SERVICE SECTOR IN INCREASING INCOME OF RURAL POPULATION

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12501419

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Abstract. The article examines the role and place of development of the service sector in increasing the incomes of the population. Particular attention is paid to the peculiarities of the development of the service sector in rural areas. An analysis of the development trends of rural tourism as a component of the service sector is given. Practical conclusions have been drawn about measures to promote the development of this area.

Keywords: service sector, population income, social development, the economic growth, economic liberalization, gross national product, rural tourism, modernization.

The main goal of the socio-economic reforms carried out in our country is to increase the income of the population and ensure its relatively high standard of living. Thus, within the framework of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, "...strengthening social protection of citizens and reducing poverty are identified as priority directions of state policy, providing the population with new jobs and a guaranteed source of income, qualified medical and educational services have been raised to a qualitatively new level, and decent living conditions have been achieved". 113

In 2024, in Uzbekistan, more than 50% ¹¹⁴ of state budget expenditures are allocated to the social sphere to provide financial support to the poor and provide certain services. It cannot be denied that the level of income of the population is an important indicator of its well-being. An important indicator is GDP per capita (in Uzbekistan, GDP per capita in 2023 amounted to 29,291 million soums, or \$2,496 at current prices). ¹¹⁵ It should be noted that this indicator determines the opportunities for recreation, education, healthcare, and meeting the necessary needs of each member of society. Also, it summarizes information about the income of the population, makes it possible to analyze the state of the country's economy, and most importantly, helps to predict its economic, social, and political future as a whole.

¹¹³ Указ Президента Республики Узбекистан О стратегии развития Нового Узбекистана на 2022 — 2026 годы. https://lex.uz/ru/docs/5841077

https://www.uzbekistan.org.ua/ru/news/6957-v-2024-godu-v-uzbekistane-bolee-5.html

https://kun.uz/ru/news/2024/03/09/kakov-byl-obyem-vvp-na-dushu-naseleniya-v-uzbekistane-v-2023-godu

Also, within the framework of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan, the government noted "an increase in the volume of gross domestic product per capita in the next five years by 1.6 times by ensuring consistently high growth rates in economic sectors, bringing its size to 4 thousand US dollars per year by 2030." per capita and creating the prerequisites for entering the category of "states with an upper-middle income". 116

In any economic system, increasing welfare is at the center of all problems. Today, the ever-increasing share of services in the structure of population consumption can be considered a progressive change in the development of human society. The rapid development of the service sector indicates that structural changes are taking place in the population's consumption and that the standard of living of the population is increasing.

Based on the reforms being carried out in the country, the urgent task is to achieve continuous economic growth in exchange for economic liberalization, modernization of the country, and ensuring macroeconomic stability in general.

The service sector as all other sectors of the economy, arose at a certain stage in the development of society under the direct influence of certain external economic and social factors and gradually developed.

Today, the service sector has such a strong place in the socio-economic life of society. Without this sphere, employment, income, standard of living, the development of gross domestic product production, economic growth, the formation of a modern new economy and society, and other important aspects of its development are impossible to imagine.

At the present stage of the development of society, a person's daily economic activity, consumption, quality of life, and meaningful life are largely related to the service sector.

Based on the share of the service sector in GDP, one can draw conclusions about the standard of living of the country's population, determine the category of the country, its level of development (developed, developing, backward) and at what stage the development is located (industrial, post-industrial). According to statistical data, the share of the service sector in the GDP of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2023 was 43.4%.¹¹⁷

By further developing the service sector in our republic, it is possible to sharply increase its share in the gross domestic product, provide employment to the population, increase the real incomes of people, and improve the well-being of all segments of the population.

However, in a post-industrial society, the service sector forms the basis of the economy and has a direct impact on the successful development of the entire country.

Unfortunately, innovative processes at service sector enterprises in our country are developing more slowly, and the population's needs for services are not being sufficiently satisfied. The latter has a negative impact on the formation and development of the

¹¹⁶ Указ Президента Республики Узбекистан О Стратегии развития Нового Узбекистана на 2022 — 2026 годы. https://lex.uz/ru/docs/5841077

https://uzbekistan.org.ua/ru/news/6985-ekonomika-uzbekistana-v-2023-godu.html

service sector, to a certain extent reducing its impact on the standard of living of the population. In our opinion, the presence of such a situation is important for solving the above problems, in particular for the rapid development of the service sector and raising its quality to a high level.

The service sector has a direct and significant impact on the health of the population, mood, attitude towards work, labor productivity of workers, the state, and the development of productive forces in general.

The nature of the service sector and the directions of its influence on the level and quality of life of the population are manifested in several directions: meeting the needs and demands of the population for services, saving consumer costs of the population, increasing employment of the population, and one of the most important is creating conditions for increasing the income of the population.

Expanding the service sector is important for increasing the incomes of the population. Our country has every opportunity for the development of this area. The analysis shows that in developed countries, for example, the USA, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan, the share of services is 70-80¹¹⁸ percent of the gross domestic product.

The fact that almost 49%¹¹⁹ of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan lives in rural areas raises the question of ensuring the necessary level of income by this area. The generation of income of the rural population is provided by various sources. That is, income from agriculture, subsidiary plots, entrepreneurial activity, and social payments.

Therefore, the standard of living and income of the majority of the country's population are associated with agriculture and its level and pace of development. Agriculture is a very important sector of the economy of Uzbekistan. In 2023, according to the Statistics Agency, the volume of agricultural products is 426.3 trillion soums, an increase of 4.1%¹²⁰ compared to 2022. This industry provides the population with necessary food products and various industries with raw materials.

Agriculture, as a large mechanized industry, is given a priority role in the economy of the republic. This sector of the economy occupies a leading place in terms of the number and share of people employed in sectors of the national economy. Agriculture in Uzbekistan employs 44%¹²¹ of the country's workforce.

It should be noted that the existing differentiation of incomes among the population in Uzbekistan is not in favor of rural areas. One of the reasons for the difference in income between people living in rural and urban areas is "place of residence". ¹²² In the Agricultural Development Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, the list of directions for state policy in the field of sustainable development of rural areas begins with increasing

¹¹⁸ https://ru.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/share_of_services/

 $^{^{119}\} https://stat.uz/uz/rasmiy-statistika/demography-2$

¹²⁰ https://stat.uz/uz/rasmiy-statistika

¹²¹ https:// stat.uz/uz/rasmiy-statistika

¹²²https://ru.wikipedia.дифференциация доходов

the efficiency of the rural economy, and then the level and quality of life of the rural population, and then the rational use and reproduction of the natural resource potential of rural areas. 123

One of the strategic priorities adopted by the State Strategy is "...increasing investment attractiveness; ensuring rational use of natural resources and environmental protection; rural development". 124

There are many factors that contribute to achieving these goals. One of these factors is the development of the tourism industry in this area, in particular, the development of rural tourism.

Rural tourism is a multifaceted phenomenon. One of its aspects, in view of the current state of the socio-economic development of the country, is social. Therefore, rural tourism should be considered one of the means of diversifying the sources of income of the rural population, as a component of the integrated development of rural areas and rural infrastructure, as well as one of the factors in the strategy for overcoming poverty in

,
rural areas.
The essence of rural tourism is tourists visiting rural areas for the purpose o
ecreation or carrying out cultural and leisure activities in ecologically clean areas. The
main driving forces when choosing rural tourism are the following factors:
☐ the need for health recovery has become much more relevant due to the
pandemic;
☐ limited financial capabilities;
□ consumption of "environmentally friendly" products;
☐ "peculiar" life in rural areas.
This type of tourism is provided by creating special tourist villages and organizing
rural tours, including food and accommodation services, in rural settlements located in
environmentally clean areas. In fact, tourism is associated with visiting rural areas, staying
n rural homes, enjoying nature with picturesque landscapes, and participating in local foll
raditions, festivals, and customs.
Based on the experience of developing this type of tourism and the impact on the
economy of rural areas, in particular on the income of the population, its advantages fo
he development of rural regions can be summarized as follows:
$\hfill \square$ reducing the unemployment rate and stimulating the creation of new jobs in rura
areas, which is currently very important for the economy of Uzbekistan.
$\hfill \square$ income growth and improvement of the living standards of rural residents with
relatively low financial costs. It is necessary to be noted that one of the main sources o
ncome for the rural population is income from external migration. The pandemic and it
associated partial border closures have led to a reduction in this source of income.

https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4567337

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Volume. 7, Issue 06, June (2024)

improvement of rural amenities, development of engineering, and social infrastructure. In reality, in almost most rural areas, there are problems with the development of infrastructure and rural improvement. Very often, these programs are financed through government funding (there is almost no private funding). If the necessary conditions are created, then this type of tourism can solve the problems of improvement and infrastructure development in rural areas.

development of small business in rural areas, as well as the environmental

 \Box on-site sale of personal farm products, in particular prepared food products (which are especially valuable for visitors). Rural guest houses with private farming will always be of interest to city residents.

encouraging the protection of local attractions and preserving local customs, folklore, and folk crafts. Unfortunately, the realities of modern development, in particular urbanization, contribute to the devaluation of the values, customs, and traditions of the local population. In the economic aspect, folk crafts are economically unprofitable due to the use of manual labor and the lack of a technological factor in the production process.

 $\ \square$ increasing the cultural and cognitive level of the rural population. There is an increasing need for learning foreign languages, improving the quality of services provided, etc.

 \Box through additional revenues, replenishment of local budgets. Sources of income, in particular, are associated with the development of this type of tourism at the regional level.

does not require significant investments and primarily utilizes private funding sources, and capital investment quickly pay off. In a market economy, private investment is effective because it has a long-term trend.

□ relieves the most popular tourist centers, reducing the negative environmental consequences of overly intensive activities in the so-called "prestigious" tourist regions, which is relevant for developed countries. So far, this advantage for the economy of Uzbekistan is not considered fundamental because the tourism sector is at the stage of formation and development.

In general, by examining the experience of developing rural tourism, we can draw the following conclusion: the development of one of the components of the service sector, tourism in rural regions, is a real opportunity to increase the income of the population in rural areas.

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SJIF Impact Factor (2024): 6.779 IF Impact Factor (2023): 6.487

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This Certificate is Awarded to

Xodjayeva Dilbar

For Publication of Paper Entitled
SERVICE SECTOR IN INCREASING INCOME OF RURAL POPULATION

the articles were published in Volume 7 issue 6



June, 2024



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