have practical opportunities to apply their skills and achieve independence.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that gender inequality is a social

construct rooted in historical traditions and cultural practices rather than biological differences. Overcoming it requires both theoretical understanding and practical action. The analysis of Uzbekistan's experience illustrates that systematic reforms can effectively address gender disparities when supported by strong political commitment and societal engagement.

Ensuring gender equality is not only a matter of justice but also a key driver of national development, economic prosperity, and social stability. True progress can be achieved only when every individual, regardless of gender, is able to realize their potential and contribute fully to the advancement of society. As Uzbekistan continues to modernize and integrate into the global community, its commitment to gender equality will play a decisive role in shaping a just, inclusive, and sustainable future.

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