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Theoretical and Methodological Foundations and Models of Women's Entrepreneurship Development in International Practice

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Abstract: This article is devoted to the study of the theoretical and methodological foundations and conceptual models for the development of women's entrepreneurship in international and regional practice. Research indicates that women's entrepreneurship in many countries is characterized by dynamic variability, while gender disparities still persist. In the context of Central Asia, women are actively involved in startup projects, and their entry into business activities is encouraged through both governmental and international support programs. At the same time, regional experts emphasize that the full inclusion of women in economic activity can contribute significantly to national economic growth. In the context of Uzbekistan, the number of women entrepreneurs has increased markedly in recent years, demonstrating the effectiveness of state policy measures and gender-sensitive support mechanisms. In the article, global and national statistical data, regional experiences, and innovative initiatives are analyzed to identify the strategic importance of women's entrepreneurship for economic growth, job creation, and gender inclusion. Based on this analysis, the article develops recommendations aimed at strengthening state policy, ensuring access to financial resources, promoting innovative and technological startups, and fostering international cooperation. This study contributes to identifying the social as well as macroeconomic effectiveness of promoting women's entrepreneurship and aids in improving policy strategies.

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Keywords: women's entrepreneurship, gender inclusivity, economic growth, startups, regional statistics, government policy, global economy, technological startups.

1. Introduction

In the global economy of the 21st century, women's entrepreneurship has become an important factor in human capital and social stability. International institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the UN have placed women's entrepreneurship at the center of their strategies for socio-economic development and innovative growth [1][2]. Research shows that policies aimed at ensuring gender equality not only enhance social justice, but also significantly increase the overall efficiency of countries' economies. In this sense, in-depth study of foreign scientific and theoretical approaches and conceptual models on women's entrepreneurship is a prerequisite for the effective formulation of national policies [3].

The main theoretical foundations of women's entrepreneurship development in the international literature are built around social capital, resource equality, as well as

institutional support mechanisms. For example, the institutional approach analyzes the role of the regulatory and legal environment, financial services, and socio-spiritual infrastructure that regulate women's entrepreneurship [4]. On the other hand, the human capital theory explains the mechanisms by which women's education, skills, and network opportunities become entrepreneurial resources when put into action. These approaches contribute to the formation of a comprehensive model aimed at ensuring gender-sensitive economic activity in strategic decision-making.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, women's entrepreneurship has also become one of the priority areas of state policy. The "Program of Comprehensive Measures to Increase the Social Activity of Women and Protect Their Rights and Interests in 2017-2021", approved by the Presidential Decree No. PF-4947 of June 5, 2017, sets out directions for involving women in economic activity, strengthening their entrepreneurial skills, and ensuring equal access to resources [5]. Also, the "Strategy for Ensuring the Continuous Competitiveness of the National Economy in 2022-2026", approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-6055 dated June 4, 2022, provides for special measures to support women's entrepreneurship, which will serve to reduce gender-based economic disparities and increase the inclusiveness of the business environment [6]. Thus, adapting theoretical and methodological approaches developed on the basis of international experience to the national context, as well as creating systematic support mechanisms through state policy, is one of the main principles of sustainable development of women's entrepreneurship. This article aims to analyze theoretical concepts for the development of women's entrepreneurship on the example of world practice and study models and mechanisms for their implementation in the conditions of Uzbekistan [7][8].

2. Literature Review

The views of international and local scholars serve as an important scientific foundation in the study of theoretical and methodological foundations of women's entrepreneurship. International studies often analyze gender, social capital, and institutional support approaches in a combined manner.

International experts L. A. Brush, N. H. Carter, and P. G. Greene analyze women's entrepreneurship based on gender theory, studying the impact of gender differences on entrepreneurial activity and strategies for eliminating these differences. Their research has explored the impact of women entrepreneurs' access to financial services, social networks, and supportive infrastructure. In the course of this research, Candida G. Brush and her colleagues formed the DIANA Project, a research consortium to study women's entrepreneurship. The project specifically analyzed women entrepreneurs' management, access to financial capital, and growth. While previous studies have not fully explored the differences between male and female entrepreneurs, the DIANA Project's analyses have combined factors such as gender theory, human capital, and social capital [9][10].

Also, in the studies of H. Minniti and M. Naudé, the relationship between women's entrepreneurship and national economic growth was analyzed through a statistical model. They emphasize that policies supporting women's entrepreneurship have a significant impact on the overall economic situation of the country [11].

Roxana Bahramitas has conducted in-depth research on women's entrepreneurship and their role in the economy in national and regional contexts. Her book "Gender and Entrepreneurship in Iran: Microenterprise and the Informal Sector" examines women's microenterprise and the informal sector, particularly in terms of access to economic resources, social networks, and gender-based barriers. Bahramitas examines the fact that women entrepreneurs are often active in the informal economy and their social media-based strategies in this segment [12].

In the article by Yu. V. Taranukha, women's entrepreneurship is interpreted as a socio-economic phenomenon that highlights gender equality in society. The author

emphasizes that women's entrepreneurship, while being a potential source of overall economic growth and stability, is closely linked to gender stereotypes and institutional barriers. Taranukha's analysis shows that, despite having similar entrepreneurial traits to men, Russian women face additional barriers to entry into entrepreneurship, which requires further strengthening of gender equality policies. F.A. Taskin's study analyzes statistical data on interest and active participation in women's entrepreneurship. The author emphasizes that this interest in women's entrepreneurship can increase gender equality in the labor market, reduce unemployment, improve living standards, and contribute to increasing GDP [13]. At the same time, research shows that women expand their opportunities for personal growth and professional self-expression by creating their own business.

In addition, there are studies that examine gender aspects in the context of social entrepreneurship. For example, A.L. Andrushenko and E.L. Kruglova link gender principles to social entrepreneurship in their society, considering small economic opportunities for women in this area and business models with a "feminine" character, such as "care and concern". According to them, gender stereotypes are associated with the perception of entrepreneurship as a predominantly male activity, which creates additional social barriers for women.

Our local scientists are also conducting important scientific research on women's entrepreneurship. For example, D. Kadyrov's research covers gender-based barriers to women's entrepreneurship, mechanisms for their elimination, and measures to ensure gender equality in the conditions of Uzbekistan.

Local studies note that the following factors negatively affect the development of women's entrepreneurship:

- Limited access to financial resources
- Problems with credit collateral
- Social stereotypes
- Insufficient information and consulting services

This approach is based on the theory of institutional economics and emphasizes the crucial role of the regulatory and legal environment in the development of women's entrepreneurship.

In his research, he believes that the development of women's entrepreneurship should be carried out through preferential lending mechanisms, subsidy and grant programs, business incubators, vocational training and retraining programs.

From a similar research approach, the research conducted by Sh. Mamatkulova et al. analyzes the methodological foundations of the policy of supporting women's entrepreneurship in the conditions of Uzbekistan and integrates the gender equality aspects of national legislation and state programs [14].

They see supporting women's entrepreneurship as part of an economic growth strategy, not a social policy.

While international scholars tend to study factors such as gendered economics, social capital, and the role of institutions through modeling, local researchers emphasize adapting these approaches to the Uzbek context.

The analyzed scientific views of foreign and domestic scientists show that women's entrepreneurship is manifested in the modern economy as a multifaceted and complex socio-economic phenomenon. In international studies, women's entrepreneurship is mainly studied within the framework of gender theory, human capital theory, the concept of social capital, and the institutional approach. These approaches justify the crucial role of access to financial resources, network connections, educational level, and the regulatory and legal environment in the development of women's entrepreneurship. Although the theoretical and methodological foundations of the development of women's entrepreneurship have been sufficiently developed in existing scientific works, there is a need to form an integrated model that takes into account regional characteristics. In

particular, the development of complex conceptual approaches that combine international experience and the national economic environment remains an urgent issue. Thus, the analysis of scientific sources substantiates that the policy of supporting women's entrepreneurship should be considered not only as a means of ensuring social equality, but also as a sustainable driver of national economic growth. This determines the need to systematize theoretical approaches and improve practical models in the subsequent stages of the article [15].

3. Methodology

This study is aimed at analyzing the theoretical and methodological foundations and conceptual models of women's entrepreneurship development in international practice, using a comprehensive and systematic approach. The research methodology includes several stages.

First, based on the method of theoretical analysis, classical and modern scientific concepts related to the development of women's entrepreneurship were studied. Scientific sources within the framework of gender economics, inclusive growth theory, human capital concept and institutional approach were analyzed. At this stage, conceptual models of women's entrepreneurship development were systematized and their impact on economic efficiency was clarified.

Secondly, a comparative analysis method was used to compare the development trends of women's entrepreneurship in different regions and countries. The relationship between gender differences and economic results was studied based on global and regional reports, including data from international monitoring programs and financial institutions.

Thirdly, the impact of women's entrepreneurship on economic growth, GDP and employment was assessed using statistical and economic analysis methods. A dynamic analysis was carried out based on available open data and regional differences were identified. Descriptive analysis, trend assessment and logical generalization methods were used in the process of interpreting statistical data.

Fourthly, the impact of state policy, grant programs, financial support mechanisms and the innovation ecosystem on women's entrepreneurship was assessed using the institutional analysis approach. In this process, regulatory legal acts and international programs were analyzed from the point of view of practical effectiveness.

The methodological basis of the study is the principles of systematicity, objectivity and scientificity. Secondary statistical sources were used in the data analysis, which were based on international and national official reports.

Thus, the methodological approach used made it possible to identify the relationship between the theoretical foundations and practical models of women's entrepreneurship development, as well as to assess economic effectiveness.

4. Results

Globally, women's entrepreneurship remains an important area of economic activity. For example, according to statistics from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor project, female entrepreneurship rates vary from 1.5% to 45.4% among adult women in 2025 across 59 economies, indicating regional variability in the share of women's businesses. Bu o'zgarishlar biznesga kirishdagi gender tafovutining hali ham mavjud ekanligini aks ettiradi.

Positive trends are also being observed in the Central Asian context. For example, according to data from 2025, a Kazakh economic expert noted that the number of female entrepreneurs and their economic activity are increasing within the framework of the Women In Business events [16].

At the same time, eight of the 100 startup founders included in the Aurora Top 100 2026 ranking are Kazakh women, which indicates that women are also actively entering technological and innovative business projects in the region.

Regional statistical analysis shows that women's entrepreneurship has a direct positive impact on economic growth. For example, according to the Dynamic Forum of Kazakhstan in 2025, if women were fully involved in the economy, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) could increase by up to 27%. This indicator confirms the effectiveness of the gender economic inclusion model.

In Uzbekistan, women's entrepreneurship is also on the rise. According to data published by the United Nations Development Program in 2025, the number of women entrepreneurs is expected to reach 2.1 million in 2024, a seven-fold increase compared to 2020. This increase confirms the effectiveness of government policies and gender-sensitive economic strategies.

At the same time, existing statistical analyses show that gender gaps still exist. According to the World Economic Forum's 2024 Women, Business and the Law report, in many countries women's access to economic activity is less than two-thirds of their full potential, which requires strengthening global policy strategies to address gender gaps.

Statistical analyses show that women's entrepreneurship is a significant driver of the current global economy, which on the one hand contributes positively to economic growth, but on the other hand requires additional policy measures to address gender gaps and structural barriers. The results suggest that countries can achieve sustainable economic growth and social stability in the domestic market by strengthening gender inclusion policies.

Table 1. Share of women's entrepreneurship by region (2025y.)

№	Indicators	Ulushi
1.	Europe	43%
2.	Shimoliy Amerika	41%
3.	Osiyo	38%
4.	Lotin Amerikasi	36%
5.	Afrika	34%

As can be seen from Table 1, in the regional context, European countries are leading in terms of the share of women's entrepreneurship (43%). In North America, this figure is 41%. Despite the lower figure in African and Latin American countries, high growth rates are observed. This confirms that inclusive economic policies have become a priority in developing countries.

Statistical analyses at the country level show that women's entrepreneurship is emerging as an important structural element of the global economic system. Despite the differences in development rates, institutional conditions and economic models in different regions, it is observed that the increase in women's business activity is inextricably linked to sustainable economic growth.

Table 2. Growth dynamics of women's entrepreneurship (2020–2025)

<i>№</i>	<i>Over the years</i>	<i>Share of women-owned businesses (%)</i>
1.	2020	34%
2.	2021	35.5%
3.	2022	37%
4.	2023	39%
5.	2024	40.8%
6.	2025	42%

As can be seen from the data in Table 2, the share of women's entrepreneurship is showing a steady growth trend between 2020 and 2025. The increase from 34 percent in 2020 to 42 percent by 2025 is explained by gender equality policies, financial inclusion programs, and the expansion of digital economy opportunities. The growth rate was especially accelerated in 2022-2024, when support mechanisms from state and international institutions were strengthened.

Table 3. Gender gap statistics (2025)

<i>№</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
1.	Loan opportunity	68%	52%
2.	Getting into digital business	74%	61%
3.	Participation in export activities	29%	18%
4.	Startup opening rate	45%	33%

As can be seen from Table 3, the statistics for 2025 show that there is still a gap in financial and institutional opportunities between women and men. The level of use of credit resources is 68 percent for men, while for women it remains at 52 percent. In particular, the 11 percent difference in the indicators of participation in export activities indicates the existence of institutional barriers to the entry of women's entrepreneurship into international markets.

The relationship between women's entrepreneurship and national economic growth has been clearly proven based on statistical models, which show that this relationship makes a significant contribution to the overall development of the country's economy.

Regression analyses and panel data models (for example, OLS or GMM methods) confirm that with an increase in the activity of women entrepreneurs, GDP growth can increase by 1.5-2.5%, as they create new jobs in the services and trade sectors. The 7-fold increase in the number of women entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan in 2020-2024 (to 2.1 million) has stimulated economic growth, but financial constraints and family burdens are slowing this process.

Policies to support women's entrepreneurship - preferential loans, education programs and gender equality reforms - are significantly improving the national economic situation, as they make the labor market more inclusive and increase overall productivity. According to UNDP, such policies can contribute an additional 10-15% to Uzbekistan's GDP, if infrastructure and institutional barriers are removed.

Statistical projections show that encouraging women's entrepreneurship can accelerate economic growth by 5-7% in 2026-2030, but this requires expanding financial access and eliminating gender stereotypes. International experience (for example, South Korea and Rwanda) confirms that such an approach strengthens not only economic, but also social stability.

These analyses help to achieve the following results.

1. Globally, women's entrepreneurship demonstrates sustainable growth dynamics and makes a significant contribution to economic efficiency.
2. In the regional context (Central Asia), through government programs and gender inclusion, GDP and jobs are increasing significantly.
3. In the national context (Uzbekistan), thanks to government support, the number of women entrepreneurs is growing rapidly and their economic activity is stabilizing.
4. Global and regional disparities still exist, which require strengthening gender inclusion policies.

Thus, the analyses and results show that the development of women's entrepreneurship should be considered not only as a matter of social equality, but also as a strategic factor that enhances national economic growth and stability.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The analysis and results show that women's entrepreneurship has become an important driver of the global economy and is an effective tool for ensuring not only economic growth, but also social inclusion and gender equality. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, women's entrepreneurship rates vary from 1.5% to 45.4% across 59 economies, indicating regional variability and gender gaps. As seen in the case of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, the Women in Business program and the Aurora Top 100 ranking confirm the active involvement of women in technological and innovative startup projects. According to the Dynamic Forum, if women were fully involved in the economy, GDP could increase by up to 27%. At the same time, the number of women entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan is expected to reach 2.1 million in 2024, a seven-fold increase compared to 2020, confirming the effectiveness of government policies and gender-sensitive support mechanisms.

The analysis shows that:

1. Women's entrepreneurship plays a significant role in sustainable growth and job creation in global and national economies.
2. Government programs, grants and financial support, as well as international experience, are effective in reducing regional disparities and increasing gender inclusion.
3. At the same time, gender gaps in access to financial resources, digital infrastructure and export opportunities still exist, and their elimination depends on political and institutional measures.

Thus, international and national practical experience requires considering the development of women's entrepreneurship not only as a matter of social justice and equality, but also as a strategic direction for ensuring national economic growth, innovative development and sustainability. These conclusions serve as the basis for developing theoretical and modeling approaches to promoting women's entrepreneurship in future research and integrating them into practical policies.

Recommendations

1. It is necessary to expand programs, grants and preferential loans to promote women's entrepreneurship at the national and regional levels.
2. In order to reduce the gender gap and increase economic inclusion, it is recommended to develop a support system for women starting new businesses through advice and training.
3. It is necessary to expand women's entrepreneurs' access to financial resources, increase their opportunities to start and develop businesses through microloans, unsecured loans and investments.
4. The effectiveness of women's entrepreneurship can be increased by developing the digital economy and technological startups.

5. It is necessary to support female startups and integrate their innovative projects into the international market through global startup rankings and competitions, such as Aurora Top 100.

It is necessary to exchange experiences and develop professional networks among female entrepreneurs through regional forums, conferences and events.

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