IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN IN THE FIELD OF SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: The primary objectives of this analysis are to examine the challenges faced by independent developing countries, focusing on the specific case of Uzbekistan. The study aims to understand the complexities involved in building a democratic and free civil society during the country’s ongoing journey as an independent nation. Additionally, the objectives include identifying the shifts and advancements in societal sentiments, particularly the current social upsurge among citizens as Uzbekistan enters a stage of rapid development.

Methods: The research methodology encompasses an analysis of historical and contemporary data related to Uzbekistan’s development as an independent nation. It involves a comprehensive review of socio-economic difficulties and political crises during the early years of independence. Additionally, the methods include examining the current social landscape and citizen sentiments, considering factors contributing to the peaceful and rapid development phase. Qualitative and quantitative data will be employed to provide a nuanced understanding of the country’s evolving socio-political dynamics.

Results: Preliminary findings indicate a noteworthy shift in societal mood, marked by a social upsurge among citizens in Uzbekistan. The results highlight a transition from past concerns over socio-economic difficulties and political crises to a present state characterized by peaceful coexistence and rapid development. A detailed analysis will be conducted to identify the factors contributing to this transformation and to provide insights into the dynamics of the evolving civil society.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the analysis reveals a positive social upsurge in Uzbekistan, reflecting a shift from challenges to opportunities in the country’s development trajectory. The peaceful and rapid development phase signifies a notable milestone in the nation’s journey. The findings contribute to a better understanding of the complexities involved in the development of independent nations and underscore the importance of societal factors in shaping the trajectory of democratic and free civil societies.

Keywords: preschool education, public education, alternative energy, fisheries, poultry, cattle breeding, Development Strategy, small business, Action Strategy, of women entrepreneurs.

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ASPECTOS IMPORTANTES DAS ATIVIDADES INOVADORAS DAS MULHERES NO CAMPO DAS PEQUENAS EMPRESAS E DO EMPREENDERISMO

RESUMO

Objetivos: Os principais objetivos desta análise são examinar os desafios enfrentados por países em desenvolvimento independentes, focando-se no caso específico do Uzbequistão. O estudo busca compreender as complexidades envolvidas na construção de uma sociedade civil livre e democrática durante a continua jornada do país como nação independente. Além disso, os objetivos incluem a identificação das mudanças e avanços nos sentimentos sociais, particularmente o atual crescimento social entre os cidadãos, à medida que o Uzbequistão entra numa fase de rápido desenvolvimento.

Métodos: A metodologia de pesquisa abrange uma análise de dados históricos e contemporâneos relacionados ao desenvolvimento do Uzbequistão como nação independente. Envolve uma análise abrangente das dificuldades socioeconômicas e crises políticas durante os primeiros anos de independência. Além disso, os métodos incluem a análise do panorama social atual e dos sentimentos dos cidadãos, considerando fatores que contribuem para a fase de desenvolvimento pacífico e rápido. Dados qualitativos e quantitativos serão empregados para fornecer uma compreensão matizada da dinâmica sócio-política em evolução do país.

Resultados: Descobertas preliminares indicam uma mudança notável no humor da sociedade, marcada por um aumento social entre os cidadãos no Uzbequistão. Os resultados evidenciam uma transição dos preocupações do passado sobre as dificuldades socioeconômicas e as crises políticas para um Estado atual caracterizado pela coexistência pacífica e pelo rápido desenvolvimento. Será realizada uma análise detalhada para identificar os fatores que contribuem para esta transformação e para fornecer uma visão da dinâmica da sociedade civil em evolução.

Conclusão: Em conclusão, a análise revela um crescimento social positivo no Uzbequistão, refletindo uma mudança de desafios para oportunidades na trajetória de desenvolvimento do país. A fase de desenvolvimento rápido e pacífico representa um marco notável na jornada da nação. Os resultados contribuem para uma melhor compreensão das complexidades envolvidas no desenvolvimento de nações independentes e ressaltam a importância de fatores sociais na formação da trajetória de sociedades civis democráticas e livres.

Palavras-chave: educação pré-escolar, educação pública, energia alternativa, pesca, aves, pecuária, Estratégia de Desenvolvimento, pequena empresa, Estratégia de Ação, de mulheres empresárias.

1 INTRODUCTION

Currently, that is, Uzbekistan has entered the third period of revival, and rapid reforms have covered all spheres of society.

In particular, broad benefits in the field of small business and entrepreneurship are important for the emergence, expansion, and popularization of innovative activities of
women entrepreneurs. Reforms for the further development of small business and entrepreneurship were first expressed in the Action Strategy, and then in the Objectives defined in the Development Strategy.

The Action Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on five priority areas of comprehensive development in 2017-2021 is aimed at an impartial assessment of the achievements and shortcomings of the socio-economic and political reforms implemented in the society during the years of independence, and the elimination of bureaucratic obstacles and criminality, which are obstacles to the establishment of a free civil society. started a new stage of processes.

In 2017 “Year of Communication with the People and Human Interests”, the problems that hinder the development of the society were revealed on the basis of democratic transparency. In particular, problems hindering the development of small business and family entrepreneurship were studied in the course of dialogues with entrepreneurs. Achievements and shortcomings were comprehensively analyzed. In the words of the head of our state, “The most important thing is that in the economic policy of our country, the undesirable working method of chasing after unrealistic numbers and presenting unrealistic dreams as reality has been critically revised. Practical effectiveness, human interest and once again human interest were defined as the main goal of the reforms” [1]. This openness has found its expression in raising the service culture to the level of demand in the banking system of the republic, as well as ensuring the trust of the citizens in the banking system. Ensuring the employment of the population, especially women, and increasing the income of the poor and needy strata has become an important issue.

In order to widely attract women and young people to entrepreneurship in our country, to develop family entrepreneurship and home economics, in 2017 it was planned to allocate 1 trillion soums for women entrepreneurs and 60 billion soums for about 10,000 young people who will graduate from educational institutions [2]. During 2017, dialogues with entrepreneurs in “People’s Reception Rooms”, especially due to the problems hindering the development of women’s domestic work and home economics, the government of the republic developed a comprehensive program of measures based on a new approach. This year, on the initiative of the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan, the forum of republican women entrepreneurs was held for the first time under the slogan “The role of women's entrepreneurship in the development of society”. The main goal of
the forum was to support women’s entrepreneurship, ensure their employment, establish social cooperation relations with all state and non-state organizations working in the field of creating new jobs, and determine the prospects for the development of women's entrepreneurship in the republic. At the forum, support for women's entrepreneurship, improvement of legal and regulatory documents related to women's entrepreneurship and preferential crediting of small businesses, tax benefits, preferences, techniques and technologies, development of raw material import and export-import operations, separation of vacant buildings and structures, discussions were held in the directions of creating a favorable business environment, coordinating the activities of state and non-state organizations implementing various programs, and developing social cooperation. At the same time, issues related to “Opportunities and problems in ensuring women’s employment in rural areas: international experience, methods of its application in Uzbekistan” were also discussed [3].

2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.

Organization of entrepreneurial activities of graduates of vocational colleges, financing of projects related to entrepreneurial activities by banking organizations in accordance with the contests “The best project of an entrepreneur-2017” and “The most exemplary entrepreneur of the neighborhood” of the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan 11 billion for preferential microloans were allocated in the amount of soums [4].

This year, 1,137 of the 26,660 women who participated in the district (city) stages of the project “From Family Business to a Strong Family” of the “Women’s Wing” of the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan were allocated loans in the amount of 9 billion 909 million 570 thousand soums by the leading commercial banks of our republic. as a result, about 4,598 new jobs were created [5]. Women entrepreneurs and farmers who are activists of the “Women’s Wing” went from house to house and attracted poor women who stayed at home to entrepreneurship, farming, and handicrafts. As a result, 608 women received 4 billion. 634 mln. loans were taken in the amount of soums [6].

According to the memorandum of cooperation concluded between the Association of “Businesswoman” and “Mikrokreditbank” ADB, 10 billion soums of concessional loans were allocated for the development of women’s entrepreneurship, and thousands of women entrepreneurs effectively used these funds to develop their businesses and create hundreds of new jobs [7].
Based on the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2018 “Year of supporting active entrepreneurship, innovative ideas and technologies”, the state program “Every family is an entrepreneur” was adopted. Adoption of this state program raised the development of family entrepreneurship in our country to a new level. In the Regulation on the procedure for allocating loans within the framework of the program, the procedure and terms of granting loans were determined, including preferential loans with an interest rate of 7 percent per annum, in the amount of 150 times to 1000 times the minimum wage, with a grace period of up to 6 months and a period of no more than 3 years [8].

According to the regulation, loans can be allocated for a period of up to 2 years with a grace period of up to 5 years based on the self-recovery aspects of the business plan of the project to be implemented, and the grace period and the loan repayment period should be justified in detail. The documents to be submitted for obtaining a loan were also simplified and considered to be convenient for entrepreneurs [9].

At the same time, creating more favorable conditions for the rapid development of small business entities by deepening market reforms, purchasing modern technological equipment, and expanding the opportunities for obtaining loans from commercial banks to master the production of competitive products that are popular in domestic and foreign markets, based on this In order to increase the role of small business in the socio-economic development of the country, the Guarantee Fund was established [10].

3 METHODOLOGY

The Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan, “Association of Women Entrepreneurs”, parties “women” in order to convey the essence of the financial reforms of our country aimed at the development of the sector to our women who are starting and operating in the field of small business and entrepreneurship, to increase their legal knowledge and to provide financial support for the development of innovative ideas in entrepreneurship “wing” carried out a number of works and these non-governmental non-profit organizations provided financial support for the development of women’s entrepreneurship.

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 7, 2018 “On the implementation of the program “Every family is an entrepreneur” in the “Year of supporting active entrepreneurship, innovative ideas and technologies”, March 7, 2019.
“Strengthening the guarantees of labor rights of women and girls and entrepreneurship”
In 2019-2020, a total of 108 thousand 782 business entities were established by women as a result of the further increase in the scope of preferential microloans based on the presidential decisions on measures to support the activity of women[11]. However, during this period, 115 thousand 920 female entrepreneurs were forced to stop their activities due to existing problems that hinder the development of the industry.

On September 11, 2020, at the seventh plenary meeting of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, existing problems were analyzed and their causes were indicated:

First, the number of women entrepreneurs who stopped their work in 2019-2020 is more than the number of women who started business. The reason for this is that there has been no systematic analysis on the issue of creating business plans based on the needs of the region and the country, and establishing women's entrepreneurship in order to export products in the future. Existing problems have not been thoroughly studied and effective measures for their elimination have not been developed.

Secondly, targeted assistance and social support plans for 2063 helpless women, 75 thousand 920 families in need of social protection, and 6 thousand 213 women living in difficult living conditions were not carried out sufficiently.

Thirdly, the situation in the labor market is not sufficiently analyzed. Information about available vacancies is not fully reflected in the report of the authorities. As a result of this, no statistical information was created that would allow identifying the women and young people in need of employment. Specific measures have not been developed to ensure their employment. 1132 unemployed women in difficult conditions were neglected due to the lack of good practice of working individually with unemployed and socially inactive women.

As a result, the Senate of the Oliy Majlis decided to send a parliamentary request to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the conditions created for the development of women’s entrepreneurship [12].

In the year 2020, the development of the country for five years in the “Year of Science, Enlightenment and Digital Economy Development”, i.e., active transition to the digital economy, is set as the most priority tasks of the next 5 years. the pandemic conditions related to its spread created a complicated situation. But despite these difficulties, 178 services have been launched through e-government and a single
interactive service portal, and through these services, an opportunity has been created to save citizens’ time and costs [13].

Acceleration of the processes related to the acquisition of information and exchange of information due to digital technologies requires the skills of using digital technologies of specialists operating in every field.

As a result of systematic work in this regard, the Agency for the Development of Neighborhood Work and Entrepreneurship, together with the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, the State Committee for Family and Women, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and a woman who was recognized as unemployed in each neighborhood and expressed a desire to work or do business - a list of girls was formed. Vocational and entrepreneurship training of women included in the lists created in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry continued in the “Ishga Merhamat” monocenters established in the regions, regional branches of the Higher School. Of course, in the implementation of these tasks, the tasks of determining the available vacancies on the platforms of “Online Mahalla”, “Mehnat.uz” of the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, ensuring employment of women in the neighborhood and providing all-round financial support to their entrepreneurial activities are carried out.

The national platform “Aziz-ayol.uz”, which was created based on the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to introduce a single interactive national platform “Aziz-ayol.uz”, was directed to the tasks of identifying and solving the problems of women in the regions of the republic.

The single interactive national platform “Aziz-ayol.uz” collects information related to women from ministries and agencies and compiles statistical data analyzed in real time. Education of women, formation of child-rearing skills in them, protection of women from various oppression and violence, vocational training of women included in the “Women’s register”, ensuring their employment, helping to attract them to entrepreneurship, prevention of divorce in families carrying out the tasks aimed at obtaining information and communication technologies with wide use serves to increase the efficiency of the activities of state bodies.

Due to the influence of digitization in our daily life, various conveniences have appeared in our life, about ten years ago, when using bank plastic cards, although there was money in bank cards, the ability to spend it or cash it was in a very sad state. This situation created a lot of problems for women working in the field of business, from
ordinary citizens. Now, bank customers have the opportunity to make online purchases and transfer money freely using mobile devices. That is why it is important for women entrepreneurs to have the skills to use computer technologies to perform financial calculations, to carry out processes related to the production and sale of their products. Digitization processes have created new opportunities for businesswomen using the internet system to be aware of the news of businesswomen of European and Eastern countries operating in this field, to create new decorations, to implement their innovative activities, and to popularize their products. Our women entrepreneurs who work in the field of clothing, perfumery, makeup, and cooking products, using the new opportunities of the digital economy, have the opportunity to open their own sales channels on Telegram, Facebook, and Instagram channels through information technologies. As a result, they not only deliver products online to customers in different regions of our country, but also purchase products online at wholesale prices from countries such as Turkey, China, Korea, and India.

The open communication of the head of state personally with entrepreneurs on August 20, 2020 was important in summarizing the tasks set in the action strategy and providing new opportunities for entrepreneurs.

In the course of dialogue, the cases related to the resolution of more than 15 thousand questions, proposals and initiatives received from entrepreneurs were analyzed. In the program of measures in 7 directions, aimed at the systematic solution of the most urgent problems based on the appeals received from entrepreneurs, finance and credit system, tax system, allotment of land to entrepreneurs, creation of necessary infrastructure for business, support of exporting enterprises, wide involvement of small business in export activities, important tasks aimed at entering new markets, connecting interregional trade and cooperation relations, transport-logistics issues, reducing interference in business activities, simplifying procedures in the field, and ensuring the integrity of private property.

In this regard, in Andijan, Namangan and Surkhandarya regions, it was recognized that 90 percent of the problems of our entrepreneurs are being solved in a short time, and the way of working of the regional and branch leaders, who understood the President’s request, has changed positively.

By 2021, 90% of the jobs created annually in the republic will be contributed by the private sector, if there are more than 5 million people in this sector, among them the
share of young people and women has increased. In the past 5 years, the number of young entrepreneurs in the country has increased 5 times, and their number has exceeded 500 thousand, it was recognized by the head of state [14].

In 2017-2021, the state will create many new opportunities and conditions for entrepreneurs in matters such as obtaining loans and subsidies, obtaining a license, real estate and resources, export, excessive inspections, existing restrictions on cash, currency, and raw materials, and most of the barriers and pitfalls will be eliminated. showed that the attitude towards entrepreneurs has changed in their offices, and their reputation and position in society are increasing day by day. A real class of entrepreneurs with a strong position, reputation, and brand in the domestic and foreign markets has begun to form, and it is gratifying to see women entrepreneurs among them. In 2020-2021, that is, in the next 2 years alone, 500 million dollars of funds were allocated to the development of women and youth entrepreneurship. All conditions have been created for women entrepreneurs to start their own businesses and study entrepreneurship thoroughly. In 2021, according to the tripartite memorandum signed with the Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, and JSC “Khalq Bank”, about 5 thousand women across the country were trained in the basics of running a business. All participants of the project received a certificate of completion of the course. Among them, 3828 women were employed, 2281 started entrepreneurship [15].

In our country, the allocation of state subsidies to women who start entrepreneurship is also important in a number of reforms regarding the expansion of opportunities for women entrepreneurs, equal distribution of resources and investments[16]. However, in the discussion about the introduction of more than 80 subsidies for the purpose of state support for entrepreneurs, and the allocation of 2.3 trillion soums to them in the past period, it was revealed that subsidies are not working in more than 10 areas, such as preschool education, public education, alternative energy, fisheries, poultry, cattle breeding. The main reason for this problem is the complexity of the process of obtaining subsidies for entrepreneurs. Ziyoda Kasimova, head of the private kindergarten “Yulduzchalar Ziyasi” in Fergana, highlighted this problem in her address to the head of state, saying that the procedure for paying subsidies is complex and not digitized, and that it takes at least a month for entrepreneurs to get conclusions from 10 ministries and departments when they submit an average of 5 documents to receive a
subsidy. In particular, he said that it creates difficulties for women working in this field [17].

As a result of studies, starting from January 1, 2022, applications for allocation of subsidies were accepted on the basis of the “single window” principle, the number of state agencies participating in this process was reduced by 2-3 times.

At this point, let’s talk about the purpose of subsidies to entrepreneurs and in what order. The focus is on providing sufficient capital and investments through the subsidy, and the amount of such subsidy has been increased from 7 million soms to 10 million soms from 2022[18]. This subsidy is given to women who are registered in the “Women’s register”, who want to start a business and who are registered as individual entrepreneurs, for the purchase of necessary equipment and tools[19]. Subsidies can be allocated by applying on the electronic platform “online-mahalla.uz” or by applying to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The board of trustees will consider the application within 3 working days and make a decision on the allocation of subsidies based on the proposal of the deputy governor [20].

During the past period, within the framework of the Action Strategy on the five priority directions of the development of our country in 2017-2021, about 300 laws and more than 4 thousand decisions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at the fundamental reform of all spheres of state and social life were adopted. As a result of the reforms aimed at reforming the national economy and the further development of women’s entrepreneurship, the number of experienced businesswomen in the republic has increased. In 2017, the Business Ladies of Uzbekistan, who contributed to the field of entrepreneurship with their innovative ideas, exemplary experience and hard work, managed to manage family and work at the same time, and who can be an example to future business women in all aspects, were recognized by the Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan “Tadbirkor Ayl” five were mentioned. They are Rana Akhmedova (head of road repair sector of Andijan “Asadbek imkon qurilish” LLC), Mavluta Omonova (Chairman of the district branch of the Association “Businesswoman” of the Samarkand region), Feruza Shodmonova (head of wedding dress salon “Milady” in Tashkent), Umida Rahmonova (head of the trade company “Miss Lighting” (chandeliers) in the city of Tashkent) and Hilola Razzokova (the head of the family enterprise “Hiloladan tansiq taomlar”).
Today, Anna Dobrikh from Namangan, Nargiza Aminova from Margilon, Shahlo Yoldosheva from Khorezm, Munira Qoriyeva from Tashkent, Madina Ayupova, Nargiza Bekmurodova from Tashkent region, and Muhabbat Kayumova from Surkhandarya are the representatives of our women as entrepreneurs known throughout the country.

The possibilities of businesswomen of Uzbekistan are expanding not only at the national level, but also at the international level, and the processes of cooperation and integration with the businesswomen of Central Asia are becoming more active. An example of our opinion is the Discussion Club of Central Asian Women Entrepreneurs, which was established on December 3, 2021. The inaugural meeting of this club was held by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis and the United Nations Development Program in cooperation with the “Central Asian Women Entrepreneurs” program of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the “Financing Women Entrepreneurs Initiative”. (We-Fi) sponsored [21].

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This discussion club is aimed at the regular exchange of ideas and best practices in the field of women’s entrepreneurship, development of entrepreneurship, regional trade, and investment attraction. Also, the club intends to establish business relations between businesswomen of Central Asian countries. Miryana Spolyarich Egger, the regional director of the United Nations Development Program for Europe and the CIS countries, said that this discussion club is an excellent initiative aimed at studying the priorities of the development of women’s entrepreneurship, identifying current problems and finding solutions together.

Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairman of the Senate of Uzbekistan, Chairman of the Dialogue of Leading Women of Central Asian States, also recognized the importance of the first regional platform in the history of Central Asia - Discussion Club, in bringing together businesswomen, representatives of governments and parliaments, and international partners.

The participants of the Business Women’s Club took part in the international business forum “Dialogue of business women of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan” held in Bishkek on September 21, 2021. “B2B” meetings between businesswomen of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan were very useful for businessmen of both sides, because at the end of the negotiations, about 15 contracts and memorandums with
a total value of 13.2 million US dollars were signed between the parties [22]. This meeting was an important step in cooperation aimed at the development of our country.

In the Republic, experienced businesswomen with sufficient experience and skills in small business and entrepreneurship provide comprehensive support to women who want to start their own business based on the mentor-apprentice tradition and continue the tradition of conducting master classes for them. Such master classes were organized on January 14, 2022 at the initiative of experienced women entrepreneurs in the ranks of the Bukhara Regional Council of UzLiDeP, activists of “Women’s Wing” R. Makhmudova and U. Ismailova. Under the leadership of Dilbar Akhmedova, Deputy Chairman of the Regional Council of the Party for Women's Affairs, Deputy of the Regional Council of People's Deputies, 17 women who are registered in the “Women’s Register” and 17 women who wish to start their own business took part in the training on the topic “Start your own business”.

The purpose of the event is to train unemployed women who are staying at home in every community, to ensure their employment, to get a permanent source of income, and to help them start business activities.

Today, as a result of the innovative initiatives and practical efforts of our women entrepreneurs, the number of small enterprises and micro-firms under the management of female managers in Uzbekistan is 39,078, and as of January 1, 2023, the net income from the sale of products of small enterprises and micro-firms under the management of female managers in Uzbekistan is 31.8 trillion soums. According to the statistics agency, the net income of small enterprises and micro-firms under the management of female managers increased by almost 9.2 trillion soums compared to the same period last year [23].

If we turn to some examples, the enterprise “LUXE-ELEGANT-SERVICE” operating under the leadership of the enterprising, businesswoman Manzura Rustamova in the city of Chirchik, Tashkent region, “Small industrial zone”, was established in 2013 and provides uninterrupted heating and hot water to production and residential facilities of Uzbekistan. specializes in the production of boiler equipment to provide The enterprise, which initially started with ten employees, will have more than 50 employees in 2023 and is one of the growing production enterprises in Uzbekistan [24].

Our women entrepreneurs are achieving success in the implementation of their innovative ideas not only with enthusiasm but also with tireless work and efficiency. We can see this in the example of a woman who is farming in an innovative way in Andijan.
A 65-year-old master farmer is a retired school teacher who is farming on a 6-hectare plot on the roof of a 5-story house. A skilled businessman proved that it is possible to grow rice crops on the roof in the conditions of Andijan. At first, cucumbers, 2 hectares of garlic are planted, and they are growing bulgar, eggplant, strawberries, jambil. The benefit of the roof is its lightness and proximity to the sun, says the woman. An entrepreneur with more than 100 employees earns 70 mln. earned soums. He is also planning a mushroom-growing venture in a basement that doubles as a warehouse, continuing his innovative approach to his business [25].

Today, the work carried out in cooperation with developed countries in the development of women's entrepreneurship is bearing fruit. On February 17, 2023, US Ambassador Jonathan Henick presented certificates to 25 female entrepreneurs aged 25 to 40 from Fergana, Andijan, and Namangan, who graduated from the Academy of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), the first in Uzbekistan. AWE provided training to entrepreneurs in order to increase their confidence in starting their own businesses, bringing their products to the market, and contributing to the economy of Uzbekistan.

“Tech4Impact” is an NGO founded in 2019, led by an entrepreneur who has completed his training in the USA. The main activity of “Tech4Impact” is aimed at the development of innovation, information technology, startups, human capital, green technologies, youth and women's entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan and Central Asia [26].

This academy carried out its work on behalf of the Department of Public Diplomacy of the US Embassy in Tashkent. Tech4Impact used the DreamBuilder platform developed as a result of cooperation between the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University and the copper mining company Freeport-McMoRan.

In virtual and face-to-face classes, participants learned key business skills from experienced professionals, local mentors, and alumni of US exchange programs. Program Manager Elena Seleznynova and Tech4Impact Director Saida Yusupova encouraged participants to pursue their entrepreneurial potential through hands-on activities, including presentations of current projects and future business plans, and networking.

“The United States of America continues to cooperate with Uzbekistan on the development of sustainable economic opportunities for Uzbeks with the help of various programs and initiatives. I am extremely pleased to see that the launch and successful
completion of AWE here has increased the profile of women as leaders in business and economics,” said Ambassador Henik in his congratulatory speech.

The entrepreneur from Andijan, the head of the “D-Tour” travel company, Dildorakhan Khudoynazarova, who participated in this project, noted that this academy was a unique opportunity to support the innovative ideas of businesswomen and exchange experience. “As a result of the program, I had the opportunity to further expand my tourism business by opening 2 additional branches in Tashkent and 3 in Andijan,” he added.

AWE complies with the US and Uzbek governments’ gender equality laws aimed at increasing the role of women in all areas of society.

The Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) is a US Department of State program that provides women with access to the knowledge, networks and resources they need to start and grow successful businesses. This program directly supports the US National Strategy for Gender Equality and Justice by promoting women’s economic empowerment and providing them with the skills and resources they need. At the local level, AWE leverages the power of public and private sector sponsors, various partners, and alumni exchange programs to empower women and their businesses, promoting well-being in communities in more than 80 countries [27].

In addition, it is gratifying that the scope of international cooperation of businesswomen from Uzbekistan is expanding and attracting the attention of countries beyond the Ocean. On August 15, 2023, Laila Sharipova, a member of the Bukhara regional branch of the international business women’s association “Tadbirkor Ayl” opened a “Trade House” in the USA [28].

L. Sharipova started her career in 2010 by founding the company “Sevinch Tex Servis” with only 10 looms, today the number of looms has reached 50, and the company produces various handkerchiefs, waffle towels, bed linen[29]. During her trip to the USA, L. Sharipova met with representatives of the American business community, the mayor of Philadelphia, the vice president of the World Bank, and a number of other officials, and managed to open a “Trade House” called “STS Textile World LLC”. Now it supplies the American market with eco-friendly bags.
5 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the number of women entrepreneurs operating in our country has increased to 109,000, and the state and non-state organizations that protect the interests of women, the State Committee for Family and Women of Uzbekistan, the Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan “Tadbirkor Ayl”, political parties “Women’s wing” activists also have a special place [30].

Therefore, women entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan today are successful in the fields of modern innovations, high technologies, and creative industry, moving away from “standard” business, based on the national goals in the field of achieving gender equality in the field of sustainable development and expanding the opportunities of all women and girls, set in the Development Strategy 2022-2026. are developing.
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