

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES IN
UZBEKISTAN AND CHINA

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Abstract. This article provides a comparative analysis of poverty reduction policies in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the People's Republic of China. The study considers poverty as a modern socio-economic and political problem, and deeply analyzes the role of state policy, institutional mechanisms, and economic development strategies in reducing it. As a result of the comparative analysis, the strengths of the Chinese experience were identified - centralized management, strict monitoring, and infrastructural development factors, while the advantages of the Uzbek experience were recognized as social diagnostics, targeting, and social protection mechanisms through the mahalla institute. At the end of the study, practical recommendations were developed that can be applied in the conditions of Uzbekistan.

Keywords: poverty, state policy, Chinese model, Uzbekistan, social protection, institutional mechanism

Introduction

In today's globalization era, the problem of poverty is one of the most pressing socio-economic and political problems for most countries in the world. The Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations set the eradication of poverty as the first priority. High levels of poverty exacerbate social inequality in society, threaten political stability, and slow down the development of human capital.

The People's Republic of China has achieved unprecedented results in poverty reduction over the past forty years, and in 2021 officially announced the elimination of absolute poverty. This process was achieved through strong state policies, centralized management, a regional approach, and clearly targeted programs. China's experience has become a model for many developing countries today.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, poverty reduction has also been identified as one of the priorities of state policy in the post-independence period, especially since 2017. Comprehensive reforms aimed at reducing poverty are being implemented through the "Iron Notebook", "Women's Notebook", "Youth Notebook", the neighborhood work system and social assistance mechanisms.

From this point of view, a comparative analysis of poverty reduction policies in Uzbekistan and China, the study of their institutional mechanisms, policy approaches and practical results is of great scientific and practical importance for Uzbekistan.

Methodology

The research used the methods of systematic analysis, comparative method, analysis of normative and legal documents, analysis of statistical data, and analysis of political institutions. Based on these methods, the following were analyzed:

- Comparative analysis - comparison of the policies of Uzbekistan and China
- Systemic approach - study of poverty as a complex phenomenon
- Statistical analysis - assessment of the dynamics of the poverty level
- Normative and legal analysis - study of state policies and programs

The following approaches to explaining poverty were used as a theoretical basis:

- liberal model
- social democratic model
- development model

- Amartya Sen's "opportunity approach"

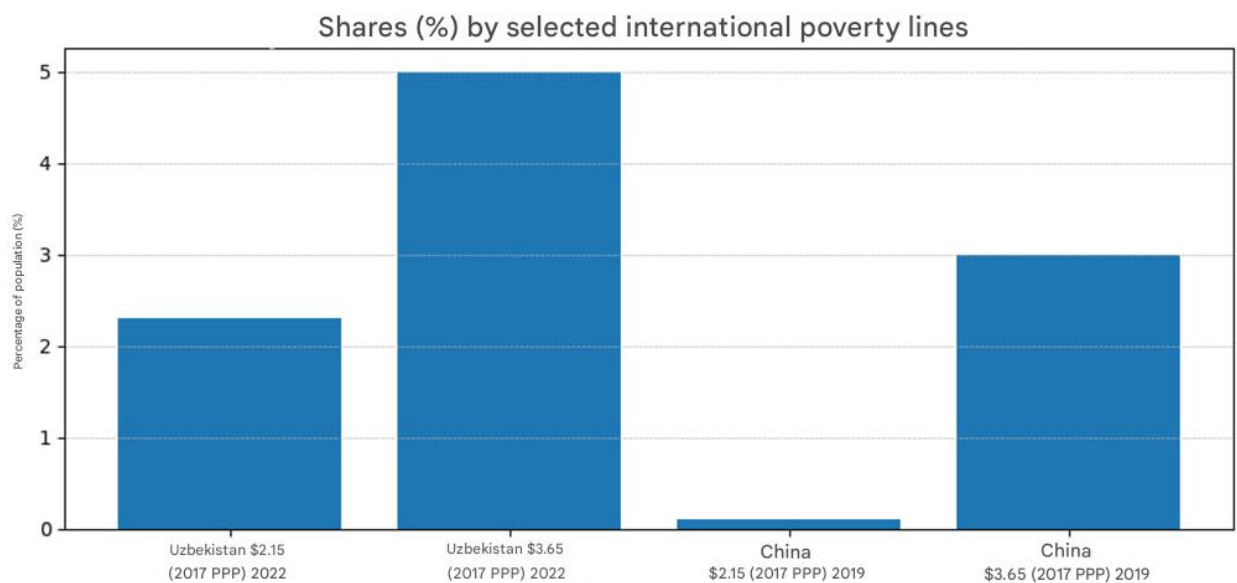
Results

China’s poverty reduction policy is based on the following key elements:

- “targeted poverty alleviation” - a targeted approach
- centralized management and strict monitoring
- infrastructure and industrial development
- regional development programs

As a result, the poverty rate has declined sharply since the 1980s, and absolute poverty was eliminated in 2021.

While poverty reduction in China is inextricably linked to economic modernization and industrial development, in Uzbekistan social assistance and employment programs are used as the main tools. This shows that Uzbekistan's policy is aimed at ensuring social stability in the short term.



In Uzbekistan, poverty reduction is being implemented through the following mechanisms:

- “Iron Book”, “Women's Book”, “Youth Book” system
- Neighborhood work model
- Support for employment and entrepreneurship
- Social registry system

According to the World Bank “Poverty & Equity Brief” (2024), the national poverty rate in Uzbekistan is:

- 2021: 17.0%
- 2022: 14.1%
- 2023: 11.0%
- 2024: 8.9%
- 2025: 5.8%

Indicator Uzbekistan

China

<i>Model</i>	Mixed	Development Model
<i>Approach</i>	Neighborhood and social assistance	Targeted and Centralized
<i>Key tool</i>	Employment + social protection	Infrastructure + Industry
<i>Result</i>	Sustainable decline	Absolute Poverty Ended

The problem of poverty has been widely studied in economics, sociology, and political science. Internationally, scholars such as Amartya Sen,¹ Martin Ravallion,² and Jeffrey Sachs³ have highlighted the theoretical and practical aspects of poverty reduction. Scientific studies on the Chinese experience have been conducted by Hu Angang,⁴ Li Shi⁵, and other Chinese researchers.

In Uzbekistan, in recent years, scientific research on the identification, assessment and reduction of poverty has been taking shape. Also, the scientific works of Uzbek researchers Umarov T., Iskandarov S.Q., Makhmanazarov A., Khaydarov G'., Shazamanov Sh.Sh., Kholmatova G.⁶ discuss issues related to China's social and economic policy, China-Uzbek relations, and the successes of China's social policy and its use in reducing poverty and ensuring the well-being of the population in Uzbekistan. However, most of the existing research is limited to economic analysis and does not sufficiently cover the political and institutional comparative approach. This graduation thesis is aimed at filling this gap.

Discussion

The analysis shows that the Chinese model has achieved efficiency through a highly centralized management and strict control. The advantages of this model are:

- strategic planning
- results-oriented management
- large-scale infrastructure investments

However, this model requires large resources and strong institutions.

The Uzbek model is socially oriented and has the following advantages:

- accurate diagnostics through the mahalla
- targeted assistance
- expansion of the social protection system

However, the following problems also exist:

- regional disparities
- insufficient institutional efficiency
- share of the informal economy

Practical recommendations:

- expansion of infrastructure and industrial projects
- strengthening local governance accountability
- improving monitoring and evaluation systems

¹ Amartya Sen, (1999). *Development as Freedom*. Oxford university press, 353 pages.

² Martin Ravallion: *The Economics of Poverty*. Oxford University Press, 701 p.

³ Jeffrey Sachs: *The End of Poverty*. Penguin Publishing Group. 416 p.

⁴ Hu Angang. *China's Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction (1978–2002)*

⁵ Li Shi, Gerhard K. Heilig, Zhang, Ming, Long, Hualou, Wu, Xiuqin, (2005). *Poverty Alleviation in China: A Lesson for the Developing World?* Urumqi, China. 21 pages.

⁶ Temur U., (2023). *Intersecting Policies: Exploring the Domestic Foundations of Uzbekistan's Changing Stance on China*. OSCE Academy in Bishkek; Iskandarov S.Q., (2022). *Xitoyning investitsiya siyosatining mohiyati va uning afzalliklari*. Journal of modern philosophy, social sciences and humanities, Volume 5; Maxmanazarov A. *Xitoy iqtisodiyotini hududiy tashkil etishning asosiy xususiyatlari*. Международный научный журнал «Научный импульс», №9 (100), часть 2; Xaydarov G'., (2022). *O'zbekiton va Xitoy siyosiy munosabatlarining bugungi holati*. Oriens Journal, Vol. 2(26); Xolmatova G. M., (2024). *Aholi o'rtasida kambag'allikni kamaytirishning Xitoy modeli*. Universal journal of social sciences, philosophy and culture, Vol 2(12), ISSN: 2992-8834; Xolmatova G. M., (2024). *O'zbekistonda kambag'allikni kamaytirishda Xitoy tajribasidan foydalanish istiqbollari*. Interdiscipline innovation and scientific research online conference, Collections of scientific works, - Great Britain, London, Part 21, 183 p.

- developing education and vocational training

Conclusion

This scientific work provides a comparative analysis of poverty reduction policies in Uzbekistan and China, and a comprehensive study of the theoretical, political, and institutional foundations of this process. During the study, it was scientifically substantiated that poverty is not only an economic, but also a socio-political problem, and that its effective reduction requires strong state policies and institutional mechanisms.

The main models of poverty reduction policies were also analyzed, revealing the differences between the liberal, social-democratic, and development models. This analysis provided a deeper understanding of the essence of the paths chosen by China and Uzbekistan. It was found that the active role of the state, a strong institutional environment, and long-term strategic planning are decisive factors in sustainable poverty reduction.

In the Chinese experience, industrialization, infrastructure development, labor migration, and modernization of the education system served as the main factors in poverty reduction. The direct link between the activities of local leaders and poverty indicators has strengthened political accountability and shaped results-oriented management.

Poverty reduction policy in Uzbekistan is at a relatively new stage, and significant institutional changes have been made in this direction in recent years. The “neighborhood work” system, social ledgers, and employment support programs have made it possible to identify poverty and provide targeted assistance. This approach plays an important role in ensuring social stability in the short term.

However, a comparative analysis shows that for more effective implementation of poverty reduction policy in Uzbekistan, long-term strategic planning, strengthening institutional accountability, and close linkage with economic development are necessary. It is impossible to completely copy the Chinese experience, but it is advisable to adapt some of its mechanisms to national conditions.

Based on the results of the study, the following practical recommendations were developed for Uzbekistan:

- ✓ Develop and consistently implement a long-term national poverty reduction strategy;
- ✓ Increase the accountability of local governments for effectiveness;
- ✓ Expand infrastructure and production-oriented projects;
- ✓ Prevent the intergenerational transmission of poverty by strengthening the education and vocational training system;
- ✓ Improve mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating social policies.

In conclusion, poverty reduction policy is a complex and multifaceted process that must rely on strong political will, effective state institutions, and a long-term development strategy. A comparative analysis of the experience of Uzbekistan and China allowed us to draw important scientific and practical conclusions for our country and created a solid foundation for improving future social policies.

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