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Analysis of Increasing the Financial Well-Being of the Population Through Poverty Reduction Projects

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Abstract: This study aims to identify poverty at the mahalla level and improve the targeted financial assistance system. The purpose of the study is to form a 'poverty profile' for each mahalla, analyze the causes of poverty, and differentiate forms of assistance on this basis. The methodology uses differential, complex, and systematic approaches, and population categories are studied based on questionnaires and statistical data. Types of poverty are determined by factors such as unemployment, health, education, financial illiteracy, or debt. Appropriate assistance mechanisms have been developed for each profile. The study proposes a conceptual model that allows analyzing poverty at the mahalla level and effectively directing targeted assistance. This model serves to improve social policy at the local level.

Keywords: Poverty Profile, Neighborhood Level, Targeted Assistance System, Differential Approach, Socio-Economic Analysis.

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1. Introduction

The 'From Poverty to Prosperity' program implemented in Uzbekistan is one of a large-scale poverty reduction initiatives that aims to improve the living standards of the population by strengthening public-private partnerships, expanding microfinance services, and improving social protection programs. Such projects offer effective approaches to reducing poverty, especially in rural areas, and increase the population's opportunities to create new jobs through vocational training programs[1].

In addition, these projects analyze foreign experience, including successful projects from China, South Korea and other developed countries, and implement effective methods from them. At the same time, international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank are also providing their support and allocating the necessary resources for long-term development in reducing poverty.

These approaches play an important role in ensuring social justice and economic stability in society, as reducing poverty leads to a reduction in social inequality, which creates opportunities for all segments of the population to improve their living conditions. These studies and projects show that measures taken to reduce poverty create a basis for positive changes in the country's economy and are a solid foundation for long-term prosperity[2].

Literature Review

In his analysis of the economy and poverty level of Uzbekistan, M.A. Karimov in his work 'Poverty Reduction Policy in Uzbekistan and Its Significance' examines the main

factors of inequalities in the distribution of national income and the level of poverty. According to his research, poverty can be reduced through social protection programs and economic policies aimed at increasing employment. This view is supported by J. Ro'zmetov who sees the equitable distribution of economic resources and income growth as a means of reducing poverty[3].

G'.S.Matyokubov and M.Z.Tursunov consider education and health as important factors in poverty reduction and emphasize that long-term prosperity can be achieved by investing in these areas. In their research, G'.S.Matyokubov and M.Z.Tursunov cite expanding access to educational services as an important factor in reducing poverty. This idea is also reflected in A.Sodikov's study of the relationship between educational investment and economic growth, which analyzes the possibilities of increasing population incomes through education[4].

In his analysis of the economic reforms being implemented by the government of Uzbekistan, H.R.Makhmudov in his study 'Economic Reforms and Poverty Reduction in Uzbekistan' emphasizes the need to implement policies to reduce poverty, develop small and medium-sized businesses, and provide employment to the population through state intervention. According to Makhmudov's study, state-supported programs serve to reduce poverty and increase well-being. This view is also supported by T. Karimov who emphasizes the important role of cooperation between the state and the private sector in raising the standard of living of the population. Karimov's research shows that by strengthening cooperation between the state and the private sector, it is possible to solve socio-economic problems and improve the well-being of the population. This approach is seen as an important factor in creating sustainable solutions for the effective allocation of resources and achieving strategic goals[5].

A.B. Khojayev provides an analysis of projects implemented within the framework of cooperation between international financial organizations and Uzbekistan. According to his research, projects implemented in cooperation with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other international organizations are yielding positive results in increasing the well-being of the population and reducing poverty. This view is also supported by N. Kurbonov (2019), who states that the support of international organizations is important in ensuring high efficiency in development projects[6].

Psacharopoulos and Patrinos examined the economic and social returns on investment in education, analyzing the positive impact of education on economic development and population well-being. Their research demonstrated that social and economic inequalities can be reduced by investing in education. This approach is also supported by UNDP which emphasizes that the development of education and health sectors plays a crucial role in ensuring sustainable economic growth and social well-being.

Bourguignon in his article 'The Challenge of Absolute Poverty in the New Century' focuses on the problem of eliminating absolute poverty in the new century. According to his approach, poverty can be reduced through government policies and international aid programs. This approach is continued in the UNDP 'Human Development Report', which shows the effectiveness of international projects aimed at increasing human development and well-being[7].

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan has undertaken a number of commitments within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals in order to reduce the number of low-income people in the country and further develop humanistic principles in society.

The country is paying special attention to strengthening social protection of the population and ensuring sustainable well-being. In particular, measures are being consistently implemented to develop transport, communication and social infrastructure, support areas with difficult ecological conditions, provide social assistance to the

population, and create new jobs. These initiatives will help improve the quality of life of the population and achieve sustainable development.

The Table 1. shows that, reforms and modernization processes implemented in Uzbekistan in recent years have marked a new stage in strengthening social protection and improving the living standards of citizens by strengthening the potential, stability, and proportionality of the economy. During this period, strengthening the system of social protection of the population, increasing the level of targeting, and introducing active forms of social protection have gained particular importance[8].

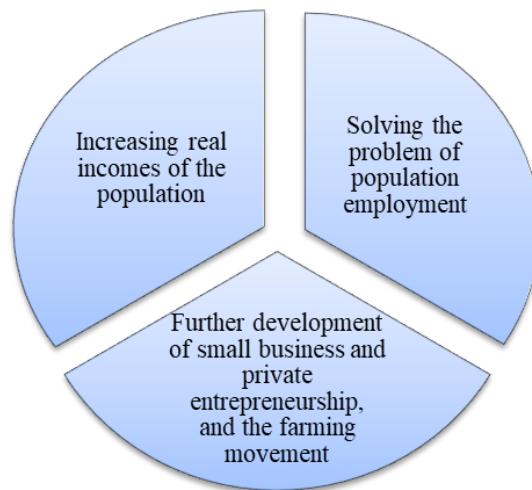


Figure 1. Main directions of improving the well-being of the population.

One of the urgent tasks today is to create a legal basis for the implementation of a social policy aimed at social protection of the population in the Republic of Uzbekistan and to ensure the implementation of laws adopted in this direction. The social rights of citizens are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, every person has the right to social security in old age, loss of working capacity, unemployment, loss of a breadwinner, or in other cases stipulated by law. Also, in accordance with the legislation, the amount of pensions, benefits, and other types of social assistance cannot be lower than the established minimum consumption costs.

2. Materials and Methods

The main goal of the study is to in-depth study the causes of poverty at the mahalla level, to form a "poverty profile" for each mahalla, and on this basis to create a model for differentiating a targeted financial assistance system. With this approach, assistance mechanisms are formed in accordance with the socio-economic characteristics of each mahalla, which serves to increase the effectiveness of the existing system. The main tasks of the study are to collect data on the level and causes of poverty, develop a system of indicators reflecting the socio-economic status of mahallas, identify the main types of poverty, and develop a methodology for forming a "mahalla poverty profile". It is also planned to develop targeted assistance mechanisms appropriate for each profile and evaluate their effectiveness on the example of pilot mahallas[9].

The research of Table 2. is conducted on the basis of differential, complex and systematic approaches. The differential approach assumes an approach that is appropriate to the specific socio-economic situation of each mahalla. The complex approach allows us to assess poverty not only in terms of income level, but also in terms of health, education,

employment and social capital. The systematic approach focuses on the formation of a complementary information base at the mahalla, district, regional and republican levels.

The first stage of the study will be diagnostic. This will identify population groups and assess factors affecting poverty through questionnaires, interviews, and existing databases at the mahalla level. In this process, it is proposed to use clustering or factor analysis methods to analyze statistical data[10].

In the second stage, poverty profiles are created based on the data obtained. As a result of the study, each neighborhood can be divided into the following main profile types:

Table 1. Classification of poverty profiles.

Direction	Research method	Purpose
Quantitative analysis	Statistical analysis, regression, cluster analysis	Identifying cause-and-effect relationships
Quality analysis	Focus group interviews, expert surveys	Identifying problems in the neighborhood
Modeling	'Neighborhood Poverty Profile' model	Development of a support mechanism
Experiment	Testing in pilot neighborhoods	Evaluating the effectiveness of the new system

In the third stage, based on the results of the profile, a targeted assistance system will be adapted. This will create a 'help map' for each mahalla, and existing types of social assistance (pension, subsidy, loan, education, medical services) will be targeted to specific needs. In order to ensure information integration, seamless integration with digital platforms, including Mahalla.uz or the Unified Registry, is proposed.

The fourth stage will assess the effectiveness of the new system. To do this, the situation of beneficiaries will be compared using the 'before-after' method, and the results will be evaluated based on income growth, employment rates, exit rates from assistance, and local budget savings.

The main scientific methods used in the study are quantitative methods such as statistical analysis, regression and cluster analysis, as well as qualitative methods such as focus group interviews and expert surveys. In addition, modeling is carried out based on the 'Neighborhood Poverty Profile' model and experimental testing is carried out in pilot neighborhoods to measure the effectiveness of the new system.

As a result of the research, scientific and methodological foundations for differential analysis of poverty at the mahalla level will be developed, a conceptual model for determining the poverty profile and combining it with targeted assistance mechanisms will be created. This will form an individual approach to the socio-economic problems of mahallas, create the opportunity for effective use of resources in the process of providing assistance, and as a result, the effectiveness of the targeted financial assistance system will increase[11].

The Table 3. shows that, scientific novelty of this approach is that it offers a model aimed at differential analysis of poverty at the neighborhood level and tailoring forms of assistance to this profile.

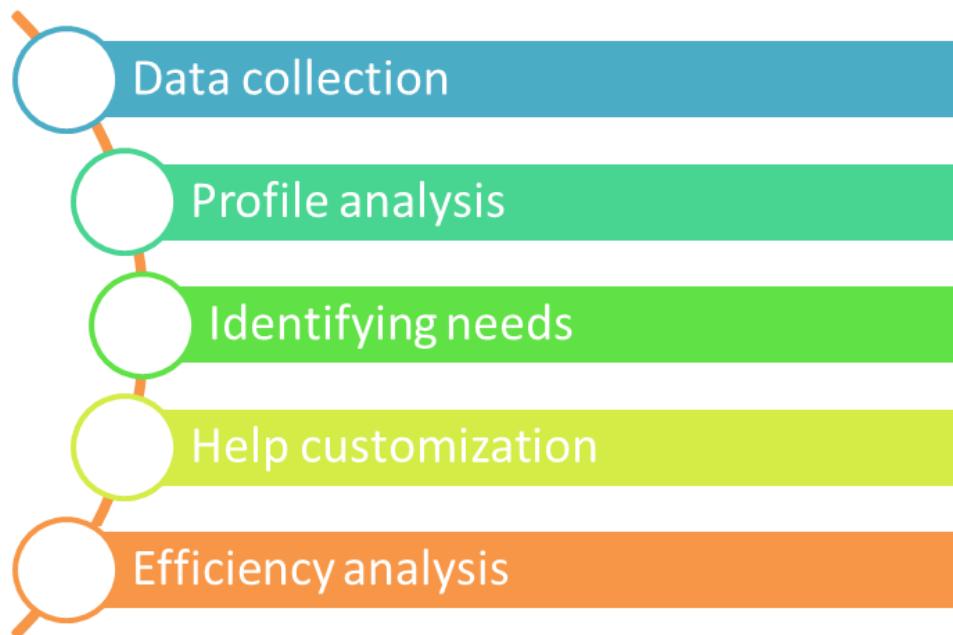


Figure 2. Conceptual model.

The steps in this model include such a sequence and are used as a mechanism that is repeated for each neighborhood, but differentiated according to circumstances.

3. Results and Discussion

It would not be wrong to say that the current changes in Uzbekistan have begun a new stage in the country. Because the huge innovations taking place in our country in the socio-economic, political and other spheres are literally ensuring the integration of our state with the world community. In short, today Uzbekistan is inviting the world to itself, moving from closedness to open pragmatic politics. Such a situation requires reforming the existing procedures and bringing them into line with world standards, and this, of course, is also reflected in the country's social policy.

Our President Sh. Mirziyoyev in his Address to the Oliy Majlis paid special attention to the social sphere: '... social protection of the population will be further strengthened. There will be a gradual transition to a "social model" of disability determination in accordance with world standards [12].

A new system will be introduced to provide the population in need with prosthetic and orthopedic products and rehabilitation equipment. About 50,000 of our compatriots will be able to use this opportunity.

The scope of our work on providing housing for needy families will be further expanded. In this regard, 2.4 trillion soums will be allocated to pay down payments on mortgage loans and subsidize loan interest for 27 thousand families, or 2.5 times more than this year.

The well-being of our people is a result of the fair policy pursued by our state. As a continuation of the Narakat Strategy for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the 'New Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026', adopted by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-60 dated January 28, 2022, continues the state policy to strengthen social protection of citizens and reduce poverty [13].

Today, the issue of strengthening the social protection system of the population, ensuring its targeting, and introducing active forms of social protection is gaining urgent importance.

The consistent continuation of the renewal processes and reforms implemented in society in Uzbekistan in recent years has brought the work aimed at strengthening social protection and improving the living standards of citizens to a new and higher level based on strengthening the potential, stability, and balance of the economy. During this period, strengthening the social protection system of the population, increasing its targeting, and introducing effective forms of social protection have gained particular relevance.

The effectiveness of poverty reduction projects is assessed by examining their impact on poverty reduction, income growth, and employment opportunities. This process is assessed based on two key indicators:

1. Growth in incomes. Income growth is one of the important indicators of poverty reduction. When assessing the effectiveness of projects, the average income of the population, its growth rates and living standards are analyzed as the main criteria. If the increase in incomes helps to significantly reduce the level of poverty, this confirms the success and effectiveness of these projects. This approach makes it possible to assess the effectiveness of socio-economic programs based on real indicators and directs to more efficient use of resources. For example, in Uzbekistan, programs aimed at developing entrepreneurship in rural areas are an effective method of reducing poverty, because through these programs the population has the opportunity to acquire independent sources of income [14].
2. Analysis of employment indicators. The employment rate is one of the most important indicators in reducing poverty. Increasing the employment rate of the population through job creation stimulates economic growth and increases the chances of escaping poverty. When studying how employment indicators affect the well-being of the population, they are analyzed for each age, gender and social stratum. In this case, the jobs created by the state, programs to support small and medium-sized businesses increase their effectiveness.

The main goal of poverty reduction projects and state programs is to expand the economic opportunities of the population and increase their well-being. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to implement funds and initiatives allocated by the state and international organizations in a timely and effective manner. Rational use of funds and implementation of projects within the established deadlines ensure the success of efforts aimed at increasing the economic activity of the population and reducing poverty. By analyzing income and employment indicators, the following results can be obtained:

The relationship between income and employment. As the employment rate increases, the income of the population also increases. This leads to increased social equality and well-being. In particular, programs aimed at education and vocational training play an important role in significantly increasing employment opportunities for the population and ensuring income stability. These programs create conditions for citizens to acquire the necessary skills based on the requirements of the labor market, which will help not only increase the employment rate, but also improve their economic and social situation. These projects are also of strategic importance in ensuring economic stability and reducing poverty.

1. Territorial effectiveness of projects. In Kashkadarya region and other regions, the effectiveness of projects is measured based on territorial indicators. For example, it is possible to analyze how much incomes of the population have increased through projects to develop agriculture and support entrepreneurship.
2. The impact of employment programs on economic growth. Creating new jobs and involving different social groups in economic activity is one of the most effective ways to stimulate economic growth. An increase in jobs not only increases the level of employment, but also stabilizes the incomes of the population and expands their economic opportunities. This contributes to an increase in the level of consumption, increased activity in the domestic market, and overall economic development. At the

same time, this approach also plays an important role in reducing poverty and eliminating economic inequality. This process demonstrates the effectiveness of employment programs and their positive impact [15].

4. Conclusion

These analyses serve as an important practical basis for reviewing poverty reduction programs and improving their effectiveness. The results of the analysis identify the strengths and weaknesses of the programs and provide opportunities for more efficient use of available resources. This helps to improve state policies and more effectively implement measures aimed at improving the living standards of the population. At the same time, the results of the projects show how successful the strategies for improving the living standards of the population are.

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