THEORETICAL SUBSTANTIATION OF MANAGING THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM OF THE POPULATION

Xamroyev Anvar Ashurovich
Bukhara State Technical University
Independent Researcher
E-mail:anvarashurovich123@gmail.com
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According to the analyses, Marxist scientific-theoretical perspectives advanced ideas related to the management of a centralized communist social protection system — one fundamentally distinct from the capitalist social protection system developed by representatives of the classical economic school — oriented toward reducing social stratification among members of society. It is evident from this that the management practice of the social protection system, prioritized in Marxist economic thought, is characterized by its broad applicability in the context of closed economic systems.

Furthermore, the Bismarck model may also be included in the group of early theoretical approaches in economic science dedicated to the practice of managing the social protection system, whereby "a state policy based on an insurance mechanism was developed within the economic mechanism of system management, and structural improvements were also achieved in the functioning of the organizational mechanism through the formation of social insurance in the practice of social protection of the population"[1]. In the management of the social protection system based on the Bismarck model, "the state exercises strict oversight of this system, developing a system of costs and standards related to its functioning"[2], and "exercises full control over social protection expenditures, utilizing a comprehensive social insurance mechanism in its financing"[3].

Thus, in the evolution of scientific views developed by representatives of the classical and Marxist economic schools, as well as by Bismarck — belonging to the group of early theoretical approaches (from the late 19th century to the early 20th century) related to managing the social protection system in economic science — it can be concluded that state participation in system management increased alongside the expansion of the system of social guarantees to citizens regarding their well-being under market economic conditions.

Studies indicate that, in contrast to approaches included in the group of early theoretical perspectives, the scientific concepts of economists such as J.M. Keynes and W. Beveridge — belonging to the group of classical theories of social protection system management — gave priority to the active participation of the state in managing this system. The increasing activity of the state in managing the social protection system significantly raised the share of social expenditures within the state budget, fostering dependency attitudes among the population. At the same time, these tendencies began to exert a negative influence on the qualitative indicators of economic development, alongside a significant decline in the level of economic activity of the population in various countries. As a result, the need to improve the practice of managing the social protection system emerged across various national contexts, leading to the development of neoliberal and state-reducing scientific perspectives in economic science (beginning in the 1980s).

The social policy programs implemented by leaders such as M. Thatcher[4] in the United Kingdom and R. Reagan[5] in the United States played a significant role in shaping the scientific approaches belonging to this group. The following characteristics were identified as inherent to the national concepts developed by these two countries' leaders regarding the management of the social protection system:

First, through a gradual abandonment of centralized management in managing the social protection system and an expansion of private sector participation in these processes, state-provided education, healthcare, and social insurance services were privatized, resulting in a significant reduction in the volume of financing for social services rendered within the social protection management framework;

Second, priority was given to reducing state expenditures directed toward financing programs other than social service provision — including social security and material assistance programs — within the functioning of the social protection system.

The group of modern theories of managing the social protection system reflects the changes occurring in system management from the early 21st century to the present day under the influence of innovative development, digitalization, and globalization processes. Based on the analyses, the following theoretical approaches belonging to this group were identified:

First, theoretical approaches aimed at ensuring the sustainability of managing the social protection system — in this type of scientific perspective, based on the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"[6] of the United Nations (UN), scientific-theoretical approaches developed by international organizations such as the UN Development Programme (UNDP)[7], the World Bank[8], the International Labour Organization (ILO)[9], and the International Social Security Association (ISSA)[10] toward developing a comprehensive and inclusive social protection system — covering not only the socially vulnerable but also various social groups of the population — and effectively providing the social guarantees established for them, may be cited. It should be noted here that the concepts developed by experts of these global organizations are of a recommendatory nature; they have scientifically substantiated what an exemplary social protection system should look like today, and in creatively drawing upon their recommendations in national practice, strategic priorities for developing system management should be elaborated with national specificities taken into account;

Second, the approach of organizing the management of the social protection system in the context of innovative development on the basis of approaches aimed at "developing human capital"[11], in which social services such as education and healthcare provided to the population by the state are valued not merely as social protection programs but as instruments for expanding the income-generating opportunities of each citizen of the country;

Third, the digital economy theories of managing the social protection system are characterized by being "aimed at utilizing unified social protection registries, digital identification of social protection system participants, automated systems, and other similar digital technologies in the practice of system management"[12].

In scientific approaches dedicated to managing the social protection system based on Islamic perspectives, the management of the system is organized on the basis of mutual cooperation between the state and members of society, and is distinguished by "the priority of supporting socially vulnerable population groups through Islamic instruments such as zakat, sadaqa (almsgiving), and waqf (endowment)"[13]. It should be noted here that the practice of managing the social protection system based on this type of scientific perspective is predominantly applied in countries where Islam is the predominant religion.

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