



## THE ROLE OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE ASSISTANT KHOKIM IN REDUCING THE LEVEL OF POVERTY IN OUR COUNTRY

Astanov Akhunjon Raubovich

Lecturer of the Department of Political Science of the Faculty of Social  
Sciences of the National University of Uzbekistan

[astanovahun@gmail.com](mailto:astanovahun@gmail.com)

## РОЛЬ ИНСТИТУТА ПОМОЩНИКА ХОКИМА В СОКРАЩЕНИИ БЕДНОСТИ В СТРАНЕ

**Аннотация:** В данной статье на основе научно-аналитических рассуждений освещены различные социально-политические взгляды, меры и подходы к определению сущности понятия бедности и критериев ее оценки. Рассмотрено создание институциональной системы взаимодействия махаллей с хокимиятами, введение должности помощника хокима и его реформы по сокращению бедности. Представлены размышления о внедрении нового подхода и накопленного национального опыта в улучшении условий жизни населения в регионах, развитии предпринимательства, сокращении бедности и повышении эффективности программ социальной поддержки. Описано внедрение принципа “Семь возможностей и обязанностей для малообеспеченных семей” в рамках программы “От бедности к процветанию”. Также даны научные выводы и рекомендации, имеющие социально-политическое значение, касающиеся видов, особенностей и классификации понятия бедности. В процессе освещения содержания статьи подробно затронуты необходимые понятия и выражения, а также даны краткие, четкие комментарии к ним.

**Ключевые слова:** бедность, сокращение бедности, понятие помощника хокима, система работы в разрезе махаллей, ликвидация безработицы, стабильная занятость, инфраструктура, драйвер.

## THE ROLE OF THE HOKIM'S ASSISTANT INSTITUTION IN REDUCING POVERTY IN THE COUNTRY

**Abstract:** This article, based on scientific and analytical considerations, examines various socio-political views, measures, and approaches to defining the essence of the concept of poverty and its evaluation criteria. The issues of creating an institutional system of interaction between mahallas and khokimiyats, introducing the position of assistant khokim and his reforms in poverty reduction



were considered. Considerations are presented on the implementation of a new approach and accumulated national experience in improving the living conditions of the population in the regions, developing entrepreneurship, reducing poverty and increasing the effectiveness of social support programs. The implementation of the “Seven opportunities and responsibilities for low-income families” principle within the framework of the “From poverty to prosperity” program was described. Scientific conclusions and recommendations of socio-political significance have also been made regarding the types, characteristics, and classification of the concept of poverty. In the process of covering the content of the article, the necessary concepts and expressions are covered in detail, as well as brief, clear comments on them are given.

**Key words:** poverty, poverty reduction, the concept of a khokim's assistant, the system of work by mahallas, eliminating unemployment, stable employment, infrastructure, driver.

**Introduction.** The lack of the minimum amount of provision required by each person per day creates a threat of poverty, which is not inferior to other risks for the development of modern countries of the world. After all, this is based on the present and future of the individual, society and the state, the foundations of sustainable development. At the same time, the eradication of poverty, the creation of the necessary conditions and opportunities for this in practice will ensure the transition of the country to a new stage of development. At the same time, the fight against poverty is a long and complex process that requires an institutional and systemic approach.

Understanding the problem of poverty has historically expressed the peculiar attitude of ancestors to the search for its solution. The great thinker, poet, statesman A. Navoi in his work Mahbub ul-Lub reasons on this issue as follows:

“It is better to earn a dirham with your labor,

Than to receive a treasure from someone for free” [1].

The Chinese philosopher and founder of Taoism, Lao Tzu, emphasized: “If you give a hungry man a fish, you will feed him for a day. If you give him a fishing rod and teach him how to fish, you will save him from hunger for life”[2].



## **LITERARY ANALYSIS**

Let us consider the views and opinions of domestic scientists on the issue of poverty. In particular, O.Kh. Makhmudov determined that “poverty is a specific feature of the economic condition of a person or a social group that is important for life, cannot satisfy the most necessary minimum needs, be able to work and cannot continue the work that it wants” [3] and defined the criterion of poverty depending on the fact that a person does not have sufficient opportunities, Sh.I. Mustafakulov, N. Murodullaev, R. Khamidov, O. Rahimberdi “Poverty is an indicator of the economic situation of an individual or social groups that do not have the opportunity to satisfy the minimum needs necessary for life, maintaining ability to work, and continuing the continuity of generations. Poverty is a relative concept and depends on the general standard of living in each society. The state of poverty indicates that resources are insufficient in the long term, which cannot be compensated for either by previous savings or by accumulated funds due to temporary savings from the purchase of expensive goods ”[4]. Researchers from Russia and other CIS countries N. Arkhangelskaya, L. Akhmadeev, A. Bachurin, S. Belozeroval, L. Bondarenko, Yu. V. Burlakova, N. D. Vavilina, S. A. Varvus, N. Ivanov and N. Goffe in their scientific works more widely covered issues related to poverty and characterized the segment of the population that does not have the potential for an economic solution to existing problems. Such leading foreign economists as D. Sachs, G. E. Slesinger, Z. Williams, F. Williams, R. Hiveman, achieved further enrichment of scientific theories on the study of poverty and other social problems of the population.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Today, understanding poverty as a problem has become one of the most important issues of our century. Our country has also begun to actively engage in poverty reduction issues. Poverty was first officially recognized by the term "poverty" as an extremely important issue in the Address of the head of our state to the Oliy Majlis on December 29, 2020 [5]. At that time, about 6 million people were poor, and 41% of the working population was employed in the informal sector.



For this purpose, a constant dialogue was held with citizens, direct meetings, consultations and exchange of views on each area and industry were held, effective solutions to existing problems and a legal framework were developed.

In particular, at the initiative of the head of our state, an institutional system of communication between the mahalla system and khokimiyats was created, which directly reflects the results of the reforms. That is, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 3, 2021 No. UP-29 “On priority areas of state policy for the development of entrepreneurship, ensuring employment of the population and reducing poverty in the mahalla”, and the activities of assistants to khokims of districts (cities) on issues of developing entrepreneurship, ensuring employment of the population and reducing poverty in the mahalla (hereinafter referred to as assistants to khokims) are effectively organized [6].

***Assistant to the khokim* - a person appointed to the position of assistant to the khokim of the district (city) on issues of developing entrepreneurship, ensuring employment of the population and reducing poverty in each settlement, village, aul, as well as in each mahalla of cities, settlements, villages and auls[7].**

**Assistants to khokims must maintain a constant dialogue with citizens, hold direct meetings, consultations and exchange of opinions on each area and industry, effectively solve existing problems and create a legal basis, organize the system of work of "mahallabai".**

The main goal of creating the “khokim assistant” institute in the regions is to provide employment and improve the standard of living of those who are truly in need, low-income and in need of financial assistance for families who have lost their source of income - in a word, the segments of the population included in the “Iron Notebook”, “Women's” and “Youth” notebooks.

In 2022, the national “Mahallabay” system was introduced, aimed at reducing poverty and supporting entrepreneurship at the mahalla level - the smallest administrative unit, their number in the country is about 9.4 thousand. In 2022-2024,



the system allocated microloans in the amount of \$ 1.7 billion for 977.6 thousand family entrepreneurship projects, as well as subsidies of almost \$ 52 million to 152 thousand residents. Thanks to the introduction of this system, since the beginning of 2021, the poverty level in Uzbekistan has significantly decreased from 23 to 11 percent. By the end of 2025, it is planned to reduce poverty to 6 percent. Almost 2 million people have been lifted out of poverty.

In order to raise to a higher level the measures for applying the new approach and accumulated national experience in improving the living conditions of the population, achieving the effectiveness of programs for the development of entrepreneurship, poverty reduction and social support in the regions:

1. To define as a priority task of the state socio-economic policy and state bodies and organizations at all levels the lifting of 500 thousand people out of poverty in the remaining period of 2024, in 2025 - 1 million people by ensuring stable employment of the population with high incomes, creating conditions for young people to receive education and training in professions based on innovative and digital technologies, access of all segments of the population to medical and social services, as well as the implementation of comprehensive measures in the areas of development of mahalla infrastructure.

2. To approve the proposals of the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the National Agency for Social Protection on the implementation of the Program "From Poverty to Prosperity" (hereinafter referred to as the Program), aimed at creating opportunities for realizing potential and encouraging each citizen to a responsible approach to their future and the future of their children based on the positive results achieved and accumulated national experience and best international practices in the field of poverty reduction, according to

On September 23, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan UP-143 was adopted [8].



The “From Poverty to Prosperity” program will be implemented from November 1, 2024, based on the principle of “Seven Opportunities and Responsibilities for Poor Families,” which provides for:

**1. Achieving stable employment and high income** - establishing mutually beneficial cooperation with entrepreneurs and attracting leading entrepreneurs to each mahalla, efficient use of household plots, implementing at least 5 “driver” projects that give impetus to socio-economic development in each district and city, transferring an additional 50 thousand hectares of arable land for rent to poor families with the condition of distributing funds, such as small production equipment;

**2. Obtaining education and vocational training** - increasing the level of coverage of children from poor families with preschool education to 80 percent in 2024-2025, teaching at least one child from a family foreign languages, a profession or specialty, creating conditions for one child, in particular a girl, to obtain higher education, teaching children computer literacy, creating conditions for training in information technology and programming courses, including organizing clubs in schools;

**3. Access to guaranteed state health services** - each member of poor families should undergo a full medical examination once a year, increase their responsibility for their health (give up bad habits of daily life and nutrition), create opportunities for each child to participate in sports sections, halve the family's expenses on medical services at their own expense;

**4. Access to social services** - eliminating factors limiting the ability of families to work by expanding the scale of social services and assistance, in particular, day care for persons in need of outside care, establishing childcare and day care services;

**5. Improving housing conditions** - expanding access to the mortgage system, building or reconstructing modern "green" residential buildings in mahallas using environmentally friendly materials and technologies, providing clean drinking water, introducing innovative energy-saving lighting, heating and hot water supply systems, as well as recycling waste in homes;





**6. Development of mahalla infrastructure by the state** - uninterrupted supply of household plots with irrigation water, electricity and the Internet, as well as improving its transport connectivity with the district center, repair of internal roads, phased implementation of programs for accelerated integrated development of territories;

**7. Direct dialogue with employees of government agencies** - this is the establishment of regular direct contacts between government agencies at all levels with poor families, acting in unity, as well as assigning leaders to poor families, assisting in jointly solving their problems.

In the course of efforts to reduce poverty in our country, the government has faced the need to more clearly take into account the factors and criteria of poverty, which will allow, on the one hand, to more purposefully combat the factors that cause poverty, and on the other hand, to more specifically determine the circle of recipients of assistance and provide targeted assistance to the most vulnerable segments of the population.

In this regard, in order to improve the tools and methods that allow us to more effectively combat poverty, the Government of our country has officially recognized the concept of multidimensional poverty as a tool for accelerating development in eliminating poverty in accordance with SDG 1, since the use of multidimensional poverty indicators among monetary indicators serves to more effectively assess those in need and develop appropriate response measures.

In this direction, for the first time in Uzbekistan, a project was launched to measure the Multidimensional Poverty Index, implemented by the Center for Economic Research and Reform (CERR), UNDP, the Oxford Initiative, UNICEF and the UNICEF Innovation Institute. Currently, the methodology for multidimensional poverty measurement is integrated with the Statistics Agency's household budget questionnaire to calculate multidimensional and monetary indicators.

### **International recognition**



Given the seriousness of the poverty problem in Uzbekistan and the successes achieved in solving it, it is no coincidence that the 9-year high-level conferences of the Network for International Cooperation on Multidimensional Poverty were held in Tashkent on August 27-28 and in Samarkand on August 29. The high-level event was attended by world leaders, politicians and economists, leading scientists and specialists. The event was organized by the Center for Economic Research and Reform (CERR) with the participation of UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Capital Initiative (OPHI). This shows that the fight against poverty is becoming a platform that brings together leading experts and world leaders to discuss important issues.

The choice of our country as the host state signifies the recognition by the international community of the reforms carried out in the country in the area of poverty reduction, as well as successes in the implementation of the Concept of Multidimensional Poverty as a tool for accelerating progress in eradicating poverty in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, which has opened up new opportunities for the exchange of experience.

In this regard, the holding of the 9th High-Level Meeting in Samarkand and Tashkent should be seen as a continuation of the successful work on poverty reduction in Uzbekistan, which began in 2020, the effectiveness of which has already been recognized by the international European community in Paris and London.

**Conclusion:** It would not be an exaggeration to say that the introduction of the system of work in the context of mahallas has allowed to reduce the poverty level from 23 percent to 11 percent.

The countries of the world also recognize the reforms carried out in our country. In particular, the director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms (Center) of the Paris School of Economics, Nobel Prize laureate in economics Abhijit Banerjee, commenting on the assessments of reforms in Uzbekistan, noted that the key feature of Uzbekistan's approach to combating poverty is its high targeting and individuality, and also noted that "the Mahallabay system in Uzbekistan has a unique





recipe for each needy family. The national model for reducing poverty in Uzbekistan is recognized as a successful example worthy of dissemination in developing countries.

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