

**GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE EYES OF YOUTH: MODERN
PERSPECTIVES AND APPROACHES**

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Abstract: *This article explores the issue of gender equality from the perspective of youth. The study analyzes modern attitudes of young people toward gender roles, stereotypes, and equal opportunities. Based on surveys and analysis, it identifies a positive shift in youth perceptions regarding gender equality. The article also highlights the crucial role of education and media in overcoming gender-related barriers.*

Key words: *Gender equality, youth, equal opportunities, stereotypes, society, digital culture, education, women's rights, social media, development, innovation, modern perspectives.*

Introduction: Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a crucial factor for sustainable development. While many countries, including Uzbekistan, have made significant progress in ensuring equal rights for men and women, gender-based stereotypes and traditional attitudes still persist. For instance, according to the World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report 2023*, Uzbekistan ranks 81st out of 146 countries in terms of gender equality, highlighting that much work remains to be done in this area (World Economic Forum, 2023)[1]. Today, young people stand out as a powerful voice challenging conventional norms and advocating for equality and inclusiveness. With greater access to education, digital media, and global information networks, youth are becoming more aware of gender issues. Social media platforms have become important spaces for young people to express their opinions, participate in discussions, and actively promote gender equality. This study aims to explore youth perspectives on gender equality in modern society. It seeks to understand their attitudes toward stereotypes, equal opportunities, and the



evolving roles of men and women. Emphasis is placed on the significance of education, mass media, and public awareness in shaping a more inclusive future based on youth opinions.

This study was conducted to gain a deeper and clearer understanding of young people's perspectives on gender equality. Two main methods were used for data collection: an online survey and semi-structured interviews. The survey was distributed among youth aged 18 to 25 living in major urban areas of Uzbekistan. The survey consisted of both closed and open-ended questions aimed at gathering information about respondents' views on gender roles, societal stereotypes, equal opportunities, and gender-related attitudes. The survey was conducted electronically through social media platforms and email. Participation was voluntary and open, rather than selected through a sampling procedure. A total of 150 young people participated in the survey. Data collection lasted for one month. The collected data were analyzed using statistical methods, including the identification of general trends, calculation of percentages, and exploration of relationships between responses.

In addition to the survey, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 participants selected based on their survey responses. These interviews explored participants' views on gender equality, their attitudes towards stereotypes, and the influence of cultural and social factors on their opinions. The interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using thematic content analysis. These methods allowed for comprehensive and in-depth data collection, providing both statistical insight and qualitative understanding of youth perspectives on gender equality.

The survey conducted among 150 young respondents aged 18 to 25 revealed several important trends regarding their views on gender equality. Firstly, 68% of participants agreed that men and women should have equal opportunities in education and employment. However, 22% still believed that traditional gender roles should be maintained in the family and society. When asked about common gender stereotypes, 55% of respondents recognized that stereotypes negatively affect both men and women, limiting their personal and professional development. Despite this



awareness, 40% admitted that such stereotypes are still prevalent in their communities. Regarding the influence of media, 72% of participants stated that social media plays a significant role in shaping their opinions about gender roles. Many young people reported following campaigns and discussions promoting gender equality online.

The semi-structured interviews provided additional insights. Interviewees expressed a desire for more inclusive education on gender issues and emphasized the importance of challenging traditional norms. Some highlighted that cultural and social factors still pose challenges to achieving full gender equality. These results suggest that while a majority of youth support gender equality, traditional attitudes and stereotypes remain influential. The role of media and education is critical in shaping more progressive views among young people.

The results of this study reveal a complex picture of youth attitudes toward gender equality: while many support equal rights, traditional gender roles remain influential. This duality is reflected in the scholarly literature, which presents contrasting perspectives on the progress and challenges of gender equality. On one hand, some researchers argue that gender equality is increasingly embraced by young people and is a crucial factor for social and economic development. Kabeer (2016) highlights gender equality as a key driver of economic growth and women's empowerment, noting that young generations show more progressive attitudes toward these issues. [2] Similarly, Smith and Green (2021) find positive outcomes in youth participation in campaigns challenging gender stereotypes and promoting equality, emphasizing the effectiveness of such initiatives.[3] On the other hand, deeply rooted patriarchal values and cultural norms continue to hinder the full realization of gender equality among youth. Murshedova et al. (2019) point out that gender stereotypes remain entrenched in Uzbek society, especially in rural areas, limiting social change. Aliyeva (2020) also notes that political and social initiatives for gender equality are insufficiently effective, resulting in the persistence of traditional views among young people.[4]



These contrasting viewpoints demonstrate that youth attitudes toward gender equality are multifaceted and influenced by various social, cultural, and political factors. The study's findings suggest that achieving genuine gender equality requires comprehensive reforms not only in education and media but also in cultural and political spheres.

Conclusion. The findings of this study indicate that a majority of young people support gender equality and recognize the importance of equal opportunities in education, employment, and society for both men and women. Media and education play a crucial role in reducing gender stereotypes and promoting equality among youth. However, deeply rooted patriarchal values and traditional cultural norms, especially in rural areas, continue to pose significant barriers to gender equality. The limited effectiveness of political and social initiatives further contributes to ongoing challenges in achieving true equality. Therefore, to attain genuine gender equality, it is essential not only to raise awareness but also to implement systemic reforms in cultural perceptions, political policies, and legal frameworks. Moving forward, comprehensive and effective measures are necessary to strengthen gender equality and ensure equal opportunities for all individuals regardless of gender.

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