

THE IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY OF THE HOUSEHOLD SERVICES SECTOR FOR THE POPULATION

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ABSTRACT. This paper examines the socio-economic importance of the household services sector and the necessity of its development in the context of the modern economy. The study analyses the impact of household services on living standards, employment, and the efficient allocation of household time under conditions of globalization, intensifying competition, and growing material and non-material needs of the population. Particular attention is paid to the nature and functions of household services and their role in the service market. The paper also considers the institutional and regulatory framework governing the development of household services in Uzbekistan. The findings indicate that the development of the household services sector is an important factor in improving population welfare, creating new employment opportunities, expanding entrepreneurial activity, and supporting sustainable regional economic development.

Keywords: household services, service sector, service market, living standards, employment, entrepreneurship, population welfare, service quality, regional development,

АННОТАЦИЯ. В статье исследуется социально-экономическое значение сферы бытовых услуг населению и необходимость ее развития в условиях современной экономики. Анализируется влияние бытовых услуг на уровень жизни населения, занятость и эффективное использование временных ресурсов домашних хозяйств в условиях глобализации, усиления конкуренции и роста материальных и нематериальных потребностей населения. Раскрываются сущность и основные функции бытовых услуг, а также их роль в формировании и развитии рынка услуг. Особое внимание уделяется институциональным и нормативно-правовым основам регулирования деятельности сферы бытовых услуг в Узбекистане. Результаты исследования показывают, что развитие сферы бытовых услуг является важным фактором повышения благосостояния населения, создания новых рабочих мест, расширения предпринимательской активности и обеспечения устойчивого экономического развития регионов.

Ключевые слова: бытовые услуги, сфера услуг, рынок услуг, уровень жизни населения, занятость, предпринимательство, благосостояние населения, качество услуг, региональное развитие

In the context of deepening globalization, intensifying competition, and the growing priority of quality indicators in improving the level of production and service delivery, the socio-economic importance of the service sector, including household services, is continuously increasing. The objective necessity for the development of these sectors is determined not only by their contribution to improving the quality of living standards but also by their positive impact on employment. In developed countries, the service sector accounts for approximately 75% of gross domestic product (GDP), while its share in total employment exceeds 70%. The proportion of employment in the service sector exceeds 75% in developed European countries, 80% in the United States, and 82% in Japan [1]. From this perspective, increasing attention is being paid worldwide to the development of the service sector, particularly to expanding the volume and improving the quality of services, as well as introducing new and innovative types of services.

In developed countries, considerable attention is being devoted to conducting targeted scientific research aimed at addressing the challenges associated with globalization and its impact on the formation and development of service markets. In particular, research focuses on the increasing flexibility, institutionalization, and social orientation of service markets; intensifying competition within the service sector; the development of new types of economic activities requiring higher levels of education and professional qualifications; the introduction of new working-time arrangements; growth in workers' incomes; and the development of interaction between national labour markets, transnational corporations, and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Household services can be defined as a multifaceted socio-organizational, economic, financial, and functional activity aimed at meeting a wide range of individual and household needs. Such services are characterized by the direct involvement of consumers, a high degree of responsiveness to changes in market conditions and the economic environment, and a close relationship between their level of development and the living standards and material well-being of the population.

Under conditions of fundamental economic reforms, the development of entrepreneurial activity in the household services sector creates favourable conditions for increasing employment and meeting the growing demand of the population for various household services. The sector contributes to reducing the amount of labour performed within households and enables individuals to allocate more time to employment, education, recreation, and other socially productive activities.

At present, household service activities in the Republic of Uzbekistan are regulated by the established Rules for the Provision of Household Services to the Population. The relevant regulatory framework creates institutional conditions for the orderly and effective functioning of household service providers and for protecting the interests of consumers.

Household service provision is a complex and multidimensional process that continuously changes in response to economic, technological, and structural transformations. For example, the development of services in the automotive sector has resulted in vehicle maintenance and repair services being separated from the traditional classification of household services. Similarly, the expansion of construction-related services has contributed to the exclusion of building and construction repair and finishing activities from the household services sector.

Household services constitute an important component of the broader system of non-production and consumer-oriented services provided to the population. They are characterized by organizational and institutional forms of activity aimed at directly satisfying the material and non-material needs of individuals independently of their professional or socio-political activities.

Household service enterprises constitute a specialized segment of the national economic infrastructure and perform a wide range of activities related to the production, restoration, repair, maintenance, and personal use of consumer goods. These activities include the individual production and repair of personal consumption goods; restoration of household items that have lost their consumer value; tailoring and repair of clothing, footwear, fur and knitted products; laundry and dry-cleaning services; furniture production and repair based on individual orders; household appliance, electronic equipment, and musical instrument repair; pawnshop services; photographic services; hairdressing; rental of cultural, household, and sports equipment; residential cleaning services; and the performance of various personal assignments and other related activities.

As social development progresses, technological capabilities expand, and the material well-being of the population improves, the range and complexity of people's material and non-material needs also continue to increase. Consequently, household service enterprises, together with other branches of the service economy—including retail trade, catering, childcare services, housing and communal services, and related sectors—gradually replace certain activities traditionally performed within households with specialized forms of social production and professional service provision. This process contributes to the increasing commercialization and institutionalization of household activities and creates additional opportunities for improving the efficiency of household resource allocation.

In Uzbekistan, the household services sector is regulated by a range of legislative and regulatory acts. In particular, several presidential decrees and resolutions adopted in recent years have established important institutional foundations for the development of the service sector and household services. Among them are Resolution No. PQ-104 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 27, 2022, “On Additional Measures for the Development of the Service Sector,” Decree No. PF-6318 dated September 30, 2021, “On Additional Measures to Support the Service Sector,” and

Resolution No. PQ-4752 dated June 16, 2020, “On Measures to Support the Service Sector.” These regulatory measures have played an important role in creating favourable conditions for entrepreneurship, expanding the range of services, increasing employment opportunities, and strengthening the institutional environment for the development of household services in Uzbekistan.

Therefore, the development of the household services sector should be regarded not merely as an expansion of consumer-oriented economic activity, but as an important component of inclusive economic development, employment generation, improvement of household welfare, and enhancement of the quality of life of the population. Strengthening the institutional environment, encouraging private entrepreneurship, introducing innovative service models, and improving the accessibility and quality of household services can contribute significantly to the sustainable development of regional economies in Uzbekistan.

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