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DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD SERVICES IN UZBEKISTAN: SOCIO-ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE AND CURRENT TRENDS

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Abstract: This article examines the socio-economic significance of household services and the need for their further development in Uzbekistan under conditions of digitalization, economic liberalization, and changing consumer needs. Particular attention is paid to the role of household services in improving quality of life, saving household time, expanding employment opportunities, and supporting population welfare. The study considers the local nature, individualization, seasonal features, and relatively low capital intensity of the household services market. The findings indicate that its expansion can contribute to job creation, entrepreneurship, additional household income, and sustainable regional development.

Keywords: household services, service sector, household services market, quality of life, employment, population welfare, entrepreneurship, household time, regional development.

Аннотация: В статье исследуется социально-экономическое значение сферы бытовых услуг и необходимость ее дальнейшего развития в Узбекистане в условиях цифровизации, либерализации экономики и изменения потребительских потребностей населения. Особое внимание уделяется роли бытовых услуг в повышении качества жизни, рациональном использовании времени домашних хозяйств, расширении занятости и повышении благосостояния населения. Рассматриваются локальный характер, индивидуализация, сезонность и относительно низкая капиталоемкость сферы. Обосновывается ее значение для создания рабочих мест, развития предпринимательства и устойчивого регионального развития.

Ключевые слова: бытовые услуги, сфера услуг, рынок бытовых услуг, качество жизни, занятость, благосостояние населения, предпринимательство, временные ресурсы домашних хозяйств, региональное развитие.

1. INTRODUCTION

Under conditions of economic digitalization and liberalization, the introduction of standards for household services has become increasingly complicated. Existing standards do not always fully reflect the structure of demand from different social groups or the diversity of modern household service needs. At the same time, inflation and changes in household expenditures may reduce the ability of fixed social indicators to adequately reflect real conditions.

Household services occupy a distinctive position in the economy because they connect production and consumption processes and create social and living conditions necessary for everyday life and work. Their effective organization contributes to improving living standards and overall economic efficiency. Household services also help people save time that can be used for recreation,

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education, personal development, and cultural needs, thereby contributing to quality of life and population welfare.

Structural changes in the global and national economy, together with the continuing consequences of the pandemic, have increased the need for flexible employment and additional sources of household income. In these conditions, household services can create new employment opportunities and stimulate local entrepreneurship. The sector is also relevant for pensioners, persons with disabilities, and individuals who cannot work full-time.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The economic nature of household services is closely related to household needs and the organization of everyday life. V. S. Maksyutov considers the household services market as a sphere in which household-oriented services are produced and realized according to consumer demand, with technologies and resources adapted to individual customer requirements. This approach emphasizes the importance of an individual orientation in service provision and the role of demand in organizing the market.

The source material identifies several specific characteristics of household services: they may be directed toward individuals, goods, organizations, or groups; many cannot be completely standardized; and they are often adapted to individual consumer needs. Their local character requires service facilities to be located as close as possible to permanent population settlements and to provide an assortment corresponding to local demand. The relatively low capital intensity of the sector also creates favorable conditions for employment and small entrepreneurship.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study uses descriptive and comparative analysis to examine the socio-economic role and development characteristics of household services. The analysis is based primarily on the conceptual and empirical material presented in the source article, including the characteristics of household services, their market participants, and their relationship with employment, household expenditure, time resources, and regional development. Generalization is used to identify the principal economic and social functions of the sector.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Household services perform an important function in maintaining and restoring the consumer properties of goods and household items. As the number of durable and technically complex goods used by households increases, repair and maintenance services become increasingly important. By extending the useful life of goods, these services enable households to reduce replacement expenditure and use their financial resources more efficiently.

The household services market consists primarily of service providers and consumers. Providers include enterprises, organizations, and individual entrepreneurs, while consumers include individuals and legal entities. A distinctive feature of this market is the direct interaction between provider and consumer. Consumers generally expect high-quality and individualized services, while providers seek to optimize resources and costs.

Household services generally cannot be produced in advance and stored for future consumption. In many cases, production and consumption take place simultaneously or within a closely connected

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period. A number of services have seasonal characteristics. These features require providers to respond flexibly to changing demand and organize resources according to local and seasonal conditions.

The development of household services has a direct employment effect. The establishment of new service enterprises can generate additional jobs and income opportunities for local residents. Because the sector is relatively less capital-intensive than many other industries, it can serve as an accessible area for small businesses and individual entrepreneurship. Its development may therefore contribute to reducing unemployment and increasing economic activity in regions.

The local nature of household services is another important factor. Since consumers usually prefer convenient and accessible services, service facilities should be distributed in accordance with population settlement patterns and local demand. Expanding modern services, improving quality, and using digital technologies can increase accessibility and strengthen the competitiveness of providers.

5. CONCLUSION

The analysis demonstrates that household services have substantial socio-economic importance for Uzbekistan. Their development improves everyday living conditions, saves household time, expands employment opportunities, supports entrepreneurship, and contributes to more efficient household expenditure. The local character and relatively low capital intensity of the sector create favorable conditions for regional development.

Further development should focus on expanding modern service types, improving service quality, strengthening territorial accessibility, introducing digital technologies, and creating favorable conditions for small businesses and individual entrepreneurs. Particular attention should be given to services capable of generating employment and additional income for population groups with limited employment opportunities.

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