



## Research Article

### THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL POLICY

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#### ABSTRACT

The paper analyzes the theoretical and methodological bases of scientific research on social policy, the theoretical and methodological approach to its implementation, the essence of this concept and the methods formed during its evolutionary development as well as the main directions of scientific research. There is also a discussion of national and international data, the criteria for scientific research based on the research of scientists, the theoretical and methodological basis for the scientific study of social policy in the life of a number of other developed countries.

#### KEYWORDS

Social policy, scientific research, theoretical and methodological bases, development of social policy, social protection, security.

#### INTRODUCTION

The evolutionary development of social policy has gone through many peculiar and complex periods, and having historically formed as a form of politics, social policy has evolved differently within each state and

region. Undoubtedly, social policy ensures the integration of each state into the world community. Most researchers of the history of science believe that the basis of early scientific knowledge is myth. It



contains cases of combining different objects, events and phenomena (the Sun, gold, water, milk, blood). In order to integrate things, one needs to identify the “important signs” of the connection, as well as learning how to compare different objects on these signs, which played an important role in shaping future knowledge. It is known from history that the formation of scientific knowledge and methodology is associated with the cultural revolution that took place in Ancient Greece [1]. The necessity and relevance of applying theoretical and methodological foundations in research lies in the fact that they help to make a practical assessment of the developing network in a particular social science and field, that is, if one wants to do really significant scientific work in science, he should make rational, efficient and optimal decisions and engage in heuristic activities that serve good. The result of such activities are discoveries and creativity. This situation opens up new opportunities for analysis, understanding and evaluation of scientific and creative activity. From this point of view, it is important to deeply study the approaches to the research process and the theoretical & methodological basis to identify its specific features.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The article describes generally accepted methods based on the principles of historical, comparative & logical analysis, consistency and objectivity.

Before dwelling on the foundations of the scientific study of the concept of social policy, it is worth explaining this basic concept.

Social policy is a system of relations between social actors to achieve the main goals of society, and its main purpose is to understand a person, his life, well-being, social development, security and social protection. Besides, it is a policy in the field of social development

and social security; a system of measures taken by the state aimed at improving the quality and standard of living of certain social groups. The impact of the state on the social processes taking place in society with the help of administrative, budgetary and legislative measures. The traditional areas of social policy are education, health care, housing and social insurance. In a broad, scientific sense, this is not so much a system of measures and activities, but a system of relationships and interactions between social groups, social strata of society, in the center of which is their main ultimate goal - a person, his well-being, social protection and social development, life support and social the safety of the population as a whole. In a narrow sense, social policy is defined by scientists as a system of specific measures aimed at improving the lifestyle of the population [2]. However, it should be borne in mind that there is no established opinion as to what should be understood by the expression “social policy”; thus, this term is often used in the sense of social administration in relation to those institutionalized (that is, legally and organizationally fixed) social services that are provided by the state. Some authors consider this use of the term erroneous. Usually, “social policy” is understood as a social policy pursued by the state (“state social policy”), however, not only states, but also other subjects - supranational entities (in this case they speak of supranational social policy) can act as the subject of social policy, individual administrative entities (local or regional social policy), as well as individual enterprises, including transnational ones. The state usually conducts its social policy through local and regional authorities. The state social policy is financed from the state budget. The objects of the state’s social policy are usually large social groups that correspond either to the ideological attitudes of the state at the moment, or to the value orientations of society in the long term. The goal of the state’s social policy is to improve the health of the



nation, to provide sufficient income and social support in certain adverse life situations and, in general, to create a favorable social atmosphere for the population in society. Social policy is an integral part of the general strategy of the state related to the social sphere: purposeful activity for the development and implementation of decisions that directly relate to a person, his position in society; to provide him with social guarantees, taking into account the characteristics of various groups of the country's population, the social policy pursued by the government, all branches and authorities, relying on broad public support, is designed to accumulate, focus, reflect the situation in the country and the situation in society, the needs and goals of social development. The goal of social policy is to consistently improve the standard of living of the population and reduce social inequality, ensuring universal access to basic social benefits, primarily high-quality education, medical and social services.

This topic has not been widely studied in the system of domestic science, but information & scientific work on it is mainly reflected in the circles of foreign scientists and researchers such as Shermukhamedov's textbook "Methodology of Scientific Research" [3], "Methodological Research in Social Policy Research" under the general editorship of A.V. Starshinov Ural State Federal University named after B.N. Yelsin [4], "Theoretical and methodological foundations of the sociological analysis of the construction of social policy" by Mazaylova Tatyana Aleksandrovna, and "Theoretical and methodological foundations of the sociological analysis of the social well-being of the population of the region" by Merzlyakova Inna Vladimirovna and etc [5].

In fact, based on an evolutionary sequence each science has developed throughout its historical

development on the basis of psychological, spiritual-intellectual and utilitarian-pragmatic models. In particular, the social policy development model is based on these models:

1. The psychological model began when people realized the importance of social policy for humanity. As a result of the need for social policy, states have focused on pursuing their strategic direction from this perspective. The fundamental psychological basis of this can be seen in the confidence expressed in the state as a result of the social support of the people.
2. The spiritual-intellectual model is uniquely reflected in harmony with social policy. In particular, we can say that the innate need to know has become a priority in education, science, and this, in turn, has been formed as an important value in the life of the state and people. This was to create equal opportunities for citizens in education, science and culture.
3. The utilitarian pragmatic model reflects the material aspect of each social issue, that is, we can understand the level of material support of the processes associated with social policy.

It is possible to study the problem of social policy on the basis of comparing the issues covered and incomplete aspects of it, knowing the level of study of the theoretical and methodological bases of scientific research.

## RESULTS OF THE STUDY

In Decree No. 60 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", adopted by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev Miromonovich, special attention is paid to social policy issues and aspects related to its study. Strengthening the social protection of citizens and reducing poverty is defined as a priority of state

policy and ensuring population with new jobs and a guaranteed source of income, qualified medical and educational services, decent living conditions, has risen to a new level in terms of quality [6]. Part IV of this development strategy is dedicated to the pursuit of fair social policy, the development of human capital. According to it, in the framework of fair social policy, 33 goals have been identified to bring the quality of education in the preschool education system to a new level. It also includes improving the quality of education in schools, increasing the coverage of higher education, the introduction of mandatory social guarantees for the population, strengthening the social protection of the needy; improving the quality of medical services provided to the population, and the introduction of health insurance. In the scientific research of the issue of Social Policy and in understanding the theoretical and methodological foundations related to it, similar laws and strategic plans are of great importance.

Approaches to the first theories and techniques of scientific research on the issue of social policy appeared in the US in the 80s of the XVIII century. In 1866, the American Association of Social Sciences was established in the USA, according to scientists, at that time national empirical materials on the issue of social policy were developed and analyzed in comparative terms.

As a result, there is a growing cognitive interest in the study of public policy issues, including the study of public opinion. Thus, we know that in 1948 and 1952 the World Association for the Study of Public Opinion on Social Policy and the International Council of Social Sciences were established accordingly [7].

Another group of scholars of social policy is divided in the following order [8]:

- Liberal model;
- Corporate model;
- Popular model;
- Paternalistic model;

Significantly, there are also categories by type of state participation in the implementation of social policy:

- Charity sample model;
- Administrative model;
- Incentive model.

Liberal model - each member of society assumes the principle of personal responsibility for their own destiny and family. The role of government agencies in the direct implementation of social policy is minimized, the main subjects of social policy are citizens, families and various non-governmental organizations - social insurance funds, the social policy fund is funded by entities that are not indifferent to it. Therefore, the principles of equivalence and compensation are used in the implementation of this model. An important aspect of this model is that the individual and the public have a high sense of personal responsibility for their own social well-being and treat the state not as a single source of social interests, but as a guarantee [9].

Corporate model - assumes the principle of corporate responsibility, in which the maximum responsibility for the fate of employees lies with the corporation, enterprise, organization or institution where the employee works. A clear example of this is the introduction of the social tax, which has mandatory and voluntary payers.

The mass model - implies the principle of shared responsibility, that is, the responsibility of all members



of society for their own destiny. It is a redistributive model of social policy in which the rich pay for the poor, the healthy pay for the sick, and the young pay for the elderly. The financial mechanisms of redistribution are the state budget and the state social insurance funds, the funds of which are directed to provide a wide range of state social guarantees.

The paternalistic model - includes the principle of state responsibility. The state undertakes to use any administrative support to achieve the socio-economic status of citizens and social goals. The financial mechanism of the paternalistic model consists of the state budget and the budget of state enterprises. The advantage of this model is that it serves as a “confidence in the future” for the majority of the population. This is because any issues and problems related to social policy are solved by the state.

In the model of charity, the state creates certain favorable conditions for the market on the basis of the system of social support using specially accumulated resources, whereas in the administrative model the implementation of any direction of social policy is strictly regulated by the state. The incentive model implies the indirect participation of the state in solving social problems. The study of these theories helps to compare approaches to the study of social policy and to build social policy on a consistent basis.

Scientific research of the theory of social policy is divided into methodological and methodical types [10].

The methodological section includes the following subsections:

1. To study the issue of social policy, to identify its problems, and to determine its object and subject;
2. To define the goals and objectives of social policy implementation;

3. Interpretation and operationalization of concepts related to social policy;
4. To put forward the initial hypothesis, draw conclusions in the framework of socio-political research.

The methodical section includes:

1. Strategic research plan on social policy: in the development of the plan it is advisable to take into account the state of the research and its database.
2. Creation of a set of projects specifically used in sociological research;
3. Selection of procedures for the collection and analysis of empirical data. The most important requirement for sociological methods is to give a clear definition of the concepts used in research.
4. Coverage of the content on the basis of clear conclusions;
5. Registration of the results of socio-political research in the form of reports, publications.

## CONCLUSION

In general, social policy is a very important political system for any society and analyzing it from scientific perspective and learning its theoretical-methodological basis leads to the development of social policy on a practical basis. Man is the embodiment of his life, well-being, social development, social protection and security. At the same time, we can understand the essence of social policy as one of the main indicators that determine the worthy place of an individual in society and ensure the growth of his activity.

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