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**SOCIAL POLICY AS AN IMPORTANT DIRECTION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATESHIP**

**Keywords**: *social policy, society, law, security, pension, justice.*

**Abstract:** One of the main directions of state policy in Azerbaijan is the regular increase in the well-being of the people, strengthening social protection of the population, and proper payment of social security. Thus, the payment of social security to the population is one of the issues that requires special attention and sensitivity. Adapting the development of the Azerbaijani state to international standards, Ilham Aliyev defines ensuring the well-being of citizens as one of the main goals of the state, develops the foundations of the social development of the republic, and a model of the social state of Azerbaijan.

Government spending on social policy can increase or decrease depending on changing goals. Under the rule of law, goals may to some extent reflect the wishes of the voters and taxpayers who fund such spending. However, this depends on the needs of the population and the state of the country's economy.

The article states that the basis of the stability of the society is the social policy conducted in the country. For this purpose, the scope of social policy is regularly expanded in our country, new legislative acts are adopted to improve people's social welfare, additions and changes are made to existing laws. It is known that the adopted social packages include the strengthening of social protection of all layers of the population, improvement of welfare conditions, improvement of the condition of the disabled, veterans, wounded, war participants, the elderly, women, children deprived of parental care, single mothers, low-income families. The demands of further improvement of the situation of refugees and displaced persons are taken into account.

**DEVLETÇİLİĞİN GELİŞİMİNDE ÖNEMLİ BİR YÖN OLARAK SOSYAL POLİTİKA**

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** sosyal politika, toplum, hukuk, güvenlik, emeklilik, adalet.

**Özet:**

Azerbaycan'daki devlet politikasının ana yönlerinden biri, halkın refahının düzenli olarak artması, nüfusun sosyal korumasının güçlendirilmesi ve sosyal güvenliğin uygun şekilde ödenmesidir. Bu nedenle, sosyal güvenliğin nüfusa ödenmesi, özel dikkat ve hassasiyet gerektiren konulardan biridir. Azerbaycan devletinin gelişimini uluslararası standartlara uyarlayan İlham Aliyev, vatandaşların refahının sağlanmasını devletin temel hedeflerinden biri olarak tanımlamakta, cumhuriyetin toplumsal gelişiminin temellerini ve Azerbaycan sosyal devletinin bir modelini geliştirmektedir. Sosyal politikaya yapılan devlet harcamaları, değişen hedeflere bağlı olarak artabilir veya azalabilir. Hukukun üstünlüğü uyarınca, hedefler bir dereceye kadar bu tür harcamaları finanse eden seçmenlerin ve vergi mükelleflerinin isteklerini yansıtabilir. Ancak bu, nüfusun ihtiyaçlarına ve ülke ekonomisinin durumuna bağlıdır. Makale, toplumun istikrarının temelinin ülkede yürütülen sosyal politika olduğunu belirtmektedir. Bu amaçla ülkemizde sosyal politikanın kapsamı düzenli olarak genişletilmekte, insanların sosyal refahını iyileştirmek için yeni yasal düzenlemeler kabul edilmekte, mevcut yasalara eklemeler ve değişiklikler yapılmaktadır. Kabul edilen sosyal paketlerin, nüfusun tüm katmanlarının sosyal korunmasının güçlendirilmesi, refah koşullarının iyileştirilmesi, engellilerin, gazilerin, yaralıların, savaş katılımcılarının, yaşlıların, kadınların, ebeveyn bakımından yoksun çocukların, bekar annelerin, düşük gelirli ailelerin durumunun iyileştirilmesini içerdiği bilinmektedir. Mültecilerin ve yerlerinden edilmiş kişilerin durumunun daha da iyileştirilmesi talepleri dikkate alınmaktadır.

**INTRODUCTION**

One of the main directions of the state policy of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev is the regular improvement of the well-being of the people, strengthening social protection of the population, and proper payment of social security. Thus, the payment of social security to the population is one of the issues that requires special attention and sensitivity. Adapting the development of the Azerbaijani state to international standards, Ilham Aliyev defines ensuring the well-being of citizens as one of the main goals of the state and develops the foundations of the social development of the republic, a model of the social state of Azerbaijan.

Professor R. Hasanov writes: “Social policy is interested in the questions “why care” about people. Caring for someone is a practical task, and much of it is carried out within the family and by women, even in developed "welfare states"... Since the field of public administration is largely dominated by men, its character is determined not by the nature of human relationships, but by the meaning labor, family and nation. human relationships are formed” [1, p. 7].

In modern times, there is a need to expand activities in the direction of organizing social policy. The special significance of its social function creates conditions for the development of a social state. This trend is directly related to the fact that society has an advantage over the economy and ensuring decent living conditions is the main goal of the state.

**Topic Analysis**

Government spending on social policy can increase or decrease depending on changing goals. Under the rule of law, goals may to some extent reflect the wishes of the voters and taxpayers who fund such expenditures. But this depends on the needs of the population and the state of the country’s economy.

By decrees and orders signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as part of a new package of social reforms implemented from the beginning of 2023, social payments have once again been increased in our country: the minimum monthly wage has been increased by 15 percent, from January 1, 2023 - from 300 manats up to 345 manats, financed from the state budget. In a number of organizations, monthly wages have been increased by an average of 15 percent. A further increase in benefits and pensions is aimed at vulnerable segments of the population - families of martyrs, disabled people, including war-related disabled people who have lost the head of the family, low-income families, women with more than five children and others.

This is a very good thing and is aimed at increasing the social security of the population. It should be noted that in Azerbaijan, wages are increased from time to time and changes are made to the minimum wage. This comes from a place of objectivity. It is enough to look at one fact to be convinced of the legality of these steps. Thus, over the past 22 years, Azerbaijan’s total income from oil and gas has exceeded 176 billion euros. True, most of these funds were spent on strengthening our army and purchasing new modern weapons. However, it should be noted that it is very difficult to live on the basis of current salaries at current market prices, and new measures must be taken in this direction, as well as increasing prices for products by businessmen and speculators in the domestic market, these market attempts must be prevented.

The social policy of the state is also reflected in the purchases of the population. Funds used by the population to purchase food, food and other products are sold at a certain percentage of wages. The State Statistics Committee has published indicators reflecting the purchasing power of the population in terms of retail (one-time) trade turnover and prices at the end of 2022. Considering that these indicators are of interest, let’s pay attention to them. Thus, from the published figures it is clear that in 2022 the population spent a total of 52 billion 171 million manats in the retail trade network[7].

The share of food in the population's expenses is one of the indicators of the level of social well-being of the country, since the higher the level of income of the population, the lower the share of food expenses in expenses should be. . For comparison: in developed countries, food accounts for 10-15 percent of household expenses.

In general, out of the 4 packages of social reforms implemented over the past five years, the previous 3 packages of reforms covered 4 million people, an additional 6 billion manats were allocated for these reforms, and 750 million manats were allocated annually to increase their salaries and benefits. and pensions [7].

In recent years, a modern infrastructure for rehabilitation and social services has been created in our country, the annual number of people receiving rehabilitation services has increased many times, and a new Agency for the provision of social services at a higher level has been created. The Social Services Agency was created in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 30, 2019 No. 912 “On additional measures related to improving management in the field of social protection.” The agency's charter was approved by Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated June 30, 2020 No. 1077.

One of the main activities of the agency is the establishment and development of local and international cooperative relations in the field of social security. The Social Services Agency has signed a memorandum with a number of universities and institutions and is collaborating to further improve the services provided to vulnerable populations [3, p.16].

Social advisory assistance to citizens in need is aimed at their adaptation to society, reducing social tension, creating a favorable environment in the family, as well as ensuring interaction between the individual, family, society and the state. Social advisory assistance implies psychological support for older people and people with disabilities, intensifying their efforts in solving the problems they face [4, p.34].

In the Republic of Azerbaijan, the social security of the state for the population is based on the provisions of Article 38 of the Constitution. It states here that every citizen of Azerbaijan has the right to social security. The signs of social security in our country include: objective reasons aimed at ensuring or ensuring a certain standard of living, which create the need for special mechanisms for social protection of citizens (illness, old age, disability, unemployment, etc.). ); the existence of special funds that are a source of social security; special methods of providing livelihoods; reflection of the rules for ensuring social security in the law [2, p. 127].

Strengthening the social protection of older people and providing them with decent living conditions is always in the attention of the Azerbaijani state. Successful policies are aimed at the well-being of the country's citizens. In independent Azerbaijan, state policy towards older people was formed on the basis of special attention and care paid by national leader Heydar Aliyev to ensuring social protection of older people.

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One of the important social protection programs currently being implemented in Azerbaijan is to improve the social life conditions of the families of martyrs, disabled war veterans, war participants and veterans. This program is further expanded within the framework of the package of social support for the families of martyrs, war participants and disabled people in the period after the 44-day Patriotic War, when, under the leadership of Mr. President, the Azerbaijan Army won a historic victory. Muzaffar, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev. It should be noted that this program expanded 5 times; citizens of this group were provided with more than 5 thousand apartments and private houses in the post-war period, and 360 private cars were provided to disabled war veterans. President Ilham Aliyev said in his interview: “Important steps were taken in this direction last year, 1,500 families of this category received apartments from the state. In 2021 - 3,000 apartments. This year at least 1,500 apartments will be transferred. So, to all people The state will provide apartments to this category that are still in line. To date, 13 thousand families have been provided with apartments"[5].

Over the past period, more than 7.5 thousand people with disabilities were provided with cars. In total, the social support package implemented in the post-war period covered 122 thousand people and provided them with 264 thousand support services. Of these, 114 thousand monthly social payments, 16.8 thousand one-time payments, 3.1 thousand insurance payments were assigned to 102 thousand people, 36.7 thousand social and psychological support and rehabilitation services were provided to 11 thousand people, 1, 8 thousand people received war-related injuries. disabled people were provided with 30.7 thousand rehabilitation equipment, 379 people - 394 high-tech modern prostheses, 16.5 thousand people were employed, including 9.5 thousand people covered by the self-employment program. Unified coordination centers were created and services were provided to 71.7 thousand people, including family members of martyrs and war participants[6].

The Labor and Social Policy Committee of the Milli Majlis discussed the amendment to the law “On Labor Pensions” and recommended it to the plenary meeting. According to the change, the minimum pension amount has been increased to 280 manats. The pension increase is part of the social package implemented in 2023. The increase in the minimum pension affected more than 100 thousand of our citizens. From this year (2023), persons who have reached retirement age will retire with a minimum of 280 manats. Previously, this figure was 240 manats. On the other hand, from January 1, 2006 to July 2018, even those who have a pension capital of one manat will have the right to receive a minimum pension. That is, if our citizen does not have 25 years of experience and his savings are small, he will be able to receive a pension. The pension amnesty will apply for the next 3 years. At the same time, with the new change, pensions will increase as a result of indexation, but this will also affect our citizens who have not reached the minimum amount. This year, pensions less than 280 manats will not be paid. According to deputy V. Bayramov, this was reflected in the average pension size. There was also an increase in the average pension [6].

In his interviews, the head of state states that over the past two years the minimum wage of the population has increased 3 times and this process continues. According to him, the rate of economic development over 8 months amounted to 18 percent, but despite the fact that rising prices cause some concern, specific measures have been taken in this area. The President said that the high growth rates of economic development of the country as a whole created favorable conditions for the implementation of a number of measures in the direction of social protection of the population. The head of our country emphasized that 1 million 350 thousand people receive pensions in Azerbaijan, and since the funds they receive do not cover the standard of living, it is important to pay attention to serious work in this area. The head of our state notes that the funds received by each pensioner must satisfy his living needs. To do this, it is necessary to achieve more serious economic achievements in the country. Stating that every step taken to meet the demand for protecting the social needs of the population of our country is valuable, the head of state says that it is especially important to take advantage of the experience of our cooperating countries in this area [5] .

Social policy should also include the sphere of education. The country's development is closely related to the current state of education and science. The higher the importance given to education and science, the more it will affect the development of this country. Therefore, in developed countries, funds allocated to science and education amount to 4-6 percent of GDP. It is noted that in Azerbaijan the share of funds allocated to science in GDP is decreasing.

Regarding the education sector, we note that the average monthly salary of 149,602 teachers working in 4,481 secondary schools in Azerbaijan is 350-500 manats per month (about 205-294 dollars), and the annual salary is about 2,460-3,528 dollars, respectively. . In other words, it turns out that the salary of an Azerbaijani teacher is almost at the same level as that of supermarket clerks and housekeepers. Honored scientist, professor Shahlar Askerov said in an interview with Bakupost.az that teachers in most countries of the world receive high salaries: “Teachers working in secondary schools in France receive 2,200 euros per month. In Germany, teachers receive a salary of 6,000 euros. The monthly salary of teachers in the UK is $5,000, while in the US it is $4-5 thousand. Teachers' salaries in Finland are 3,900 euros, and in Japan - 5,250 euros. In this country, teaching is considered the most prestigious profession. Teachers also have the highest salaries. In Australia, teachers earn an average of $2,500 per month. Compared to these countries, teachers working in general education institutions of Azerbaijan receive very low salaries. “In such developed countries as Japan, Singapore, Finland, education comes first, and the economy comes second. In Azerbaijan, the economy comes first, and education comes second. In my opinion, first of all, the view of education in the country must change. The teaching profession should be given due attention. If a teacher is given his material and moral rights in exchange for his suffering, he will perform his profession with all his soul” [8].

The social policy package also includes an increase in salaries for teachers, whose work is paid hourly. Thus, new hourly wages have been determined for workers involved in conducting training sessions at enterprises, departments and organizations financed from the budget. The corresponding decision was signed by Prime Minister Ali Asadov. According to the current decision, the amount of hourly wages for workers involved in conducting training classes at enterprises, divisions and organizations financed from the budget will be as follows: according to the decision, the amount of hourly wages includes vacation pay. The hourly payment for members of the jury of the competition and reviews and reviewers of works submitted to the competition is 16.90 manats for a professor or doctor of science, 12.30 manats for an associate professor or doctor of philosophy, 8.30 manats for persons without an academic degree and academic title, the size is determined.

The hourly payment for plastic pose demonstrators (naturalists) participating in “educational exercises” is determined at 10.80 manats per academic hour for clothed subjects, and 17.85 manats for undressed subjects. Hourly wages apply to persons working under a civil contract [9].

**CONCLUSION**

In our country, special measures are being taken to improve the social well-being of society that needs special care. One of the important directions of the state’s social policy is to increase attention and care for those who need special care. The improvement of their living conditions and financial situation is due to the priority of attention given to this group. An example of this is the provision of additional pensions to war invalids, free housing and cars, etc. can be shown. In addition, in order to strengthen state care for lonely and disadvantaged elderly people, improve the social services provided to them, the creation of special boarding houses is included in the social measures implemented by the state in this direction. At the same time, the state provides benefits to large and low-income families and implements a plan of permanent measures to improve their standard of living.

Finally, we can note the strengthening of social protection of the population in our country, the improvement of social and living conditions, the improvement of the condition of the disabled, veterans, wounded, war participants, the condition of the elderly, women, and children deprived of parental care , single mothers, low-income families, refugees and displaced persons, is taking necessary reforms to improve the situation.

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