

SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY AND ITS
REDUCTION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Shadieva Gulnora Mardieva

Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service,
Doctor of Economics.

<https://orcid.org/my-orcid?orcid=0000-0001-7078-8815>

Tel: 90-968 51-22

gulnora.shodiyeva@mail.ru

Turapov Siroj Mamadoli ugli

Master of Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service

Abstract

In this article, we outlined the theoretical foundations of poverty reduction, as well as the transition to a "green" economy for the development of the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and also gave our proposals and recommendations for poverty reduction.

Keywords

market economy, poverty reduction, social inequality, economic factors, job creation, social protection.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada biz O'zbekiston Respublikasi iqtisodiyotini rivojlantirish uchun "Yashil" iqtisodiyotga o'tish bilan bir qatorda kambag'allik darajasi va uni kamaytirishning nazariy asoslarini keltirib o'tdik va kambag'allikni qisqartirish uchun o'z taklif va tavsiyalarimizni berdik.

Kalit so'zlar

bozor iqtisodiyoti, kambag'allikni qisqartirish, ijtimoiy tengsizlik, iqtisodiy omillar, ish o'rinlarini yaratish, ijtimoiy himoya.

Аннотация

В данной статье мы изложили теоретические основы сокращения бедности, а также перехода к «зеленой» экономике для развития экономики Республики Узбекистан, а также дали свои предложения и рекомендации по сокращению бедности.

Ключевые слова

рыночная экономика, сокращение бедности, социальное неравенство, экономические факторы, создание рабочих мест, социальная защита.

Introduction. Today, economic, environmental and social factors are considered to be inextricably linked to achieve sustainable development on a global scale. In this context, the concept of a green economy is gaining increasing relevance. It aims to achieve long-term economic stability through environmental protection, rational use of natural resources and combating climate change. At the same time, the transition to a green economy also includes issues of social equality and poverty reduction.

As is known, the market economy, one of the most advanced and promising systems in human development, is accompanied by difficulties such as increasing stratification and increasing unemployment. A number of measures are being developed and implemented in countries to prevent such problems and mitigate their negative consequences. However, despite the measures taken, one of the important problems inherent in the transition period is the problem of poverty. Indeed, "poverty" and "poverty" are universal global problems, and they are one of the issues that have been worrying the people of the world, scientists, philosophers, and leading experts for a long time. After all, the fact that the Alfred Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, one of the most prestigious international awards presented annually for "great research, revolutionary inventions, or significant contributions to the development of culture and society, was awarded in 2019 for "a new approach to obtaining reliable answers to the best ways to combat global poverty" itself indicates that the issue of poverty is a global problem and that attention to it is not waning at all."

Analysis of literature on the topic. The literature on the transition to a sustainable (green) economy and poverty reduction focuses on two main ideas: the green transformation can create social and economic opportunities, i.e. new jobs, income sources and a healthy environment; and if the transformation is poorly managed, it can have negative social consequences for certain groups – in particular low-skilled workers or resource-dependent communities. The debate about this dual outcome is widely covered in the literature. International organizations and policy studies see the green transition as an opportunity to reduce poverty. UNDP and UNEP studies show that inclusive green economy strategies – such as creating clean jobs, restoring natural capital and investing in sustainable agriculture – can help reduce poverty by diversifying income sources, but these policies need to be implemented in conjunction with social protection mechanisms.

Economically, the impact of the green transformation on poverty has been noted to be partly due to changes in the labor market. While there is potential to create green jobs, many workers lack the new skills needed—reskilling, upskilling, and active employment policies are needed. Evidence compiled by the ILO and the World Bank shows that green sectors can create jobs in some countries, but targeted policies at regional and sector levels are needed. Financing and investment factors are also frequently mentioned in the literature. McKinsey and other think tanks argue that promoting green investment can support economic growth and stabilize future incomes, but specific instruments—green finance, subsidy redirection, tax mechanisms, and public-private partnerships—will be essential. At the same time, the literature shows that the role of investment opportunities and financial support in reducing poverty is context-dependent.

National and regional studies – especially in middle-income and developing countries – show the importance of institutional capacity, political will and planning in implementing green strategies. According to the practical recommendations of the OECD and the World Bank, integrated governance, the mobilization of financial mechanisms and strengthening of social safety nets are necessary for a sustainable transition. These documents also recommend the active involvement of stakeholders (private sector, civil society, local governments) to ensure that the transformation is fair and inclusive.

However, the literature also highlights a number of caveats: the introduction of green strategies may result in short-term job losses, geographical or sectoral inequalities, and tax burdens arising from financing environmental measures. Therefore, when developing transition policies, politicians and practitioners need to prioritize social protection and transition plans.

Research methodology. The study used a comprehensive approach aimed at identifying economic, social and institutional factors that influence the formation and reduction of poverty in

the context of sustainable economic development. The work combined theoretical, analytical and empirical methods.

- First, a theoretical analysis was conducted based on scientific literature, reports of international organizations (UNDP, World Bank, OECD) and state strategic documents. Through this, the relationship between sustainable development and poverty, the mechanisms of social impact of the green economy were identified.

- Second, a comparative analysis was carried out based on available statistical data on poverty levels, income inequality, green investments, employment and social protection indicators. The experience of different countries was compared with Uzbekistan.

- Third, descriptive-statistical analysis was used based on the goals and economic indicators set out in Uzbekistan's national strategies. Through this approach, the possibilities and limitations of sustainable development policies in reducing poverty in the country were assessed.

The study also formulated final scientific conclusions through logical analysis, a systematic approach, and generalization methods.

Analysis and results. According to the UN, today 54 countries live in poverty compared to 1990, in 21 countries the majority of the population suffers from hunger, in 12 countries the coverage of children with primary education is decreasing, in 34 countries life expectancy has decreased, more than 850 million people suffer from malnutrition. Such data show that the problems of “poverty” and “poverty” remain relevant. Even in the most developed countries of the world, China (65 percent of the country's population) and the United States (16 percent), poverty exists, and in Japan, which ranks third in the world in terms of economic power, every sixth Japanese is considered poor, and the main reason for this is unemployment. After all, today in most countries hunger and poverty, unemployment and illiteracy, political conflicts between states, infectious diseases, especially (COVID-19), environmental disasters (depletion of the ozone layer, rising temperatures) and other threats are increasing. Such modern dangers are leading to the further intensification of poverty as a global problem.

The economic reforms being carried out in the new Uzbekistan are bearing fruit today. In this regard, the 85th goal of the development strategy of our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev for 2022–2026 - the formation and implementation of strategic programs for poverty reduction - is of particular importance. It is planned to create the opportunity for 2.5 million citizens working informally in the country to fully use social guarantees and benefits by attracting them to employment. The program also includes halving unemployment among women and training more than 700,000 women in vocational skills at state expense. It is planned to implement comprehensive measures to attract unemployed women to entrepreneurship and self-employment, and to establish the process of providing social assistance at the local level based on the “mahallabay” principle. It is intended to prevent the risk of poverty resurgence by creating a unified electronic registration system for poor families, women and youth in regions, cities and districts. The goal is to develop handicraft activities, cover at least 85 percent of the population in need of social benefits with social assistance programs, and provide direct state social assistance to needy families and citizens who have temporarily encountered difficulties. The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-4477 “On approval of the Strategy of the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a “green” economy for the period 2019-2030” adopted in 2019 also pays special attention to ensuring environmental sustainability in our country, as well as social justice and poverty reduction. The Strategy identifies increasing energy efficiency, introducing renewable energy sources, waste management, and developing environmental infrastructure as key areas.

Table 1.

Information on the distribution of the employed population in the Republic of Uzbekistan by region (thousand people)

	Yillar			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
O‘zbekiston Respublikasi	13236,4	13538,9	13706,2	14014,2
Qoraqalpog‘iston Respublikasi	707,4	702,6	714,2	7735,5
viloyatlar:				
Andijon	1225,9	1264,3	1296,8	1329
Buxoro	788	777,3	780,6	803,2
Jizzax	534,3	550,7	546,4	553,9
Qashqadaryo	1171,0	1202,5	1207,3	1220,1
Navoiy	399,4	410,4	410,1	426,4
Namangan	1088,7	1104,8	1100,6	1129,1
Samarqand	1418,3	1441,3	1479,8	1504,2
Surxondaryo	985,5	1001,9	1006,3	1011,2
Sirdaryo	332,2	334,1	335,0	338,0
Toshkent	1177,2	1222,1	1204,5	1234,9
Farg‘ona	1448,6	1483,3	1511,7	1555,4
Xorazm	716,4	726,4	741,8	776,5
Toshkent sh.	1243,5	1317,2	1371,1	1396,8

The table shows the number of employed people in all regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in thousands. The data is based on official statistical sources, and separate indicators are reflected for each region, the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and the city of Tashkent. These indicators are important for analyzing the state of the labor market in the regions, determining the level of economic activity, and formulating employment policy. From the table, we can see that the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has had its impact on employment for several years. In this regard, the government of our country considers poverty reduction as a component of the green development strategy. There are the following institutional approaches to this:

- Within the framework of programs such as “Every Family is an Entrepreneur” and “Youth is Our Future”, financial and advisory assistance is provided to poor segments of the population to operate in the fields of renewable energy, ecological farming, and services.
- A system of environmental taxes and subsidies is being introduced, which encourages the redistribution of resources from polluting activities to socially beneficial green activities.
- Many grant and technical assistance projects aimed at green development and poverty reduction are being implemented in cooperation with the UN, the World Bank and other international organizations.
- The introduction of the “Iron Notebook”, “Women's Notebook”, “Youth Notebook”, etc., etc.

Conclusions and recommendations. In conclusion, the transition to a green economy serves not only as an effective strategy for eliminating environmental problems, but also as a

poverty reduction strategy. This approach allows ensuring social justice through rational use of resources, increasing energy efficiency, and creating new, environmentally friendly jobs. Although the prospects for developing a green economy and using it as a means of combating poverty in Uzbekistan are high, there are still problems that need to be solved on this path.

In particular, it remains an important task to involve poor segments of the population in green sector activities, strengthen the system of environmental education and training, and provide them with financial and technical resources. It is also necessary to adapt existing state programs and institutional approaches to the goals of green development.

On this topic, we present the following proposals:

1. Increasing green jobs at the regional level - increasing employment by expanding local projects in such areas as renewable energy, waste recycling, and ecological agriculture.
2. Creating financial support mechanisms for the poor - increasing the economic activity of the population by providing preferential loans, grants and subsidies for green businesses.
3. Expanding ecological and green vocational training programs - organizing training courses for modern professions in the green economy, especially for young people and women.
4. Raising public awareness through information and communication media - informing the general public about the green economy and its opportunities and forming an ecological culture in them.

Strengthening the link between the green economy and poverty reduction in state policy - adhering to the principles of environmental sustainability and social inclusion in each socio-economic program.

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