

O. Koshulko, PhD in Economic Sciences (*Alfred Nobel University, Ukraine*)

GENDER EQUALITY AS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL FOR UKRAINE

Gender equality is one of the most important goals for the sustainable development of countries worldwide for current and future planning. This equality is particularly important for Ukraine as a guarantee of prosperity and development within the state.

According to the UN goals for sustainable development in the world, gender equality is the 5th of the 17 most important goals. This 5th goal is entitled ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’ [1].

Ukraine is among the countries of Europe trying to implement gender equality in all the spheres of life as soon as possible.

In recent years, it is possible to see efforts towards realizing this 5th goal in the following spheres of Ukrainian society:

- ✓ Politics [2];
- ✓ The military[3];
- ✓ Socio-economics [4-5];
- ✓ Higher education and science [6], etc.

In the political sphere [2], from 2020 the country started implementing gender quotas for all political parties wishing to participate in elections. In 2020, it was not completely effective but the first steps in the right direction have been taken.

In the military sphere, since 2014-2015 when the Russian-Ukrainian war started, women in the Army seek women’s rights and open new opportunities for female troopers and volunteers. This has been done since 2014 and continues very successfully today [3].

In the socio-economic sphere, in recent years Ukrainian women have fought for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention of Violence against Women by the Ukrainian Government [4], but the Ukrainian Government, which consists of a majority of men, has still not done so.

In the sphere of higher education and science [6], there are still no female rectors in Ukrainian universities and only a small percentage of women occupy the position of vice-rector in higher education throughout the country. In science, a small percentage of women are professors in comparison with the percentage of men.

In general, changes are being implemented very slowly in Ukraine but it is possible to see some positive changes within Ukrainian society but this is not yet enough for the full implementation of Goal 5 in Ukraine.

Many problems with gender equality still exist, especially during the pandemic, when many women lost their jobs and other sources of income.

The issues of gender inequality, domestic violence, abuse, discrimination in all spheres of Ukrainian society, stereotypes of the role of women in society and the family are still very strong barriers to change. This does not assist the implementation of Goal 5 quickly and effectively.

For Ukraine, gender equality as a sustainable development goal should be implemented rapidly and effectively. The 5th goal should be given the same priority as Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4, to create a strong basis for prosperity and development in Ukrainian society.

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