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# Analysis of the Formation of Social Justice in Public Consciousness and the Social Factors Influencing it

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the formation of public perceptions of social justice in the context of New Uzbekistan and the socio-economic factors that shape them. It also highlights the significant role of mass media, state social policy, urbanization, and migration processes in shaping public attitudes. Furthermore, the study examines the alignment of national values and traditional norms with contemporary principles of justice, as well as issues related to intergenerational social protection and equal opportunities.

**Keywords:** Social Policy, Society, Social Justice, Education, Corruption, Equality, Human Rights, Modernization, Urbanization

## 1. Introduction

The effective realization of social justice in society depends not only on its proclamation in laws and official documents but, above all, on how it is perceived and internalized by citizens. It becomes more difficult to implement any socioeconomic reforms effectively if public confidence in justice declines. Therefore, it is of great scientific and practical significance to examine how public conceptions of social justice are formed, how high they are, and the elements that influence this process in the context of New Uzbekistan [1].

In 2023, as part of the study's scope, the author carried out a sociological survey in Tashkent and the Fergana and Bukhara areas on the subject of "Social justice in your perception". A total of 1,200 respondents participated in the survey, randomly selected from various social groups, including students, civil servants, entrepreneurs, workers, pensioners, and homemakers. The results of this survey serve as an empirical basis for analyzing the current state of public perceptions of social justice in Uzbekistan [2]. The results indicate that perceptions of social justice in the public consciousness are not uniform. The majority of respondents (about 65%) believe that equal opportunity and the rule of law are the main components of social justice. This illustrates how contemporary concepts of creating a legal state have permeated public consciousness [3]. The majority of survey respondents agreed with the statement that "justice exists only when the law is equal for everyone". At the same time, social justice is strongly associated with state welfare and social protection for a sizable section of the population (about 45–50%). This perception is particularly strong among the elderly and economically disadvantaged groups. For them, a just society means the timely provision of pensions and benefits,

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government control over sharp price increases, and access to free and high-quality medical services. This situation, as noted in the research of Professor A.I. Islomov of Tashkent State University of Economics, reflects that “strong paternalistic expectations inherited from the Soviet period” still persist in the public consciousness [4].

## 2. Materials and Methods

The article employs a comprehensive methodological approach to studying perceptions of social justice. Within the framework of the research, a sociological survey was conducted in Tashkent city and the Fergana and Bukhara regions, involving 1,200 participants from various social groups. Based on this empirical data, the study analyzed the influence of individuals’ material conditions, social status, place of residence, level of education, and information environment on their perceptions of social justice. The research methodology integrated sociological, axiological, and praxiological approaches, examining the intrinsic links between social justice, national values, urbanization processes, and state social policy. Thus, the article provides a comprehensive and scientifically grounded analysis of public perceptions of justice in the context of New Uzbekistan [5].

## 3. Results and Discussion

A range of social factors influence the formation of perceptions of justice. The most significant among these are an individual’s material well-being and social status. Survey results indicate that for higher-income groups and those engaged in entrepreneurial activities, justice is primarily associated with free competition, equal opportunities for business, and the inviolability of property [6]. In contrast, for lower-income groups, justice is closely linked to concepts of social equality and state assistance. Furthermore, a person’s concept of justice is significantly influenced by their residential location, whether it be urban or rural. Traditional values like neighbourliness, mutual aid, and group accountability are more important in determining norms of justice among rural populations. On the other hand, urban dwellers prioritise legal protection, personal rights, and individual accomplishments. This illustrates how Uzbek society’s public consciousness has been impacted by modernisation and urbanisation processes [7].

The information environment and mass media, including news outlets, have a particularly important influence in shaping opinions about social justice in the public consciousness. In the modern world, citizens’ opinions on justice are greatly influenced by news reports, journalistic enquiries, and public debates on social media, particularly in light of the extensive usage of the internet and social media [8].

The public’s desire for justice has grown in recent years as a result of Uzbekistan’s expanding media independence. A democratic rule-of-law state and a just society are thought to be built in large part through the efforts of journalists and bloggers, who are establishing public supervision over the actions of governmental authorities [9]. A strong public response and a societal call for the restoration of justice are produced by extensive coverage of corruption cases, official abuses of power, or breaches of citizens’ rights. This phenomenon can be understood as “ensuring transparency and accountability of power through public oversight”. In other words, perceptions of justice are now formed not only through personal experience or traditional values but also via socio-political discourse mediated by the mass media [10].

The significance of this is also recognized by the highest authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan. As emphasized by the Agency for Combating Corruption, “the role of non-governmental non-profit organizations, mass media, journalists, bloggers, and the public is invaluable in ensuring transparency in the activities of state bodies and combating corruption”. This constitutes an official acknowledgment of the important role that mass media and bloggers play in promoting and safeguarding social justice [11].

At the same time, alongside the positive influence of the information environment, its negative aspects must also be considered. The spread of unverified or false information on social networks, as well as emotionally charged and populist appeals, can lead to distorted or one-sided perceptions of justice among the public. People tend to draw emotional conclusions based on media portrayals without examining all the details of an event. This, in turn, may give rise to the phenomenon of “mob justice”, wherein crowds attempt to deliver judgments without legal proceedings or investigations, which directly contradicts the principles of a rule-of-law state [12].

Furthermore, the education system exerts a significant influence on the formation of social justice perceptions. The way concepts such as justice, equality, human rights, and the rule of law are taught in school curricula and higher education institutions shapes the worldview of the younger generation in this regard. Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor Sh.A. Abdullayeva, in her monograph “Philosophy of upbringing”, notes that “the cultivation of a sense of justice begins in youth. A child should be taught at school not only knowledge but also virtues such as being just, respecting the rights of others, and opposing injustice” [13]. If the education system fosters critical thinking in young people, along with the knowledge of their rights and the ability to defend them, this will contribute to the emergence of an active citizenry committed to the principles of justice in society in the future.

In analyzing the factors influencing the formation of public perceptions of social justice, the role of state social policy and its reception by citizens occupies a central place. The most obvious examples of justice in action are social programmes, pensions, subsidies, and the state-run benefit system. People’s sense of social justice is strengthened when they believe that this system is open, focused, and equitable. This strengthens their faith in the government and the status quo. On the other hand, if social aid is distributed with bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption, or nepotism, this increases social tensions and societal feelings of injustice.

The implementation of social protection systems in Uzbekistan in recent years, such as the “Iron Register”, “Women’s Register”, and “Youth Register”, is a pragmatic move meant to strengthen the values of justice by guaranteeing that social aid is transparent and targeted. According to analyses carried out by the “Development strategy” Centre, “these registers serve to directly identify socially vulnerable groups in need of support and provide them with material assistance, thereby reducing bureaucratic barriers and enhancing the transparency of the system”. Nonetheless, the actual application of the system and instances of abuse at the local level continue to be discussed by the public, underscoring the fact that developing social justice consciousness is an ongoing and frequently conflicting process [14].

Simultaneously, the degree of urbanisation and internal migratory patterns within society are intimately associated with notions of social fairness. New social problems are brought about by the migration of people to cities, especially the capital, in quest of work. The disparities between living and working conditions in Tashkent, such as the registration system, housing costs, and employment opportunities, and those in the regions can be perceived by many as a form of social injustice. This generates a sense of inequality between the “center and periphery”. Research conducted by the Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Studies under the Ministry of Economic development and poverty reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan indicates that uneven economic development across regions exacerbates differences in living standards, representing a key challenge for the state in ensuring social justice [15].

The formation of public perceptions of social justice is a multifactorial and dynamic process. In addition to citizens’ material conditions, social status, age, and place of residence, it is directly influenced by the activities of mass media and the education system, the effectiveness of state social policies, as well as broader social processes such as urbanization and migration. Only through a comprehensive analysis of all these factors

can public attitudes toward social justice in New Uzbekistan be fully understood, thereby enabling the development of effective policies to strengthen it.

As a result, a variety of socioeconomic circumstances influence how the general public views social justice. These views are connected to deeper aspects of economic consciousness, like tax culture and attitudes towards property, in addition to income equality and legal safeguards. For New Uzbekistan to establish a stable, functional, and, above all, just society, a thorough comprehension and analysis of these elements is a necessary precondition.

It is crucial to consider national values as historical and ever-changing phenomena while examining the relationship between social justice and these values. They are not inflexible doctrines; rather, they change as society does, taking on new significance as time goes on. New values may develop on the social agenda as a result of modernisation, while some existing values may lose their previous prominence. This process has a direct impact on how the general public views social justice. For example, the Uzbek people hold hospitality and kindness in the greatest regard. These principles strengthened social ties and helped strangers, acting as unofficial social justice systems in traditional society. However, the function and meaning of these values are evolving in the context of contemporary commercial relations. Traditionally used to display wealth, lavish weddings and rituals now more often represent ostentation and luxury than kindness. This, in turn, deepens social stratification and fosters a sense of injustice in the public consciousness. The decisions of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at regulating weddings and lavish celebrations are specifically intended to address this social issue, namely the social injustice arising from the deformation of traditional values.

Another important aspect of the relationship between social justice and national values is the intergenerational dimension. Respect for parents, honoring the elderly, and the strength of family ties form the foundation of Uzbek society. These values play a crucial role in ensuring just relations within the family and society, particularly in providing social protection for the older generation. However, in the context of globalization and the rise of individualism, these traditional relations are undergoing significant changes. As philosopher A. Erkayev emphasizes in his treatise "Spirituality: analysis, interpretation, principles", "In the consciousness of contemporary youth, there is a struggle between traditional family values and the individualistic values promoted by Western mass culture". This struggle highlights the challenge of balancing social justice across generations, that is, ensuring care for the elderly while simultaneously creating opportunities for the younger generation.

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, national values represent a complex, dialectical phenomenon that can serve both as foundational material for social justice and as a force that undermines it. They provide a moral and ethical framework for society, fostering social cohesion. However, their antiquated or warped forms could make it more difficult to implement modern justice ideals. Thus, the study of social justice in contemporary Uzbekistan involves more than just classifying values as either positive or negative. The main goal is to establish a methodological and philosophical framework for striking a reasonable balance between national particular, collectivism and individualism, tradition and modernity, and universal human ideals.

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