

## THE CONCEPT OF GENDER, ITS HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE IN SOCIETY

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### Abstract

This article analyzes the content of the concept of gender, its historical formation and role in society. It is argued that gender is a concept that is not limited only to biological differences, but is also formed under the influence of socio-cultural factors. Historically, how the concept of gender has developed in different periods and the changes in gender roles are discussed. It also discusses gender equality and its importance in the development of society, gender stereotypes and ways to overcome them.

**Keywords:** Gender, gender equality, gender roles, society, sociocultural factors, history, stereotypes, patriarchy, feminism, inclusion. The concept of gender requires an interdisciplinary approach, as it relates to fields such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, and political science. Below, we will analyze gender from a scientific perspective.

### Introduction

#### 1. Scientific definition of the concept of gender

Gender is a set of social and cultural characteristics of a person as determined by society. Unlike sex (a biological characteristic), it varies over time and across cultures.

Gender approach in science:

Sociology studies how gender, as a social institution, influences the formation of roles in society.

Psychology - analyzes the process of formation of gender identity and personality traits. studies gender roles in different cultures.

Economics - analyzes gender inequality and its impact on processes such as the labor market and wage distribution.

History of the concept of gender

Antiquity: In ancient Greece, gender roles were strictly defined, with women primarily engaged in domestic chores, while men participated in political and military activities. In ancient Rome, women were more free, but they still faced restrictions compared to men.

Middle Ages: In Christian and Islamic cultures, gender roles were defined by traditional, patriarchal systems. Women were seen primarily as homemakers and mothers.

Enlightenment (17th-18th centuries): The first scholarly works on gender issues appeared. Mary Wollstonecraft's "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (1792) was a milestone in the defense of women's rights.

19th century - First wave of feminism: Women began to campaign for the right to vote. In 1848, the Seneca Falls Convention was held in the United States, and the first manifestos on gender equality were published.



20th century - The rise of movements for gender equality: Second-wave feminism (1960s–1980s): Betty Friedan's book *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) emphasized the need to expand women's role in economic and social life.

Third -wave feminism (1990s–present): An intersectional approach emerged, which began to analyze gender issues in relation to race, class, and national factors.

The importance of gender in today's society. Gender and the economy. According to World Bank research, the global economy is losing trillions of dollars due to gender inequality. Labor market statistics show that in many countries, women's average wages are lower than men's.

Women are less likely to be in leadership positions, which is explained by the "glass ceiling" phenomenon.

Gender and education. In many countries, girls are denied access to education. According to the UN's Global Partnership for Education (GPE), 130 million girls do not have access to education.

in gender equality, girls are actively participating in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields.

Gender and health. Women and men experience different health problems. For example, women are more likely to suffer from depression, while men are more likely to suffer from cardiovascular disease[17].

Gender stereotypes also affect men's mental health. "Toxic masculinity" (the belief that sex, power, and aggression are core values) prevents men from openly expressing their feelings.

Current gender issues and future projections. Main gender issues. Gender inequality in the labor market: Women earn 20-30% less on average (World Economic Forum data).

continue to be seen as responsible for household chores, while men are seen as the sole breadwinners for the family.

Sexual violence and gender discrimination: One in three women worldwide experiences violence in their lifetime (World Health Organization statistics).

Future projections and gender policy. Legislative reforms: New laws and quotas are being introduced on gender equality.

Gender education and awareness-raising: Courses on gender issues are being introduced in schools and universities.

Development of gender inclusion policies: Strategies are being developed to guarantee gender equality for all social groups [ 16].

Gender is not only a biological concept, but also a social, cultural and economic phenomenon that is shaped by society. Gender equality is important not only from the point of view of human rights, but also for social stability and economic development. Society's attitude and interest in the concept of gender. Society's attitude and interest in the issue of gender depends on historical, cultural and social factors. Views on gender issues have changed in different eras and regions. Today, debates around the concept of gender continue, because this topic affects not only social, but also political and economic aspects [ 15].

### **The development of public opinion on gender issues**

Views on gender in traditional societies

most traditional societies, gender roles are strictly defined:



A man is the breadwinner of the family, a symbol of strength and leadership.

A woman should be a mother, a homemaker, kind and obedient.

been stable for a long time because they are based on religious, cultural, and economic structures.

A look at the concept of gender in modern society. Western societies support gender equality and promote women's active participation in education, politics, and the labor market[14].

In traditional societies, however, gender issues continue to be treated with caution, which is sometimes associated with conservative views.

Social networks and media are having a significant impact on gender issues, especially among the younger generation, which is shaping new understandings of gender equality.

Public interest in gender. Social debates on gender issues

The topic of gender often causes heated debates in society. These debates are divided into the following topics:

Gender equality and economic efficiency: Women's role in the labor market and wage equality.

Gender Education: The Importance of Gender Education in Schools and Universities.

Gender stereotypes: Occupations and social roles considered "appropriate" for women and men.

LGBTQ+ rights: There is increasing debate about gender identity in some societies [ 13 ].

Generational differences in gender issues

support gender equality, especially when it comes to education and career choices.

The older generation has more traditional views and prefers the preservation of gender roles.

The middle generation - although it partially supports gender equality, it seeks to preserve some traditional elements.

Gender issues in the media and social networks

Media and the concept of gender

Journalism: Gender issues are covered in various media outlets. For example, topics such as equality between women and men, gender-based violence, and gender quotas are raised.

Film and literature: Gender stereotypes are often reflected in films and literature. In recent years, there has been an increasing number of films featuring strong female characters.[12]

Advertising and marketing: While some companies are trying to create gender-neutral advertising, some still support traditional gender stereotypes.

Feminist movements and gender rights campaigns are gaining popularity online

on gender is changing through social media. Gender and societal contradictions. Supporters of gender change. Emphasizes that gender equality is a human rights issue. Advocates social justice and equal opportunities. Recognizes that gender equality benefits economic growth.

Opponents of gender issues [ 11 ].

There are groups that believe that gender transitions are contrary to national traditions.

There is a view that gender equality weakens women's traditional family roles. There are critics of the over-politicization of gender concepts.

Society's attitude towards the concept of gender varies, depending on cultural, religious, economic and political factors. Although gender equality has become an important part of social progress today, gender stereotypes are still strong in some societies. In the future, it is



expected that the issue of gender equality will be discussed more deeply through social, economic and political reforms [ 10 ].

What aspect of societal interest and attitudes towards the concept of gender interests you most?  
International and Uzbek scholars on gender issues

Many scholars around the world and in Uzbekistan have conducted research on gender issues. Below we provide information about prominent scholars in this field.

Internationally

**1. Judith Butler: American philosopher and gender theorist. Her work Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity (1990) advanced the concept of gender performativity, arguing that gender is a social construct.**

2. Simone de Beauvoir: French existentialist philosopher and feminist. Her work "The Second Sex" (1949) analyzes the social status of women and issues of gender inequality.

3. bell hooks: American writer, feminist theorist, and social activist. Her works explore issues of race, class, and gender.

on masculinity and gender hierarchies. Her work "Masculinities" (1995) analyzes the concept of masculinity.

I am pleased to provide information about scholars who have conducted research on gender issues in Uzbekistan and their views.

1. M. Salayeva: Research area: Gender impact of parental relationships on children in Uzbek families.

Main views: M. Salayeva emphasizes that in Uzbek families, mothers show great care for their children. In her opinion, this plays an important role in the formation of children's gender roles. She also draws attention to the impact of family relationships on the child's personality. She emphasizes that perceptions of family roles and their differentiation have age, territorial and gender characteristics. These perceptions depend on the spiritual and moral environment of each family, national values and traditions.

## **2. Commission on Gender Equality of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Research area: Strategy for achieving gender equality in Uzbekistan.

Main vision: The Commission implements the state policy on ensuring gender equality in Uzbekistan. They develop strategies aimed at expanding the participation of women in state and society building, ensuring gender equality in socio-economic, educational, health and other areas. They also focus on ensuring the participation of women in decision-making in state and society governance on an equal basis with men [ 9 ].

## **3. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev**

Research area: New work system on women's and youth issues.

Main views: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasizes the need to systematically train women and young people for professions that are in high demand in the labor market. In his opinion, this can help them find decent jobs and solve many social and economic problems. For this, it is necessary to involve not only state educational institutions, but also non-state vocational training centers.



#### 4. Other scientists and researchers

in Uzbekistan who are conducting research on gender issues, and their views differ. Some researchers focus on socio-psychological factors in ensuring gender equality, while others study legal and economic aspects. For example, some scholars focus on improving the legal and economic status of women, improving their living and working conditions, and preserving their reproductive health [ 8 ].

#### Conclusion

Scholars conducting research on gender issues in Uzbekistan work in various directions. Their views and approaches differ depending on the topic and goals of the research. Some focus on socio-psychological factors, while others study legal, economic, or educational issues.

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