



Social Protection And Employment Of The Population Of Uzbekistan Under Pandemic Conditions

Akbar Khalilovich Valiev

Senior Lecturer Of The Department Of Methods Of Teaching History, Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan

Copyright: Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 licence.

ABSTRACT

The article examines the issues of social protection and employment of the population of Uzbekistan in the context of a pandemic, which is one of the most important socio-economic problems of our time. It is noted that in Uzbekistan, the basis for effective anti-crisis management was the adoption of measures of social protection and employment of the population to mitigate the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19.

KEYWORDS

Social protection, anti-crisis measures, labor market, labor resources, employment of the population, new jobs.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a profound impact on the jobs, livelihoods and well-being of workers and their families, as well as businesses around the world, especially small and medium-sized ones. While some sectors and industries have successfully migrated to online work, paving the way for impressive employment innovation, millions of workers

have lost their livelihoods, and many others - especially women, many of whom work in severely affected sectors - are still at risk.

The measures needed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 have had a significant impact on society and the economy. Globally, as of mid-May, 94 percent of workers lived in countries

that had some form of job closure [5]. Huge losses of working time were projected in the second quarter of 2020, equivalent to 305 million full-time jobs, with 38 percent of the workforce - about 1.25 billion workers - employed in high-risk sectors. [6]

The impact of these changes varies significantly across groups of people and countries, and is highly dependent on pre-existing inequalities and government policies. In the first month of the crisis alone, the incomes of those who work in the informal sector of the economy - often without rights to work and social protection - fell by 60 percent. Globally, more than four out of ten people working in seriously affected sectors of the economy are young people. Combined with disruptions in education and training, this puts her at risk of becoming a “generation of isolation regime” that will be affected by the consequences of this crisis for a long time. A disproportionately large proportion of women are employed in highly affected sectors such as service, hospitality and tourism, and the reorientation of economic activity towards the household is also affected, where they perform most of the increased unpaid care work. [7]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The first virus-infected patient in Uzbekistan was officially registered on March 15, 2020 in the city of Tashkent [1]. In this regard, on March 19, 2020, the Presidential Decree “On Priority Measures to Mitigate the Negative Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Global Crisis on the Economy Sectors” was adopted [9]. The decree created the Anti-Crisis Fund in the amount of 10 trillion. soums to finance measures to combat the spread of coronavirus infection, support

entrepreneurship and employment of the population, as well as the Republican Anti-Crisis Commission was formed, which was entrusted with the task of promptly resolving problematic issues and developing additional measures to ensure the smooth operation of industries and sectors of the economy, as well as social support of the population in the period of countering the spread of coronavirus infection and other global risks.

In order to further strengthen social protection of the population and ensure the stability of the functioning of economic sectors, on April 3, 2020, the President's Decree "On additional measures to support the population, economic sectors and business entities during the coronavirus pandemic" was adopted [10]. The decree established a number of tax benefits for individual entrepreneurs and individual business entities that were forced to suspend their activities for the period of quarantine measures.

In order to strengthen measures to support people who have lost their main sources of income, vulnerable groups of the population and business entities, the President on April 27 signed a decree "On additional measures to support the population and business entities during the coronavirus pandemic" [11].

As a result of government support measures, the number of families with children receiving pensions and material assistance increased by 60 thousand, from 595 thousand to 655 thousand. The terms for repayment of loans to the population in the amount of 3 trillion have been extended. 260 billion soums At the expense of the Fund for the Promotion of Employment and the Fund for Public Works during the quarantine, 141,800 unemployed

were provided with jobs, to whom 43.22 billion soums were paid. The centers for the coordination of charitable assistance delivered food and hygiene products to 219 thousand families. Benefits and preferences are provided to business entities, wages are paid to employees of organizations funded from the budget, as well as pensions, scholarships and benefits.

In April, at meetings chaired by President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev identified measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic for each of the manufacturing sectors. At the same time, special attention is paid to the development of the service sector. Under the conditions of quarantine, activities were stopped or significantly lost in revenue of 13 thousand general catering enterprises, 45 thousand trade enterprises, 19 thousand service enterprises, 7 thousand transport enterprises [8]. By the presidential decree, it became possible to normalize, in compliance with quarantine requirements, the activities of at least 70 percent of these enterprises through the delivery of food and goods, the organization of mobile trade and services, the resumption of services for accepting payments, insurance and microcredit.

Issues of employment of the population in a pandemic are resolved by attracting about 3 thousand citizens to work related to the provision of quarantine and security functions at posts and about 5 thousand of those who have completed military service, to work related to the disinfection of public places, to care for lonely elderly and disabled people ...

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The government has approved a temporary order to ensure the employment of family members whose social situation and living standards have deteriorated in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. The Public Works Fund for Temporary Employment has employed about 230 thousand unemployed citizens; more than 33 thousand families are provided through the mechanism of subsidizing low-income families for the development of household plots and the creation of agricultural cooperatives; 3 thousand unemployed were employed due to subsidies for the development of entrepreneurship among the population; 20 thousand unemployed people received unemployment benefits. Thus, 374 thousand citizens are provided with employment and regular income for three months of work.

President of the Republic Shavkat Mirziyoyev was instructed to expand the list of activities of self-employed citizens, to allow all types of entrepreneurial activities not prohibited by law with the introduction of a mechanism for notification registration of self-employed.

Currently, in the regions, more than 25 thousand artisans and more than 53 thousand of their students, about 80 thousand families in total, have the opportunity to receive income from their activities. Taking into account the potential of the handicraft industry, the task was set to organize distance learning courses, teach crafts to young people and women, popularize the experience of artisans through television, and create an online platform for selling handicraft products abroad.

The number of those wishing to engage in self-employment is growing day by day. As of September 23, 2020, the number of citizens

officially registered with the tax authorities as self-employed reached 403,208. In the context of 67 types of activities permitted for self-employed persons in accordance with current legislation, the largest number of people choose household services (hairdressing, manicure, cosmetology, pedicure, washing and ironing at home, making keys, sewing shoes, repairing and painting, etc.) 113,049 self-employed persons. Another 87,231 self-employed compatriots work legally in the agricultural sector (cattle grazing and care, assistance to owners of household plots in planting and caring for agricultural crops) [3].

In September, the Republican Scientific Center for Employment and Labor Protection of the Ministry of Labor in 108 cities and regions of the country conducted a regular sociological survey. It covered 490 self-government bodies, 4900 households, 26 thousand citizens. In the first nine months of 2020, the number of labor resources amounted to 19 million 121.3 thousand people, exceeding the figure for the same period in 2019 by 0.7%, or 135.5 thousand people.

The number of people employed in the sectors of the economy was recorded at the level of 13 million 205.2 thousand people, which is 3.7% more (468.5 thousand people) compared to the first half of this year. The number of people employed in the official sector in January-September amounted to 5 million 673.8 thousand people, which is more than in January-June by 1.7%, or 92.6 thousand people. The number of people employed in the informal sector amounted to 5 million 618.8 thousand people, an increase compared to the same indicator for the period from January to June of this year. by 9.9%, or 504.2 thousand people. This happened due to the return to the

domestic labor market of labor migrants who worked abroad and an increase in those employed in seasonal agricultural work.

The number of people in need of employment was 1 million 642.5 thousand people. The unemployment rate among the economically active population was 11.1%, among young people aged 16-30 years - 17.1%, among women - 14.7%. The number of economically inactive population in the country is registered at the level of 4 million 273.6 thousand people, having decreased compared to the first half of the year by 3%, or 130.3 thousand people. For nine months, the regional (city) Centers for the Promotion of Employment of the Population provided services to over 910 thousand citizens who applied.

Due to subsidies allocated by the Fund for the Promotion of Employment in Home Plots, 30827 families were employed, 19174 citizens were employed in agricultural, sewing and artisan cooperatives, 7383 became entrepreneurs [2].

Of particular importance is the speech of the President of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly and his initiative to develop, under the auspices of the United Nations, an International Code on Voluntary Commitments of States during a Pandemic. This document should reflect the obligations of each state to its citizens and international partners. This step can help stabilize the unemployment situation [4].

CONCLUSION

As a conclusion, it can be said that under a favorable scenario of the development of events and given the fact that the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan immediately

began to take measures to support the economy, business and those in need of assistance, we can count on the beginning of economic recovery from the fourth quarter of this year. The anti-crisis measures taken by Uzbekistan fully comply with the four basic principles of the ILO to combat the pandemic, i.e. aims to stimulate the economy and employment, support businesses, jobs and incomes, protect workers in the workplace, and social dialogue.

REFERENCES

1. Anvar Islamov. Economy "before" and "after" the pandemic in Uzbekistan. <https://ia-centr.ru/experts/anvar-islamov/ekonomika-do-i-posle-pandemii-v-uzbekistane>. Date of treatment November 18, 2020.
2. Unemployment for nine months was 11.1%. <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/11/14/unemployment/>
3. In Uzbekistan, the number of self-employed has exceeded 400 thousand. <http://centr-truda.uz/2020/09/25/v-uzbekistane-kolichestvo-samozanyatyx-prevysilo-400-tysyach>)
4. Speech by the President of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. Truth of the East. September 24, 2020 No. 201 (29431)
5. ILO, 2020. International Labor Organization (ILO) Bulletin: COVID-19 and the World of Work. Fourth issue. May 27, 2020. P. 1.
6. ILO, 2020. International Labor Organization (ILO) Bulletin: COVID-19 2 and the world of work. Second edition. April 7, 2020. P.6
7. ILO, 2020. The COVID-19 response: Getting gender equality right for a better future for women at work. C.1
8. Saidiev U. On measures to prevent a sharp decline in employment and incomes of the population of Uzbekistan in a pandemic. <http://www.baltic-course.com/rus/opinion/?doc=156894>
9. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 19.03.2020 N UP-5969 "On priority measures to mitigate the negative impact on the economic sectors of the coronavirus pandemic and global crisis phenomena." [Electronic resource]. Access mode: <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4770763/> (date of access: 12/20/2020).
10. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 03.04.2020 N UP-5978 "On additional measures to support the population, economic sectors and business entities during the coronavirus pandemic." [Electronic resource]. Access mode: <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4780477/> (date of access: 7.12.2020).
11. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 27, 2020 N UP-5986 "On additional measures to support the population and business entities during the coronavirus pandemic." [Electronic resource]. Access mode: <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4800007/> (date of access: 19.12.2020).