

**ENSURING GENDER EQUALITY IS A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN COMBATING  
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**ANNOTATION:** Gender is regarded as a crucial tool for studying and analyzing social processes. By examining gender relations, we can assess indicators of human well-being and identify areas of deficiency. Understanding the fundamental essence of gender, along with its traditional interpretation and modern manifestations, is essential for this analysis. This article argues that promoting gender equality is a vital factor in the fight against poverty. Additionally, it scientifically analyzes how the lack of gender equality contributes to an increase in poverty.

**Key words:** democratic society, sustainable development, gender policy, human rights, poverty, equality, rights and opportunities, recognition, sexual violence, women and development.

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e-mail: [azizaenvoy1989@gmail.com](mailto:azizaenvoy1989@gmail.com)**Обеспечение гендерного равенства как важнейшего фактора борьбы с бедностью****АННОТАЦИЯ**

Гендер рассматривается как важнейший инструмент изучения и анализа социальных процессов. Изучая гендерные отношения, мы можем оценить показатели человеческого благополучия и выявить области дефицита. Понимание фундаментальной сущности гендера, наряду с его традиционной интерпретацией и современными проявлениями, имеет важное значение для этого анализа. В этой статье утверждается, что содействие гендерному равенству является жизненно важным фактором в борьбе с

бедностью. Кроме того, в ней научно анализируется, как отсутствие гендерного равенства способствует росту бедности.

**Ключевые слова:** Ключевые слова: демократическое общество, устойчивое развитие, гендерная политика, права человека, бедность, равенство, права и возможности, признание, сексуальное насилие, женщины и развитие.

## INTRODUCTION

In today's diverse world, the global community aims to develop a democratic society by focusing on two key social strategies: sustainable development and gender policy. These concepts are increasingly recognized as interconnected and hold significant global importance. This approach emphasizes the need to establish a path of development that avoids human rights violations and enhances the freedom to fully realize human potential through legal, economic, and political mechanisms. Additionally, it highlights the importance of reforming social protection systems to reduce social inequality and underscores the urgency of finding solutions to existing issues.

Poverty is one of the most pressing issues facing the modern world. Currently, nearly 10 percent of the global population, or approximately 1.1 billion people<sup>1</sup>, live in extreme poverty. Among these individuals, 27.9 percent are children, and 9.8 percent, which translates to about 24.3 million<sup>2</sup>, are women.

## MAIN PART

When we examine the situation by region, we see that hunger and poverty levels continue to rise. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Africa and Asia have been the regions most heavily impacted by hunger in recent years.

As of 2024, 8.5 percent of the world's population lives in extreme poverty, which equates to 692 million people surviving on less than \$2.15 per day. Although the global extreme poverty rate has decreased from 38 percent in 1990 to 8.5 percent today, it has remained stagnant in recent years. This stagnation can

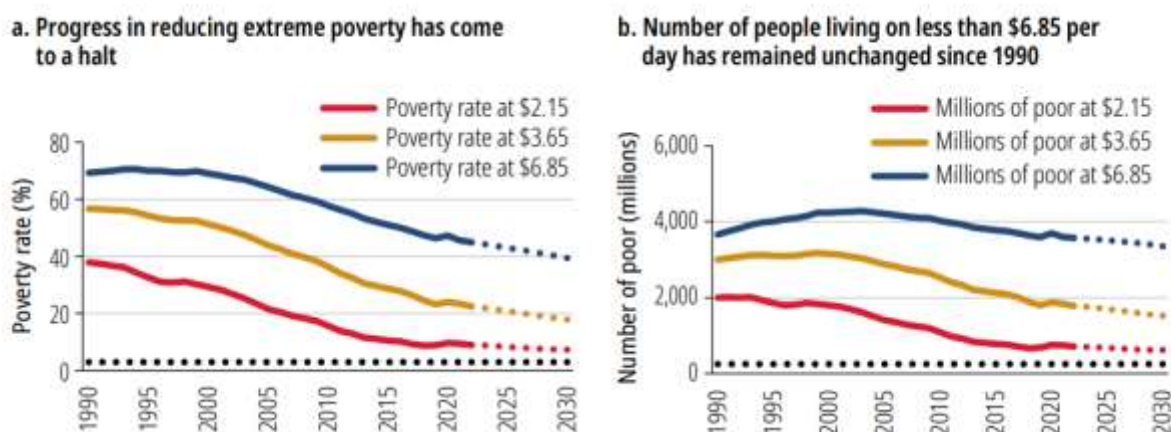
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<sup>1</sup> 1.1 billion people live in multidimensional poverty, nearly half a billion of these live in conflict settings. October 17, 2024. // <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/11-billion-people-live-multidimensional-poverty-nearly-half-billion-these-live-conflict-settings#:~:text=using%20the%20global%20mpi%20we,fragility%20and%20for%20low%20peacefulness.>

<sup>2</sup> World Bank. 2024. Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024: Pathways Out of the Polycrisis. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-2123-3.

be attributed to factors such as slowing economic growth, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation, and an increase in global conflicts. (See Figure 1.1)

Source: World Bank, *Poverty, Prosperity and the Planet Report 2024*<sup>3</sup>.



At the current rate of development, it will take decades to eradicate extreme poverty and more than a century for individuals to earn over \$6.85 a day.

Despite the global community's efforts to implement effective reforms aimed at achieving sustainable development, access to education, active participation in political and social life, the freedom to choose one's profession and employment, and the right to start a family of one's choice remain limited. The norms, standards, rules, and behaviors established at a person's birth continue to affect their entire life. These limitations on opportunities are a primary factor contributing to poverty.

Poverty has several consequences for the socio-economic development of society and the state: 1) it limits economic growth; 2) it increases social tension; 3) crime rates rise; 4) migration processes become more pronounced; and 5) the overall lifestyle of the population deteriorates. Consequently, poverty is often regarded as a significant issue that adversely affects demographic and national health.

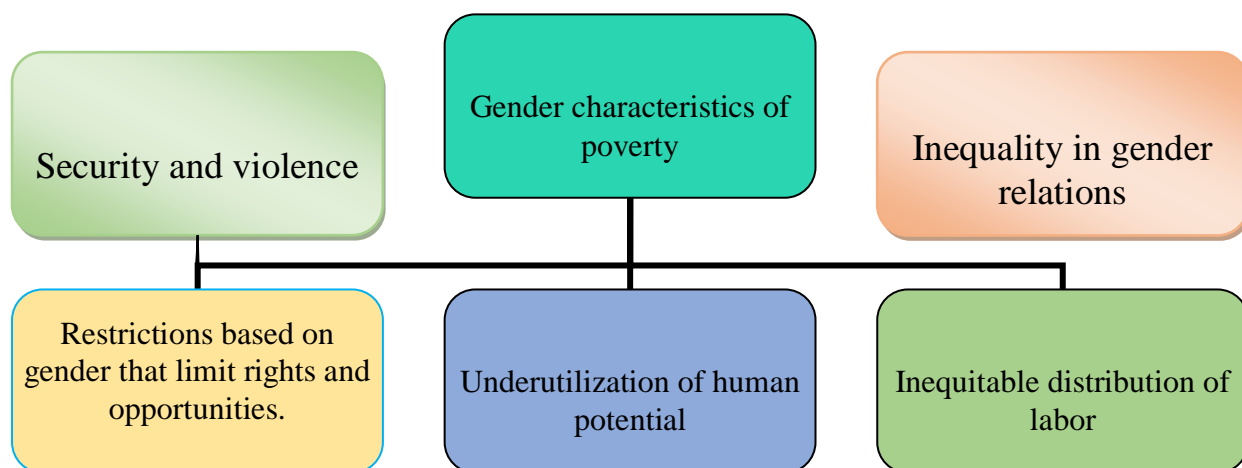
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

Poverty and its gender dimensions are becoming increasingly important issues today. The principle of equality in all aspects of society—encompassing not just equality of rights and opportunities<sup>4</sup>, but also a compassionate approach that promotes individual values, mutual respect, and recognition<sup>5</sup>—can lead to a reduction in poverty. Currently, three-quarters of all individuals living in extreme poverty worldwide reside in sub-Saharan Africa<sup>6</sup> or in fragile, conflict-affected countries. In 2023, an estimated 612 million women and girls lived within 50 kilometers of 170 armed conflicts, marking a 41% increase since 2015<sup>7</sup>. The United Nations reports that conflict-related sexual violence has risen by 50% since 2022, with 95% of these crimes committed against women and girls. This situation exemplifies another form of violence and discrimination faced by women and children living in poverty. The gendered nature of poverty is further illustrated in the following figure (see Figure 1.2).

Historically, it has been proven multiple times that humanity can achieve progress by promoting social equality within society. This factor has played a significant role in driving development, leading to improvements in the economic situations of many countries after the Second World War, particularly in developing nations. Both theoretical and practical evidence supports this idea.

Initially, women were not significantly addressed in the early economic development theories. However, the post-war circumstances in Europe and the United States contributed to a new understanding of women's economic roles and gender relations. This shift led to the



<sup>4</sup> Калабихина, И. Е. "Краткий понятийный словарь по гендерным исследованиям." *Социальный пол: экономическое и демографическое поведение. Учебно-методические материалы по курсу* (1998).

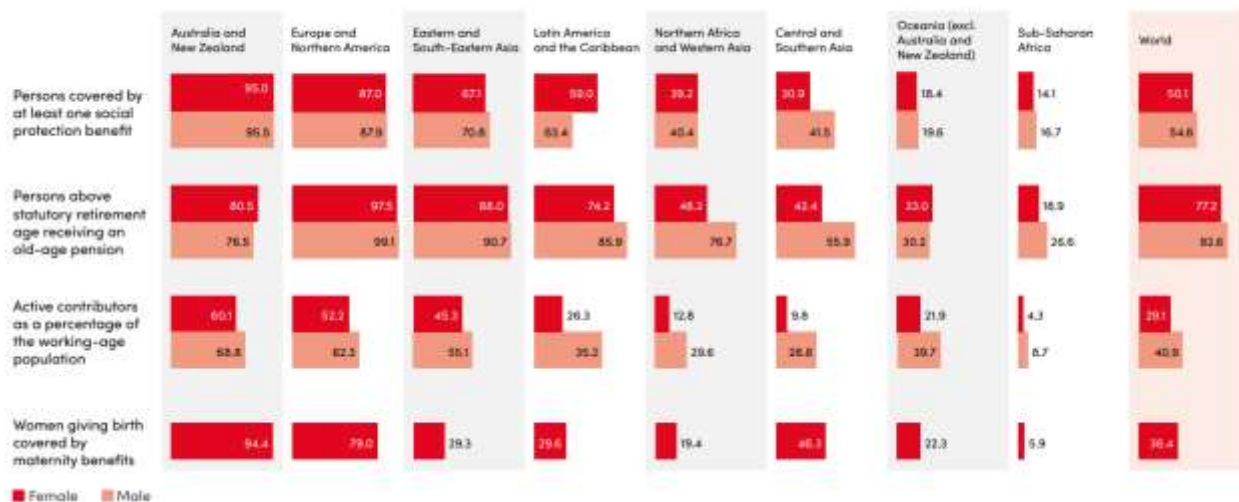
<sup>5</sup> Словарь гендерных терминов / Под ред. А. А. Денисовой / Региональная общественная организация "Восток-Запад: Женские Инновационные Проекты". М.: Информация XXI век, 2002. 256 с.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.unwomen.org/en/resources/gender-snapshot>

emergence of the "Women in Development" (WID) approach in the early 1970s<sup>8</sup>. This approach emphasizes that involving women in development and expanding their social, political, and economic opportunities can yield positive results. According to Reeves and Baden<sup>9</sup>, it is crucial

Proportion of the population covered by at least one social protection benefit, by sex, 2023 (percentage)



to establish clear goals for the integration of women into development processes. This approach not only ensures successful development outcomes but also creates broader opportunities for women. The concept of "Women and Development" emerged under the influence of social feminist perspectives in response to the criticisms of modernization theory in the mid-1970s. This framework emphasizes that women play a vital role in development and that special attention should be given to their ongoing advancement.

Although women are just beginning to take active roles in society, the need to incorporate them into development processes has already been recognized<sup>10</sup>. Historical evidence indicates that achieving social, economic, and political equality contributes positively to a country's development. The following table illustrates how this phenomenon has manifested in nations that implement policies promoting social equality across various regions worldwide. (See Figure 1.3)

<sup>8</sup> Boserup, Ester, et al. *Woman's role in economic development*. Routledge, 2013.  
<sup>9</sup> Reeves, Hazel, and Sally Baden. *Gender and Development: Concepts and Definitions: Prepared for the Department for International Development (DFID) for Its Gender Mainstreaming Intranet Resource*. Bridge (development gender), Institute of Development Studies, 2000.  
<sup>10</sup> Rathgeber, E. M. "WID, WAD, GAD: Trends in Research and Practice. International Development Research Centre. Ottawa." (2014).

**Source: International Labour Organization calculations; World Social Protection Database based on the Social Protection Survey**

The poverty line in Uzbekistan has been set at 498,000 soums per person per month. This amount covers daily food consumption (2,200 kcal) as well as the minimum expenditure on essential non-food goods and services. This figure represents an increase of 13.2% compared to 2021. To effectively fulfill the state's social obligations and develop human capital, five key areas for poverty reduction have been identified:

First, creating favorable conditions for the growth of the private sector and entrepreneurship.

Second, accelerating the implementation of targeted support programs for low-income families through the "social register" system, which is based on an individualized approach.

Third, there are over 100 social services available for people with disabilities, women, and neighborhoods that require special attention.

Forth, the funding allocated to the population through the "outcome budget" system is taken into account.

Fifth, it is essential to ensure that every individual has the right to access quality education and healthcare.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it is important to recognize that cultural gender norms often result in women eating last after men and boys. To address hunger, women frequently sacrifice their own food to ensure their families are adequately provided for. During the pandemic, instances of moderate to severe food insecurity have reached alarming levels. By 2023, it is estimated that 28.9 percent of the world's population, or 2.33 billion people, will experience this issue. Food consumption disparities reveal that 26.7% of women and 25.4% of men face insecurity, with a notable 4.8 million women aged 15 to 49 particularly affected. This problem is projected to increase to 32.3% among women aged 15 to 49 by 2030.

In such dire situations, global inequality becomes even more pronounced. The empowerment and development of women and girls are crucial factors in eradicating hunger, combating poverty, and ensuring the overall well-being of the population.

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