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### SECTION 13. Geography. History. Oceanology. Meteorology.

## THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS IN ENHANCING WOMEN'S SOCIAL-POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN UZBEKISTAN

**Abstract:** The article explores the role and importance of civil society institutions, which are in Uzbekistan, in enhancing women's social-political activism

**Key words:** civil society, legal culture, women's activism, non-governmental non-commercial organizations, community unions.

**Language:** English

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### Introduction

Wide-scale enhancements have been taking place in every aspect in our country these days. The main target of these enhancements is to build a country which is based on market attitudes and open, legal democratic one, to build a fair civil society, to advance the lifestyle of people to the degree of developed states, and to get a suitable place in the world society.

The first president of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov in his «more deepening democratic enhancement and developing civil society conception» claimed on forming and developing prospects of non-governmental, non-commercial organizations and civil society institutions in Uzbekistan as following: «Civil institutions non-governmental non-commercial organizations have been turning to important protecting factor of democratic customary habit, rights and freedom, and legal benefits, citizen's showing of their performance have been creating an atmosphere to develop their social economic activism and legal culture, have been assisting to maintain the balance of benefits»[1.42].

### Materials and Methods

There are over 8100 non-governmental non-commercial organizations and community organizations in our country at the moment and more than 200 of them is considered to be women's non-governmental non-commercial organizations and

community organizations. 14.2 per cent of these non-governmental non-commercial community organizations have been serving to deal with problems of women in their own way. If we pay attention to the fact that more than half of the population of Uzbekistan, or over 15 millions of them are women, we realize how is their position in society, how is their role, how powerful they are. What is more, every country deals with the matter of women in accordance with the nation's historical traditions and changes in society. The first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov claimed on that topic as following: «there is a separate matter called women's benefit in the whole enlightened globe and it is not for no use that we struggle to learn, to solve and significantly pay attention. If women are not estimated well, there is no prospect of such society» [2.400].

It is not considered as exaggeration if we say the independence period has been a new stage in women's destiny. Several non-governmental non-commercial organizations came to existence during this period. For instance in 1991, 21 June the first non-governmental organization Uzbekistan businesswomen's «Businesswomen» association was registered in Justice Ministry, and in 1992, September one more major non-governmental non-commercial organization Republic «Scientist women» union, in 1996 in the Republic «Family» scientific practical centre's foundation are some examples.



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There are non-governmental non-commercial organizations which are not supported by the government, but created by the initiative of women. There are wide ranges of legal opportunities for them to perform their activities in wide-scale.

Notable increase in the number of non-governmental and community organizations which are founded as a result of women's initiative matches to the years 1995-1997. In this period, in Tashkent «Leader women» centre, «Admirable women» union, in Samarkand «Patience», in Kashkadarya «Future», «Belief», in Jizzakh «Consolidator», in Andizhan «Kindness to you» organizations have been established.

Women's non-governmental non-commercial and community organizations work on their tasks according to the international classification while working on their own field. Such as:

- exploring scientifically and practically on protection of children and women;
- serving women in educational cultural way;
- supporting and maintaining the position of women in the society;
- broadening the activity of women's non-governmental and community organization, protecting women's rights, and improving knowledge of women legally and politically;
- developing business of women;
- developing handicrafts among women;
- protecting ecology, nature and environment;
- preventing crime among women, rehabilitating woman came back from punishment place;
- accommodating women who has suffered from various aggression (organizing «Shelters»);
- improving women's non-governmental and community unions are included.

The role and position of women's non-governmental community organization is incomparably huge in creating new occupation, improving the system of protecting cultural, legal, economic benefits, construction of family and society and resolving country-scale and nation-scale issues.

According to the statistics, on the one hand women's legal, politic, social-economic views are improved by taking part in non-governmental non-commercial and community organization; on the other hand it leads them to improve their social-political activism in wider scale.

During the past period women's non-governmental and community unions has achieved huge success. They have been performing on various events which are held for the development of the society, sociological explorations on gender and resolving women's issues with their international communication in the Republic. Their performances have been supported by government and international organizations. Notably, international funds in Uzbekistan or IREX, KAFE, «Counterpart

consortium» savings, «Vincor international» and other savings have been financially supporting purposeful projects of non-governmental non-commercial organizations; have acknowledged the fact that there is an important role of women's organizations.

Non-governmental and non-commercial community organizations which were established in years 1995-1999 are: «Bureau of development and gender», «Resource center of women», «Kindness», «Women and society», in Karakalpakstan Republic «Perzent», international savings «Ecosan», «For the healthy generation» have been working on improving the legal and economic knowledge of women, teaching them in business field, improving and supporting their knowledge of science, health care, organizing conferences, lectures, conversations on topics of their interest, publishing notice and brochure.

One of the women's non-governmental non-commercial associations that have been performing on this field is «Businesswoman». The main purpose of the organization is to support initiative of women in business, assisting women who are businesswomen to protect their rights and benefits of union members, and forming common cooperation and trust atmosphere.

Since the union was established it has been participant and initiative of several projects. Such as UN Development Program projects – «Business-incubator» developing new sort of business form by introducing new technologies for privileged condition creating and women's status improving project, projects of EI Commission, TESIS project, «corps of Kindness-glory», EPOG project of Germany and other such sort of international funds which are cooperative works on development of micro business and legal, education matters. Law centers called «Drims» and «Defense» which was established under its cabinet has been serving for businesswomen on necessary legal matters [5.9].

One more such sort of centers «Resource center of women» was established in Tashkent in 1995 that leader women who are scientifically skillful has been working in this center effectively.

The main aim of the organization is considered to be supporting the social economic ways of democratic development in Uzbekistan, improving status of women in society and refining their political legal knowledge, assisting women in every aspect.

«Women's resource center» has been cooperating with so many international establishments and it has been effective. For instance, Tashkent center of the UN, «Development bank of Asia», «Trust», «Patience» centers, Kazakhstan's «Liana», France's «WLUMI», Pakistan's «Shirkatgah», England's «Woman against fundamentalism» and Netherlands' «Novib»

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organizations. They have been fulfilling several projects in Uzbekistan in cooperation»[6.6].

The most important of such projects have been supported by Netherlands' NOVIB international development establishment that it was fulfilled during 1998-2000 in Uzbekistan. The project is considered to be the improvement project of «Women's Resource Center» that it has been used to improve outlook of women's spiritual moral mind, to inform them with legal, politic, social-economic news of society and to support improvement of the center» [7.3].

Scientific composition which includes four series that is called «Central Asian Women» periodical composition is published under center's cabinet. What is more, «Women's resource center» has fulfilled projects in cooperation with England's «Westminster» fund that is designed for the year 2000 and called «Legal education for less provided women» project, and as a support of the USA's «Sisterhood Global Institute» the project called «Preventing aggression on women and girls in society», by Europe's INTAS fund in 1998-2000 years «Social-economic protections of Uzbekistan living in the country» project, and by UVFPA «Sociologic explorations on democratic development in Uzbekistan» projects [8.6-8].

Rehabilitation center of organization called «Patience» situated in Samarkand started its activity in 1996 by the help of YUSIS international agency that its main aim is providing women and children with social-legal, psychotherapeutic and medical advice. The organization has achieved 5 grants whose total sum is 129 thousand USD that served necessary service for suburban women and girls [9.5].

«Eastern woman» international women's fund, which achieved good results in international cooperation, was established on October 2, 1999 in Tashkent that its main aim and direction is supporting women in social-political, economic branch and in cultural life, improving their behavior. One more such organization is «Kindness» women's union. One of its main directions is called «Women, family, neighborhood». The establishment works on a special project to improve women's social-political activism, to maintain high quality knowledge and internship which meets the demand of current day. Similarly, in order to refine cooperation among civil societies of our country, as a result of non-governmental non-commercial establishment members' initiative in 2005 on May non-

governmental non-commercial National association of Uzbekistan was established.

Currently, this establishment has been assisting to non-governmental non-commercial establishments to improve the society to build a legal democratic state and civil society. That's why, «social constructiveness or resolving issues that the society faces are related to civil society. Such sort of community establishments are established in a certain space and society. It means that they are a part of their zone and collection of institutions. As long as the society has faced major turns, civil societies cannot be out of the process. In that way, they have to contribute to deal with problems of the society» [10.15].

## Conclusion

Considering points mentioned above we can conclude as followings:

1. Humanitarian peculiarities such as supporting members, inspiring, improving their social-politic activism, refining their knowledge and skills holds a great position in activism of women's non-governmental non-commercial establishments and unions. And that has a huge significance to build a legal democratic state and civil society.

2. Women's non-governmental non-commercial community unions whose activism is protecting benefits of women, who makes up large number of population, focuses on providing them with social-politic, economic benefits, demands and interests of the race. The social-politic, spiritual-moral influence of them on their own members has a vast importance.

3. It is purposeful that non-governmental non-commercial establishments and community unions should provide their members with many projects which include their interests, benefits and demands in order to practically maintain conception of from strong country to strong society in our life.

4. It should be stated as demands of today; the role of common information means has important place and role in enlargement of women's non-governmental non-commercial establishments which are designed to protect women's benefits.

Activism of women in non-governmental, non-commercial establishments performing in Uzbekistan has a big power. As they protect women's rights, inspire them to actively participate in democratic processes, gathers power to gain gender equality, they are creating a field for a future generation by their actions.

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