

**Social Center «Ijtimoiy Fikr»**

**ALTERNATIVE REPORT**

**to fulfill obligations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women (CEDAW)**

**Tashkent – 2015**

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## Introduction<sup>1</sup>

During the years of independence, Uzbekistan has developed a solid legal basis, aimed at improving the role and status of women in society, to ensure their full participation in the socio-political, socio-economic and cultural life of the country. Legal and social protection of motherhood and childhood, creation of conditions for the participation of women in the processes of reform and modernization in all spheres of life is an important area of public policy in Uzbekistan, which is one of the first Central Asian states, joined the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are implemented in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov issued special decree "On strengthening the role of women in the state and social construction" (March 2, 1995.) and "On additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan" (May 25, 2004.). State Program, adopted in 2014, "Year of a healthy child" exercised further measures to strengthen the role of women in the public life of the country, the formation of high spiritual and moral atmosphere in society and family, providing maternal and child health.

Convention is an international bill of women's rights. In its preamble stated that the elimination of discrimination against women and promotion of equality between men and women are central principles of the United Nations and the subject of obligations for States in accordance with the UN Charter and other documents.

In this regard, the study of public opinion and making it public is a priority mechanism of democratization of the society, which provides an effective interaction between civil society and the rule of law in achieving equality between men and women.

Center for the Study of Public Opinion "Ijtimoiy Fikr" holds in the constant monitoring sociological research in various fields of social and economic life of the country. One of the priorities is the study of public opinion on the role of women in society and the family, the role of the family and family values, the relationship between family members, on reproductive attitudes and social guidelines of citizens of Uzbekistan.

Learning public opinion and the practical application of the results provides effective feedback to society and the state, promotes activation of law making and further improvement of legislation that ensures the elimination of discrimination against women and enhance their role in the public and state-building.

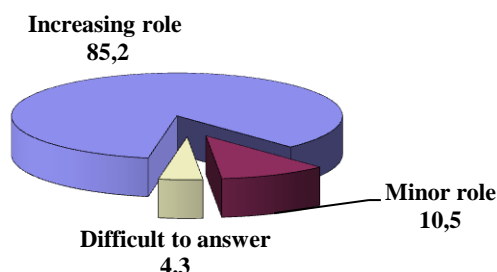
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<sup>1</sup>Alternative report is based on the results of public opinion polls conducted by the Center "IjtimoiyFikr" in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, 12 regions of the country and Tashkent.

## 1. Role of women in the society and family

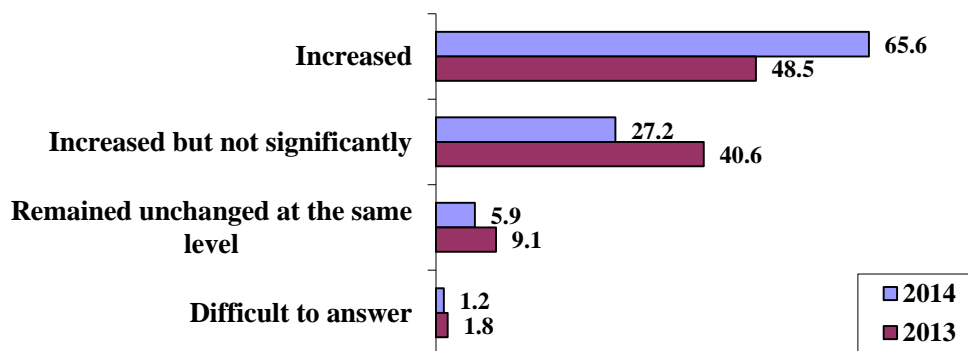
The most important priority of the state policy of Uzbek society is promotion of the role and status of women in the socio-political and socio-economic life of the country. In Uzbekistan, in close cooperation between the state and society, concrete measures are adopted to strengthen the social activity of women, providing them with employment in various sectors of the economy, further strengthening the institution of the family, maternity and childhood. Confirmation of the effectiveness of the state policy on women is the results of polls. Thus, answering the question "What do you think about the role of women in our society as a whole?"; and the vast majority of survey participants recognized that in today's society Uzbek women play an increasingly important role, taking an active part in the processes of state and public construction.

**Picture 1.** What do you think about the role of women in our society as a whole? (Respondents in %)



Results of opinion poll evidenced that particularly during the years of independence there was a qualitatively new stage in the process of integration of women into the modern life of the state and society. In many ways, to this process contributed a series of measures taken in connection with the implementation of Presidential Decree "On additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan", as well as the annual government programs ("Year of Women", "Year of the Healthy Generation", "Year of the mother and child", "Year of the Family", "Year of a healthy child"), designed to provide more complete protection of rights and interests of women and children. This is confirmed by the positive dynamics of growth in assessments of the role and status of women in society in the comparative analysis of survey results for the years 2013 -2014.

**Picture. 2.** In your opinion, how has changed the degree of participation and the role of women in society and the country in the past decade as a whole? (Respondents in %)



The survey explores the view soft respondent son how the degree of participation and the role of women in different spheres of national life, society and family have changed. According to the respondents' view, women's participation has increased significantly in almost all spheres of society. Particularly, there is a growth in the role of women in the family and the upbringing of children in private entrepreneurship and small business. The vast majority of survey participants noted increased participation of women in the social sphere: education, health, social security, as well as in culture, arts and sports.

Results of the survey reflect a trend of continuing growth of the role of women in the family, upbringing of children and contribution to the family budget. The majority of respondents believe that in the education of harmoniously developed young generation and creating a positive climate in the family, the most important role is played by a woman. It is obvious that the family, its tranquility and prosperity is the highest value for women, the key to sustainable development, as a family, and the country as a whole.

**Table 1. What do you think how has changed the degree of participation and the role of women in the following spheres of national life, society and family? (Respondents in %)**

Spheres	Extent of participation and the role of women has increased	
	2013	2014
Upbringing of children	86,4	<b>91,2</b>
Contribution to the family budget	80,3	<b>82,9</b>
Participation in taking decisions	69,7	<b>72,5</b>
Creating positive climate in the family	74,7	<b>82,0</b>

The special position of women in the family is stipulated by the fact that one of the main purposes of women is considered to be the education of children, the ability to be a good mother.

Every second interviewee noted that currently Uzbek family based on equal partnership between women and men. At the same time, 23.1% of female respondents believe that today in the Uzbek society woman plays a leading, defining and guiding role in all aspects of family life.

**Table 2. In your opinion, nowadays in most of the Uzbek families are women in a leading or guided role? (Respondents in %)**

Equivalent role with a man	<b>55,4</b>
Leading role in all aspects of family life and the lives of family members	<b>23,1</b>
Plays the role of advisor, but not make the final decision.	<b>21,2</b>
Difficult to answer	0,3

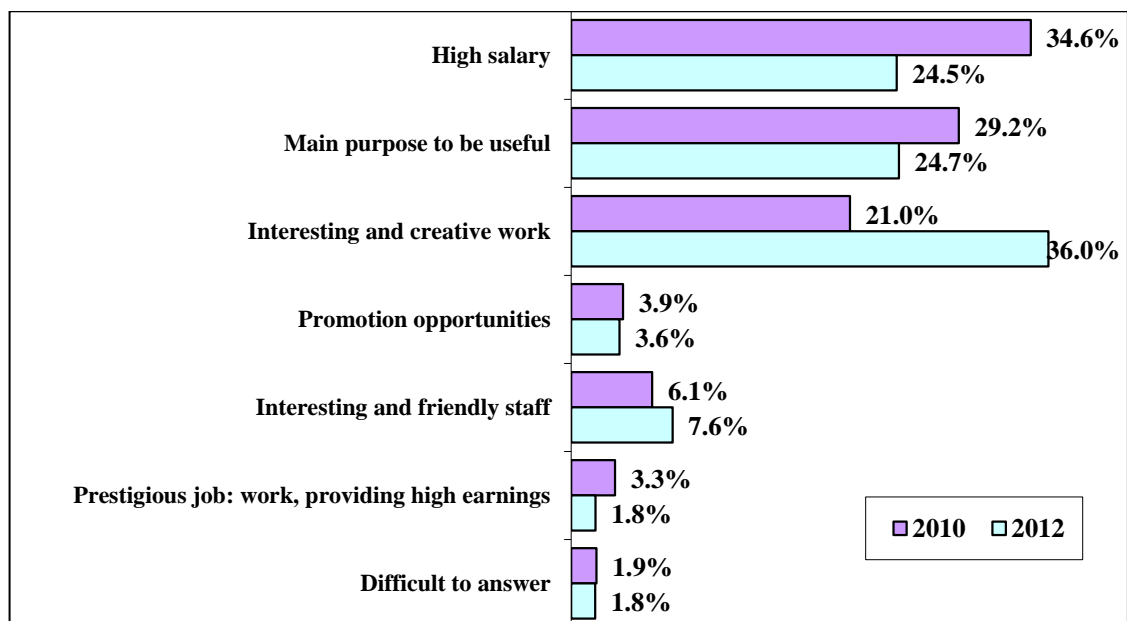
As is known, modern women simultaneously play a variety of roles in public life. In the study it was sought the women's views about roles they believe are the most important. The vast majority of women surveyed (80.4%) reported that the most important for them has always been the role of the mother. The responses received are quite natural, since it is through the institution of motherhood comes socialization of women in the society, this explains its self-awareness and self-perception.

**Table 3. What role and what function you personally consider yourself the most important? (Multiple answers)**

	<b>Mother</b>	<b>Wife</b>	<b>Daughter</b>	<b>Professional</b>	<b>Grandmother</b>	<b>Social worker</b>	<b>Housewife</b>
<b>Bcero</b>	<b>80,4</b>	<b>28,8</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>11,5</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>6,0</b>	<b>6,9</b>
<b>City</b>	78,0	27,5	7,5	10,6	3,7	2,9	6,8
<b>Village</b>	80,1	28,5	6,1	10,3	3,5	3,7	7,0

The survey results show that most women perceive the value of human life as labor, as a necessary means of survival and the main feature of life. The number of creative-minded women, are almost doubled, for whom earnings, it is payment for their work, and this in turn increased their participation in all spheres of public life. Studies suggest that, depending on the changing socio-economic conditions, the importance of selection factors of working women is changing.

**Picture 3. «What are the characteristics of labor for you are of paramount importance?» (Respondents in % )**



Conducted surveys enabled to notice that there is a tendency of women desire to devote time to improve their education and professional level, adjust it in the face of changing social and economic conditions. Thus, about half of the respondents allocate material and money from income received for their self-education; improve their educational and professional level. This figure increased in recent years, reflecting the desire of women to be in demand in society and constantly improve their skills and that is the reason why more than half of women are willing to learn a new profession, to get popular specialties.

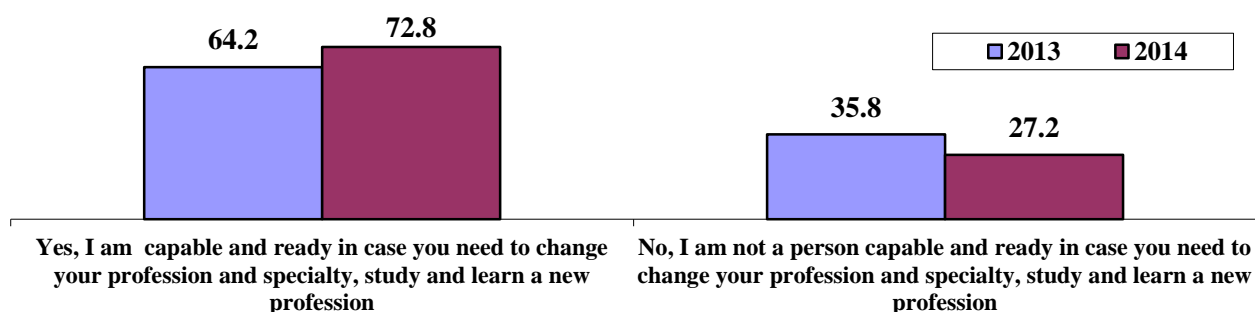
One of the most important criteria for the potential of women is their level of education. The survey showed that among women there is an understanding of the importance of vocational education for the promotion of the labor market. This is confirmed by the answers of the

respondents. 73.8% of respondents indicated that for "modern woman is very important to be a highly qualified professional women", as it is namely the level of professionalism and skill determine its further progress in the labor market, competitiveness and getting a prestigious job.

The real achievements of the country in moving towards a truly democratic society of equal opportunities reflect the degree of female employment in the economy. In the survey, more than half of the female respondents expressed their desire to get promoted. It is clear that the inclusion of women in public life not only meets their material needs, but also develops and reveals their natural ability, the desire to grow and develop. This confirms the fact that the women of Uzbekistan have a high potential to achieve professional growth, and this is an important factor in career development and the highlight of the labor market, where women can compete with men.

Willingness to quickly learn the profession demanded in the market, new skills are prerequisites for successful competition in the labor market. The survey showed that 72.8% of women are confident in themselves and their abilities. The majority of female respondents consider themselves to be able, if necessary, to learn a new profession. This trend is evidence that women are becoming more active, independent, self-confident and not afraid of difficulties.

**Picture. 4. You belong to the people able and willing to change their professions and occupations, to learn and master new profession or not? (Respondents in %)**



As a result of targeted comprehensive measures to support small business and private entrepreneurship, Uzbekistan has a business environment conducive to the intensive development of the private sector.

Analysis of the survey results showed a positive trend of increasing the number of women who choose to engage in entrepreneurial activity over the past few years, as well as those women who are already engaged in their own business.

Participation of women in entrepreneurial activity is of great social significance: women become active participants in social and economic life, their income is the replenishment of the family budget, and financial independence of women makes her self-confident, leading to increased social status.

Involvement of women in entrepreneurial activity is of particular social importance. This important aspect is reflected in the very essence of public policies to support small business and

private entrepreneurship. In particular, business and enterprising women who want to start or already running their business, there are additional incentives; measures are being taken to implement the economic empowerment of women, to create opportunities for the successful conduct of their business activities. This is a free access to credit and financial services of commercial banks, large-scale outreach, various trainings, seminars, and other events for women entrepreneurs.

Therefore, the results of opinion polls show that over the years of independence, role and status of women in all spheres of life in the country has increased, there have been significant changes in the minds of women in the country in terms of their personal self-affirmation in society and family. The country has the legal rules governing the combination of women's professional and family responsibilities, health care for mothers, providing them with various benefits. Real freedom of women in economic and social life of each of them provides freedom of choice in employment, education, family, entrepreneurship, social and spiritual life.

## **2. Women and the Law. Evaluation of women's rights**

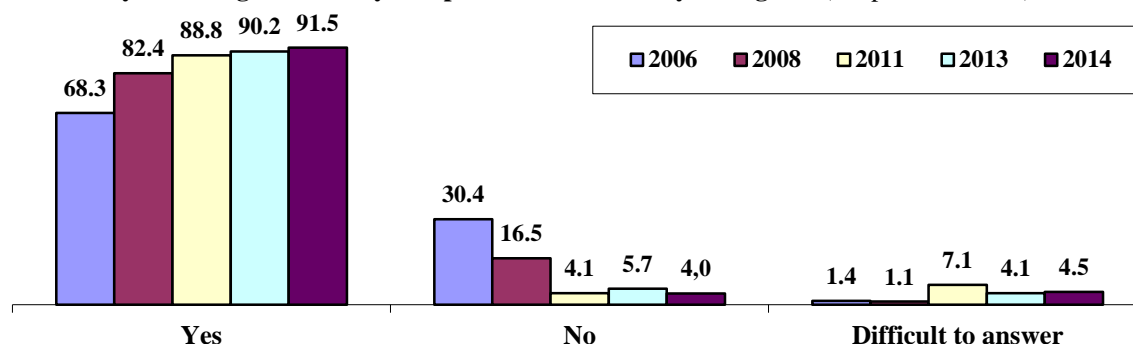
During the years of independence, Uzbekistan has significantly improved the efficiency of the legislative and oversight activities of the highest state authorities for the protection of human rights and freedoms, including women's rights. Laws have been passed aimed at further implementation of international standards and strengthening of legal mechanisms to protect human rights.

For the purposes of the practical implementation of the Programme of measures to strengthen the role of women in civil society in the country, strengthening families, ensuring their participation in state and public construction at 2013-2014, continuous works are being held to increase awareness among public servants, social and economic system, NGOs, the public in matters covered by the Convention. Particular emphasis was placed on the civil, political economic, social and cultural rights of women, children and youth. The survey showed that a lot of attention in the country devoted to identifying violations of women's rights, providing them with counseling and psychological support, timely consideration and resolution of complaints of women.

The results of studies convincingly verify that in the years of independence Uzbek women become more confident in their legal protection. Monitoring of public opinion showed a positive trend of increasing the number of women who indicated that really feel their legal protection against possible infringements of their rights.



Picture. 5. Do you feel legal immunity to a possible violation of your rights? (Respondents in %).



The high degree of sense of women of their legal protection because they are ascertain that they can find support in the event of violations of their rights in public, social and civic institutions (such as law enforcement organs, mahalla, women's councils, khokimiyaty et al.).

Table 4. If your rights are violated or infringed, then who do you contact for help and protection? (Respondents in %)

	2013	2014
To law enforcement organs	29,7	26,2
To mahalla or women's committee	24,4	<b>31,4</b>
Try to protect my own rights	16,6	19,9
To the Ombudsman, the National Centre for Human Rights	8,3	8,7
Difficult to answer	21,0	13,8

The survey identified the areas in which, in the opinion of women, their rights are most protected. High scores women give to security in respect of their right to education. In general, the survey participants noted, in their responses, the high number of educated women in our country, stressing that the country has created the most favorable conditions for their education and professional development.

Since the early years of independence in the country maternal and child health security were elevated to the rank of state policy. Opinion polls show that women in Uzbekistan appreciate its security in the area of health services.

As part of the government-approved regional programs for employment in the country, implementing a set of measures aimed at promoting employment of women in small business, farming and services, especially in rural areas. This is also reflected in the survey results, as most of the women said they feel their security and legal protection in the field of employment.

The laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Decrees of the President are aimed at improving the political status of women in the country. As shown by polls Uzbek women believe that their right to participate in public and political life of the country is also provided.

In general, the comparative analysis of the results showed a positive trend of increasing the number of women who are confident in their legal protection, particularly in the areas of education, medical services, participation in social and political life of the country, employment, etc.

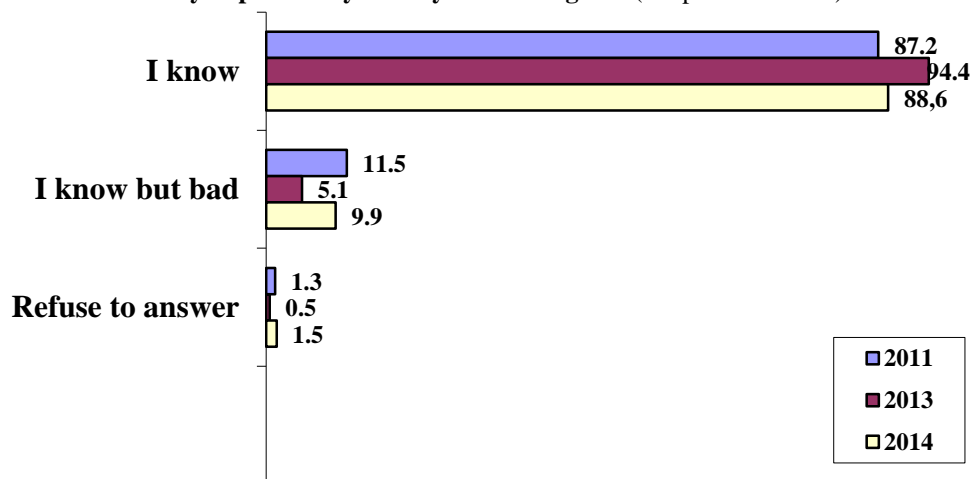
**Table 5. What do you think, to what extent, in your city and/or district the following women's rights are secured and provided? (Respondents in %)**

	Provided		Not provided		Difficult to answer	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Right to labor	93,7	95,3	3,9	2,5	2,4	2,2
Right to education	96,8	98,6	1,9	0,4	1,3	1,0
Right to qualified health care	94,5	95,5	4,1	2,6	1,4	1,9
Right to reproduction	88,1	91,1	3,5	2,5	8,4	6,4
Right to protection of honor and dignity	88,3	91,0	4,5	2,2	7,2	6,8

Currently, Uzbekistan has created the foundations of legislative support of the rights and freedoms of women, adopted about 100 laws and other legal acts aimed at further development of the institutional protection of women's rights. In this context, great importance is the problem of legal literacy of women. If a woman has a high level of legal literacy, she is able to understand the socio-political processes and an accurate assessment of what is happening in the world, in the country, will be able to defend their rights.

The survey shows that in general, women in Uzbekistan aware of their civil rights. So, most of the female respondents said that they know their civil rights. In comparison with the results of the survey 2011-2013 the number of women who know well their rights has increased significantly, indicating that the progress made in the field of legal education in the country.

**Picture. 6. To what extent do you personally know your civil rights? (Respondents in %)**



The main sources of legal information for women, according to a survey, serve the public media, especially television and the press. In rural and urban areas women are equally favored state media for legal information, especially television.

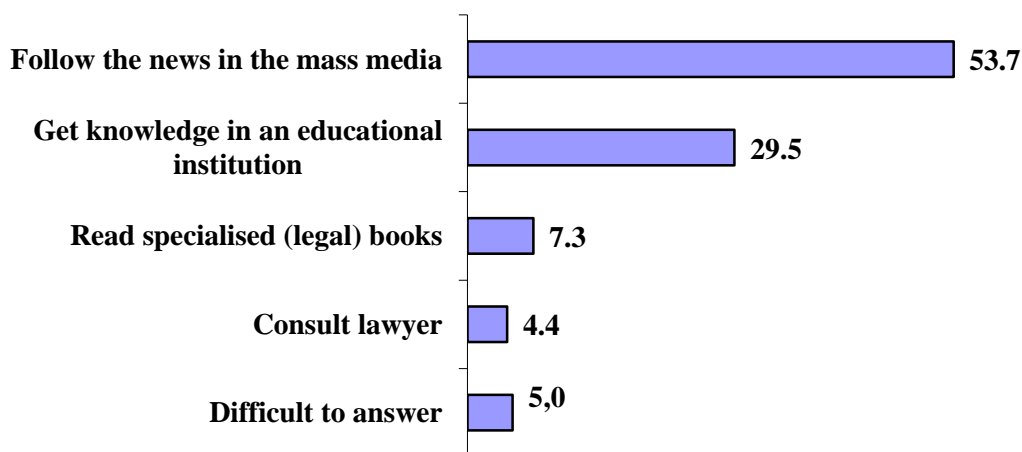
**Table 6. From what source you basically get information about your rights - women's rights?** (Respondents in %)

<i>Basic sources of information</i>	<b>overall</b>
State TV	<b>51,8</b>
Press	<b>21,6</b>
Radio	18,9
From legal literature and lawyers	7,7

Comparative analysis of the survey results from 2011 to 2014 indicates positive dynamics in the pursuit of women in Uzbekistan to improve their legal literacy. So, if the polls of 2011 accounted for 37.6% and 38.9% in 2013, women interviewed said that they spend time to increase their legal awareness, in this survey the number of female respondents with similar answers increased significantly. Basically, almost every other member of this survey (47.2%) indicated that strives to improve their legal literacy.

In order to improve its legal literacy, women try to obtain information from various sources, including the tracking information in the media, reading legal literature, acquiring knowledge in an educational institution, etc.

**Picture. 7. What are you doing to improve your legal literacy and awareness of your rights and existing laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan?** (Multiple answers)



Effective enforcement of the rights and freedoms of women in our country guarantees by formed solid legal framework, which is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The provisions of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women were implemented within the Basic Law of the country. This is Article 18 of the Constitution, which states: «All citizens of Uzbekistan have equal rights and freedoms and are equal before the law, without distinction of sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social

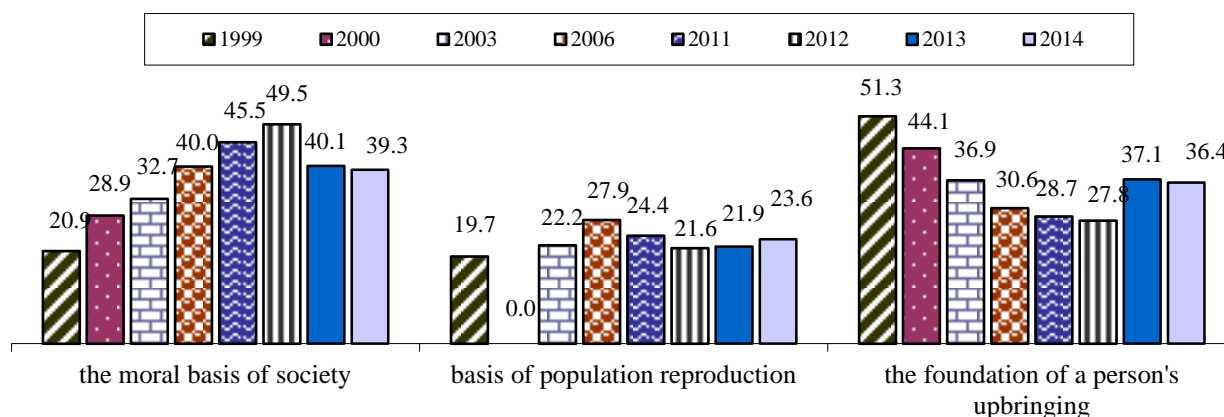
origin, belief, personal and social status»<sup>2</sup>. Also, Article 46 which states that: "Women and men have equal rights»<sup>3</sup>.Constitutional provisions provide foundations of equality between women and men, the principles of maternal and child health.

### 3. Family –society-morality

Spiritual and moral development of the family is an urgent problem that requires constant attention of specialists. Studying them through the system of sociological analysis reveals the social role of the family in the formation of the younger generation, to identify priority areas for the use of educational and moral potential of the family in promoting economic and cultural development of society. Sociological studies serve as a source to identify family problems and to develop a set of measures for its sustainable development.

Studies have shown that in the view of respondents about the social functions of the family reflect the basic ones that implement social, biological and cultural resources of the family. In its family unity these mentioned functions are developed system of family relations. Presentation of the respondents about the purpose of the family in society related to the understanding that the family is the moral basis of society - 39.3%, the foundation of a person's upbringing - 36.4%, based on the recovery of the population - 23.6%.

**Picture. 8. Dynamics of attitude of Uzbek citizens about the purpose of the family in society,%**



Comparative analysis of the results of the previous phases of the study (1999, 2003, 2006, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.) revealed the dominance of attitude among the citizens, emphasizing that the family - is the moral basis of society, which contains a great potential for the education of harmoniously developed generation.

It should be emphasized that in assessing the purpose of the family in society, depending on the region, place of residence (in the context of the city - village), gender, and the material conditions, no significant difference is noticed. As the urban people and villagers alike see the

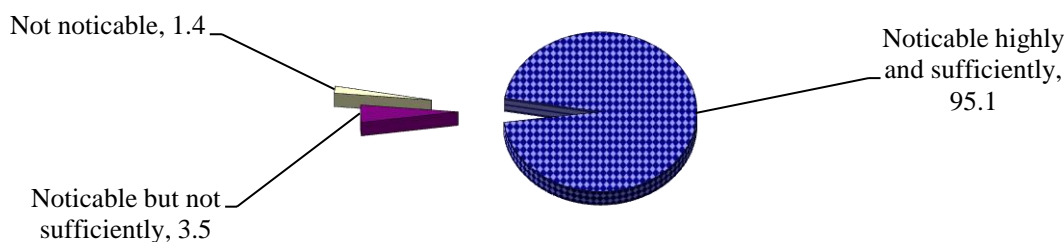
<sup>2</sup>Constitution of Republic of Uzbekistan, T., 2012, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup>ibid, p. 10.

family as moral basis of society, the foundation of education rights, the basis of human reproduction.

In the years of independence Uzbekistan pays great attention to the development of the family, on its well-being and social support. The study found high population estimate measures of state support for families - 95.1%.

**Picture. 9. Respondents' assessment of state support for families, %**



The results of the poll showed steady growth trend among those citizens who emphasize the government's attention to their family. So, if in 2011 it was indicated by 85.2% of respondents in 2012 - 85.5%, in 2013 - 89.6%, in 2014 - 95.1%.

Among the possible factors that have the greatest influence on the formation of human morality, respondents noted the major social institutions. Stable for several years, the survey supports the view of the dominating influence of Uzbek families (90.6%), mahalla (52.2%), educational institutions (47.6%), social environment (30.9%) and television (26, 2%) on the formation of human morality.

**Table 7. Perception rating of citizens about the role of social institutions in the formation of human morality, %**

<i>Preferences</i>	1999	2003	2006	2011	2012	2013	2014
Family	76,9	77,1	85,6	80,9	88,1	86,7	90,6
Mahalla	58,1	43,2	43,0	56,5	50,0	48,0	52,2
Educational institutions	48,2	43,2	45,6	49,6	57,7	52,3	47,6
The social environment (colleagues, neighbors, friends)	45,3	36,9	32,6	45,8	34,5	35,9	30,9
Television	30,1	28,1	25,0	28,6	27,8	19,9	26,2
Press	19,5	7,2	6,7	4,3	5,0	5,7	3,5
Religion	10,6	6,8	11,1	4,3	4,9	3,3	6,5
Literature	8,7	3,4	4,2	4,2	4,2	2,9	4,4
Cinema, theatre	3,8	2,2	2,1	3,3	4,2	3,7	2,8

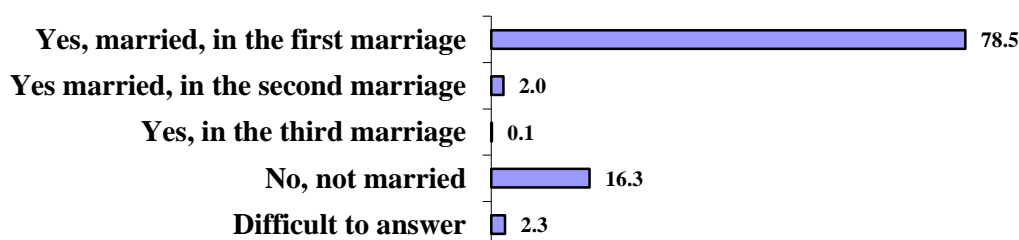
#### 4. Relationship between family members

The family, as the most important unit of society, is in constant motion and development. The formation and development of the family passes a number of stages:

- enter into marriage;
- the birth of children;
- the tendency to nuclearization of families, i.e. separation of younger and older generations, while maintaining close links between them;
- education and upbringing of children, living together with children growing up;
- aging parents.

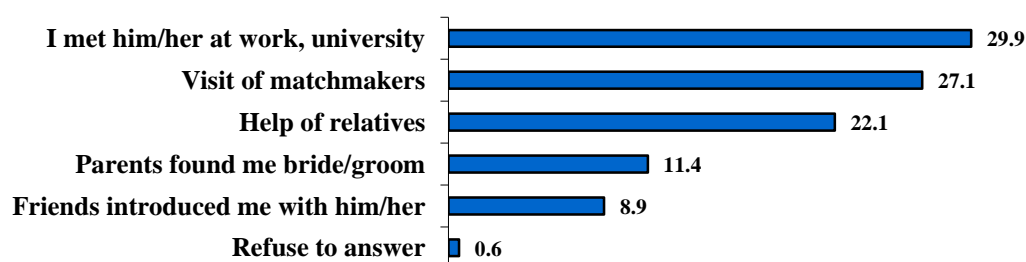
It should be noted that in lives of families there are divorces and remarriage, and the differences in the duration of the joint life of the spouses and childlessness, which impose significant changes in the life cycle and structure of families, on the relationship between family members. As shown by polls, a majority of citizens is in the first marriage, one sixth of the respondents indicated that they do not yet have a family.

Picture.10. Are you married? (Respondents in %)



The survey figured out the views of citizens on how they met with their spouses. A third of respondents said that this event happened in their lives on their own initiative, 27.1% of respondents indicated that helped matchmakers. Some respondents pointed to the help of relatives, parents and friends.

Picture.11. How you met your soulmate? (в % от числа опрошенных)



Family in Uzbekistan is a kind of living organism, the basis of which, as shown by the results of the poll, is the love and respect - more than half of the respondents to the question about his/her attitude to the spouse pointed to these characteristics. At the same time, respondents were marked by such characteristics expressing relations between spouses as friendship, patience and just a habit. Some of the respondents were of the opinion that it is a vital necessity.

**Table 8. Which of the following best describes your attitude to your spouse?** (respondents in %, up to two possible answers)

Love	57,9
Respects	54,2
Compassion	24,3
Friendship	18,5
Patience	9,6
Habit	6,5
Vital necessity	4,4
Difficult to answer	1,4

The study has been tasked to describe his/her spouse, to name a certain personality trait that is inherent in a loved one. Received the following answers:

- Noble, generous - 30.2%
- Strong-willed, strong spirit - 12.0%
- Romantic, good- 11.7%
- Polite, compliant, loves children - 7.2%
- Trim, helpful - 2.5%
- Jolly, Happy- 1.6%
- Difficult to answer - 34.8%

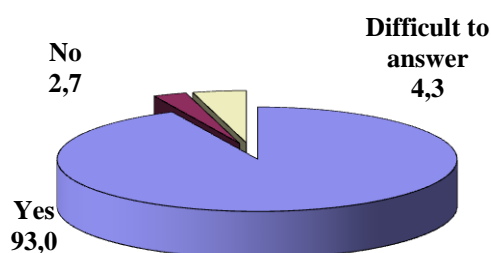
According to exit polls in the vast majority in Uzbek families are formed good relationships among its members, more than 90% of the respondents pointed to this fact. Moreover, 45.2% of respondents indicated that the basic principle of the relationship is mutual respect, understanding, and spiritual kinship.

**Table 9. On what principles mainly relationships between the members of your family are built?**(Respondents in %)

Possible answers	Overall		
	2009	2011	2014
On mutual respect, understanding and tolerance, spiritual kinship	46,0	42,5	45,2
On love	35,7	32,3	33,4
On a clear division of functions between family members	5,6	8,5	7,1
On the absolute authority and the casting vote of older family members	5,8	9,0	6,9
On the absolute authority and the final words of the father - head of household	5,8	6,4	6,2
On the principle of financial self-reliance	0,4	0,9	0,5
On the principle of spiritual independence	0,5	0,3	0,3
Difficult to answer	0,2	0,1	0,4

The absolute majority of those polled think (93.0%), in each family must be the head of the family (paternalistic family). Supporters of consensual type of family (2.7%) think the head does not have to be. The remaining 4.3% of the respondents were undecided.

**Picture.12. What do you think, do any of the family members should be head of the family? (Respondents in %)**



The main argument why the family should have the head, respondents were given following views:

- With no head in the family there is no order, mutual respect and mutual responsibility - 60.5%
- To avoid conflicts between family members there should be the authority, which would have listened to all - 21.0%
- For a reasonable and thrifty disposition family budget in the interests of the whole family, all family members - 12.0%
  - To maintain the natural authority of the man, the father, the natural destiny of men in the family to be its head - 6.0%
- Difficult to answer - 0.5%

Analysis of the results of the responses for several years has shown that in recent years the trend of Uzbek families reduce certain range of issues of family conversations, especially in the discussion of current social and domestic problems. And, as can be seen in family conversations dominated by the topic of work and study any of the family members, as well as the education of children, to raise the morality and spirituality.

**Table10. What topics do you most often talk about with your family? (Respondents in %, up to two possible answers)**

Possible answers	2009	2011	2014
On the solution of current social and domestic problems	30,1	46,7	34,5
On the work or study any of the family members or the general family business	35,6	31,5	36,7
On the education of children about morality and spirituality	28,2	26,7	29,2
About viewed programs or films on TV	20,2	17,8	12,5
The life of the country, region, world	5,7	7,6	4,9
About religion	1,2	1,1	1,1
About financial problems	-	32,9	29,0
Health issues of relatives	-	0,2	-
On the topic of the moral state of society and the individual	-	-	11,5
About economic situation of the country	-	-	4,5
Difficult to answer	0,3	0,3	0,5

One of the goals of the survey was to identify the main conditions for building a strong, happy and prosperous family. The study showed that the spiritual kinship, mutual understanding,



the moral climate, as well as mutual love is the basic foundation of building a family, and this figure, as the survey showed, tends to increase in recent years.

**Table 11. What, in your opinion, is the main necessary first condition for building strong, happy and prosperous family? (Respondents in %)**

Possible answers	2009	2011	2014
Spiritual kinship, mutual understanding, the moral climate in the family	29,5	26,4	28,9
Financial well-being	26,8	27,4	22,8
Mutual respect and tolerance	18,6	20,0	16,7
Mutual love	19,2	16,7	19,3
Clear allocation of functional responsibilities of each member of the family	3,9	7,3	9,5
Strict implementation of religious prescriptions, national traditions and rituals	1,4	1,7	1,9
Difficult to answer	0,6	0,4	0,9

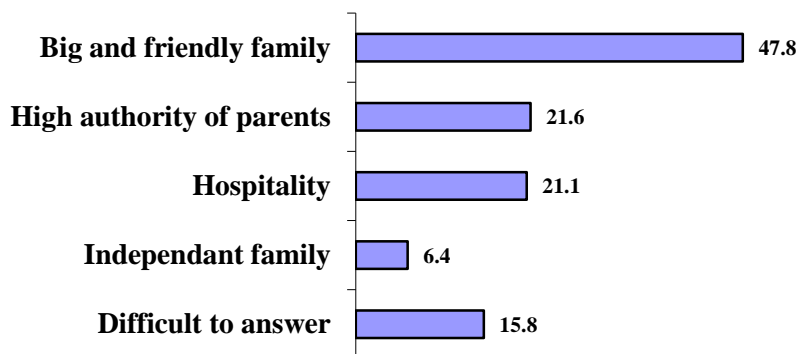
Polls have shown that the basic foundations of the traditional respect for parents, for elders, between spouses, which are the main national and cultural values of our people remain firm. As can be seen, the degree family members' respect to each other in recent years has increased and remains high.

**Table 12. In your opinion, how in the years of independence has changed the degree of respect among family members and relatives? (Respondents in %)**

	Respect increased			As high as it was			As low as it was			Decreased			Difficult to answer		
	2009	2011	2014	2009	2011	2014	2009	2011	2014	2009	2011	2014	2009	2011	2014
Husbands' respect to wife	43,2	36,7	55,6	40,6	43,3	30,5	5,7	4,6	2,5	7,0	9,1	4,0	3,5	6,3	7,4
Wife's respect to husband	42,2	31,6	51,5	40,7	48,8	34,6	3,7	2,6	1,8	9,5	11,1	5,1	3,9	5,9	7,0
Children's respect to parents	41,1	33,2	51,5	42,3	50,0	35,2	5,3	2,2	2,9	9,2	8,9	6,1	2,2	5,7	4,3
Parents' respect to children	40,6	30,6	55,3	47,6	58,2	36,6	5,5	1,6	1,5	3,7	3,1	2,1	2,7	6,6	4,5

Family is the primary unit of the community. All society is composed of such units. However, this is not just a link, but a union consisting of parents and their children living in the same house. Family and Society tightly linked to each other. The surveys were given the task - to identify citizens of the Republic: what is Uzbek family. About half of the respondents answered that it was a big happy family, which have such characteristics as respect and hospitality

**Picture.13. How would you personally explain what is Uzbek family, name two or three, in your opinion, the main features and characteristics of Uzbek family? (Respondents in %)**



The results of the poll allowed defining the main positive characteristics of Uzbek family. More than a third of respondents said such things as mutual respect and sincerity, love for children and respect for elders.

**Table13. What are, in your opinion, the most positive traits and characteristics of Uzbek family? (multiple answers in %)**

Mutual respect, sincerity	37,8
Love to parents	35,5
Hospitality	18,5
Hard working	18,7
Love to children	15,5
Respect to elders	17,5
Difficult to answer	17,8

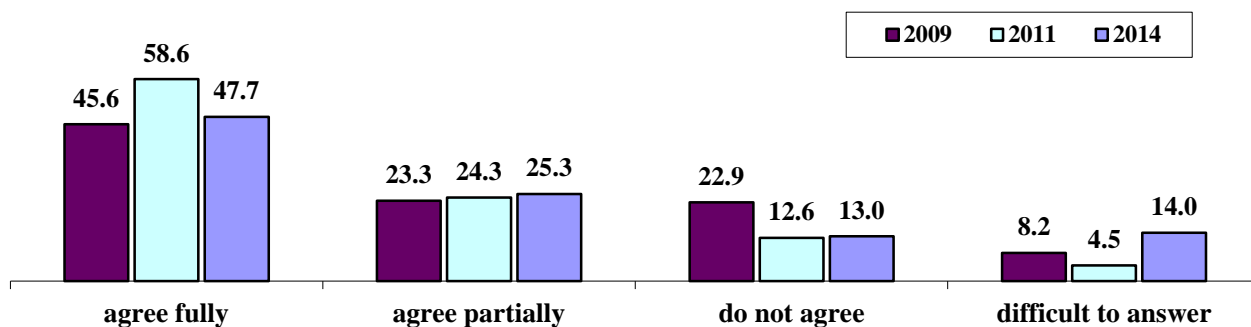
Thus, in the Uzbek society a positive trend in family values is traced. According to the survey participants, the basic principles on which to build relationships between members of the Uzbek family are mutual respect and understanding, spiritual kinship, love, patience and hard work.

## **5. Parents and children: reproductive attitudes of citizens**

Conducted surveys showed that during the years of independence the country has stabilized trend strengthening reproductive attitudes of citizens. Almost half of respondents strongly agreed with the statement that "the family without children or a child - not a normal family that the main meaning and value of the family is in the presence of children." Over the past two years, this figure dropped slightly, but continues to maintain a high level.

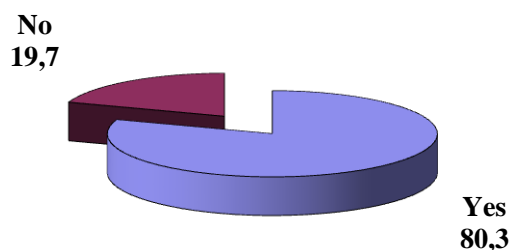
**Picture.14. What do you think about the statement that the family without children or a child - not a normal family that the main meaning and value of the family is in the presence of children?**

( в % от числа опрошенных)



Results of the survey show that children were and still are the main value of the Uzbek family. This conclusion is confirmed by the fact that 80.3% of the respondents have children.

**Picture. 15. Do you have children?** (Respondents in %)



Overall, the survey results show quite clearly a tendency to reduce the number of large families. Reproductive attitudes of citizens to form families with 4 kids and especially 5 or more in recent years reduced. The manifestation of this trend is due to occurred over the years of independence changes in the thought processes and the psychology of men and women, the presence of the necessary conditions for improving the health of mother and child, possibility to pay more attention to each child, and desire to create a healthy and normal family.

Responding to a question about how many children would people like to have, respondents most often tended to three children and a little less - to four or two, with young people up to 30 years prefer three or two-child family. Citizens older than 30 years are most like to have four children in the family.

**Table 14. Answers to the question: «How many kids you would like to have»**

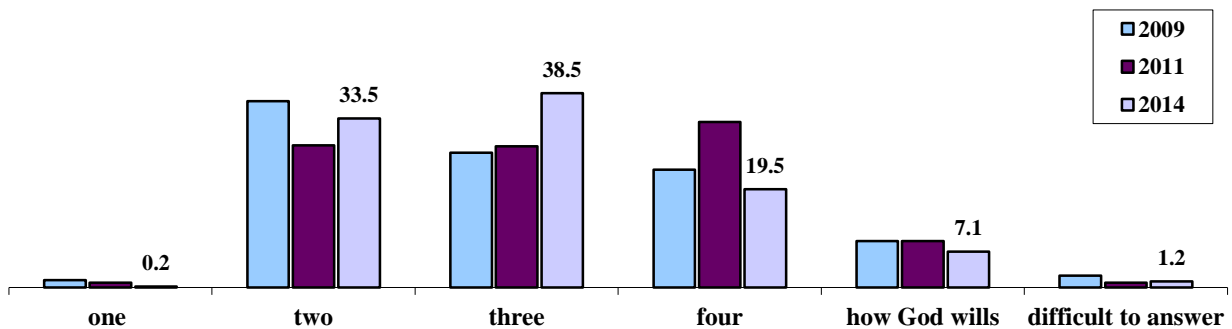
(Respondents in %)

	One	Two	Three	Four	Five and more	No kids	Diff. to answer
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>23,6</b>	<b>35,6</b>	<b>27,6</b>	<b>9,3</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>0,7</b>
Urban	1,4	25,7	35,5	25,7	8,1	3,5	0,2
Rural	0,9	21,5	35,8	29,8	10,5	0,2	1,3
<i>Men</i>	1,9	23,7	36,0	27,4	9,7	0,2	1,2
<i>Women</i>	0,7	23,6	35,3	27,9	9,0	3,3	0,3

	One	Two	Three	Four	Five and more	No kids	Diff. to answer
18-20 years	-	36,2	45,0	15,0	-	-	3,8
21-30 years	0,7	34,4	42,1	19,6	1,4	0,4	1,4
31-40 years	-	25,5	39,4	26,9	7,2	0,5	0,5
41-49years	1,8	18,1	29,6	29,5	10,6	1,3	5,74

The results showed that 38.5% of citizens believe that the best way to give birth and to have a family of three children. In 2011, according to every third of respondents (36.9%) preference was given to four or more children in the family. This figure has grown considerably in comparison with previous years. Also increased the number of respondents who answered that the optimal number of children in the family - two (in 2011 - three). As for the answers, which consider "three children", their number has grown by more than 10% and the number answered "four children" - decreased by 13.3%.

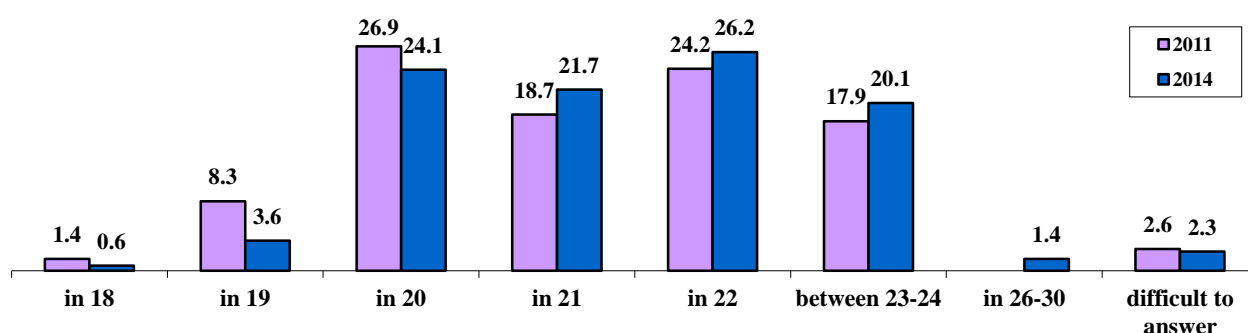
**Picture. 16. In your opinion, how many children better to have in the family? (Respondents in %)**



Most people explain their choice of so many children that in this case the mother and child will be provided with good health in the modern family. This point of view expressed 35.9% of respondents, both men and women.

The results of the survey showed that one in four respondents said the most optimal for the birth of their first child for the woman is the age from 20 to 22 years, one in five - the age of 23-25 years. Compared with previous surveys the number of respondents who reported the optimal age at first birth women 21-22 years has increased. Accordingly almost double decrease occurred in the number of identified this range for women aged 18-19 years.

**Picture. 17. In your opinion, what is the best age for woman to give a first birth? (Respondents in %)**



Need to comply with the time interval between births is an important condition for the preservation of reproductive health of women. According to medical recommendations, this interval must be at least three years. The respondents' answers obtained in the study indicate that the level of awareness of citizens on this issue in recent years continues to rise. The vast majority of respondents - 86.7% generally believe that the interval between pregnancies should be a minimum of 2 to 3 years or more (in 2011 it was 83.1%). If in 2011 the majority (43.5%) of respondents said the interval between births in the range of 2 to 3 years, in 2014, 46.3% of citizens by majority of its defined as the interval between "more than 3 years". The number of responses not imposes restrictions on the range, reduced several times.

**Table 15. Answers to the question: «What, in your opinion, should be an interval between births?» (Respondents in %)**

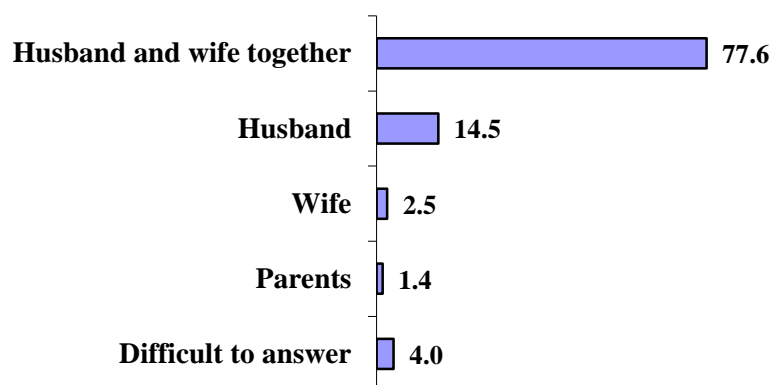
1 year		From 1 to 1,5 years		From 1,5 to 2 years		From 2 to 3 years		More than 3 years		How God wills		Diffic.to answer	
2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014	2011	2014
0,6	0,4	1,3	1,5	10,3	7,2	43,5	40,4	39,6	46,3	2,7	0,5	2,0	3,7

The survey results show that the positive trends in family planning for the years of independence have changed. Attitude of citizens towards increasing the interval between births and adequate health care advice, according to the majority of the surveyed population is three years or more, that indicates a change in the behavior and psychology of citizens, the increased level of medical culture and health literacy for men and women.

Acquired in the result of survey, fairly high level of awareness of citizens on the interval between births are due to regional centers and its regular and systematic work to educate citizens to ensure maternal and child health, health of mothers and children, particularly the youth and young women. This positive result indicates an increase in health literacy, also achieved due to the fact that advocacy involves all the structures of the health system (from the Ministry of Health and ending rural health centers), and all the media, neighborhood committees, numerous civil society organizations and NGOs.

Polls have shown that, in the opinion of citizens, the decision about the birth of another child, as a rule, take a husband and wife together. This point of view was expressed by the vast majority of respondents (80%). 14.5% give priority in this issue to men, and much less - 2.5% - to a woman. Parents' opinion, it follows from the results of the survey, almost irrelevant.

**Picture. 18. Who are the members of the family, in your opinion, as a rule, decides on the birth of another child, i.e. who owns a casting vote? (Respondents in %)**



The main, most important and decisive factor in the decision to have another child, remains a desire to have more than one child. Continues to increase the percentage of people for whom the decisive factor when deciding on the birth of another child is the health of the expectant mother (wife), indicating that the increase in health literacy and changing over the years of independence of thought and behavior of citizens and adopted by the State measures to ensure the safety of motherhood and childhood, strengthening the health of mother and child. In recent years the health factor of mother at birth of another child grew up to 4.5% from 13.9% in 2009 to 18.3% in 2014.

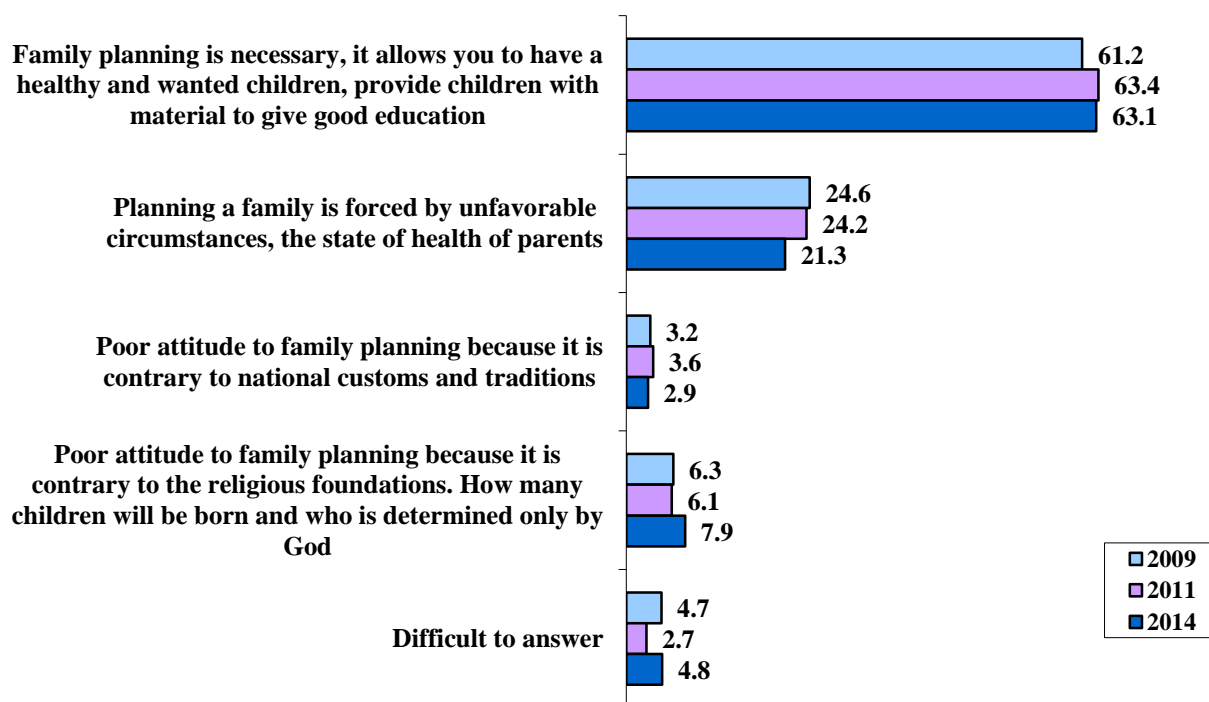
**Table16. Answers to the question: «When deciding on the birth of another child, which factor is most important and decisive?»(Respondents in %)**

Possible answers	2009	2011	2014
The desire to have two, three or more children, regardless of their gender	34,0	32,6	28,4
Financial level of the family	18,6	23,0	25,7
To give birth to a boy in any case	17,9	13,8	12,5
Health of the mother / wife, father / mother	13,9	17,7	18,3
Compliance with ethnic, tribal and local traditions	10,0	8,6	9,5
Following the religious precepts	1,1	1,2	0,3
Difficult to answer	4,5	3,1	5,3

One of the main goals of the survey was to identify attitudes toward family planning, planning the birth of a child. According to poll results, Uzbek citizens attach great importance to this issue.

According to the study, the proportion of citizens who consider family planning as a necessary and positive step, which gives the opportunity to have healthy and wanted children, provide them with material to give them a good education, and by strengthening the increasing role and responsibility of the health system, to ensure the formation of a healthy younger generation.

**Picture. 19. Which of the following statements reflects your attitude to the whole issue of family planning, i.e., planning childbirth? (Respondents in %)**



Before gaining independence in Uzbek society there was a belief that "family planning - it's bad," it leads to birth control and population decline, affects the natural processes of human development, limits the desire of people to have large families. At the same time at a low level was a medical culture of the population in the relations between the sexes and medical care of these issues. As a result, large families were not always able to provide the children financially, give them proper education, to arrange their future life.

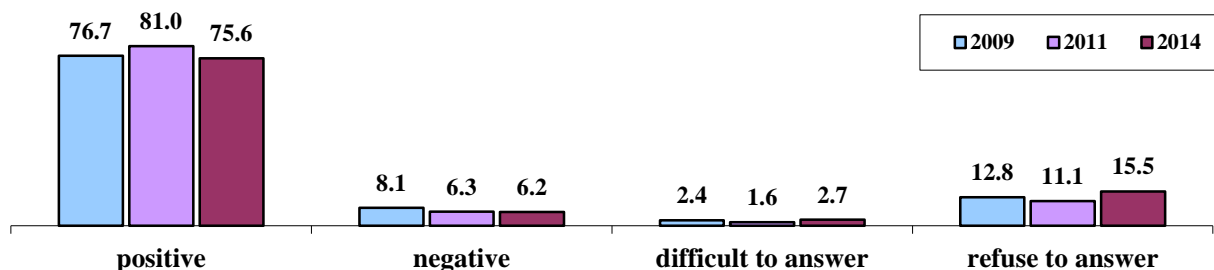
During the years of independence, the country underwent major transformations to improve the quality of life, the possibility to receive a proper education; there are processes of change in attitudes and thinking, behavior and psychology of citizens. At the new level, state implemented reforms in health care, adopted organizational and legal conditions for the formation of a healthy and harmoniously developed generation. The country carried out extensive work aimed at further strengthening reproductive health, strengthening the material-technical base and human resource capacity of health facilities providing care in the field of maternal and child health, introduction of modern methods of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases of women, children and adolescents, strengthening the role and responsibilities of the health care system for the formation of healthy generation.

Public understanding of family planning for years of independence has changed radically. As follows from the results of the survey, citizens began to understand and realize the importance of maintaining the health of mother and child, compliance with the required birth interval and the optimal distribution of material resources in the family to ensure the future of children.

Most of the respondents believe that "family planning is necessary; it allows you to have healthy and wanted children, provide children financially, and give them a good education." Approximately one in five of the respondents are inclined to think that "family planning is forced by adverse circumstances, the health of the parents." This indicator in recent years has tended to decline.

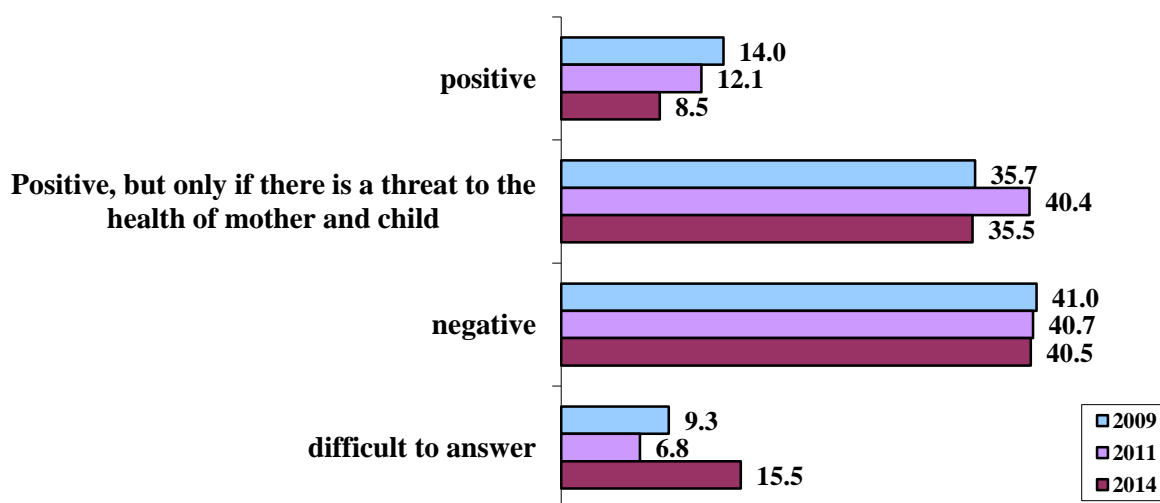
As the results of the survey, the number of participants who have positive attitude towards the issue of protection from unwanted pregnancy has stabilized from the vast majority. Thus, the level of this indicator was 76.7% - in 2009, 81.0% - in 2011 and 75.6% - in 2014. Trend indicators of negative answers in this case are to reduce the dynamics of.

**Picture. 20. What do you feel about the issue of protection from unwanted pregnancy?** (Respondents in %)



Simultaneously, the survey found consistently negative attitudes toward abortion. Over 40% of respondents expressed stably in recent years their negative attitude. Approximately 40% of respondents admit abortion only in case of threat to the health of the mother or child.

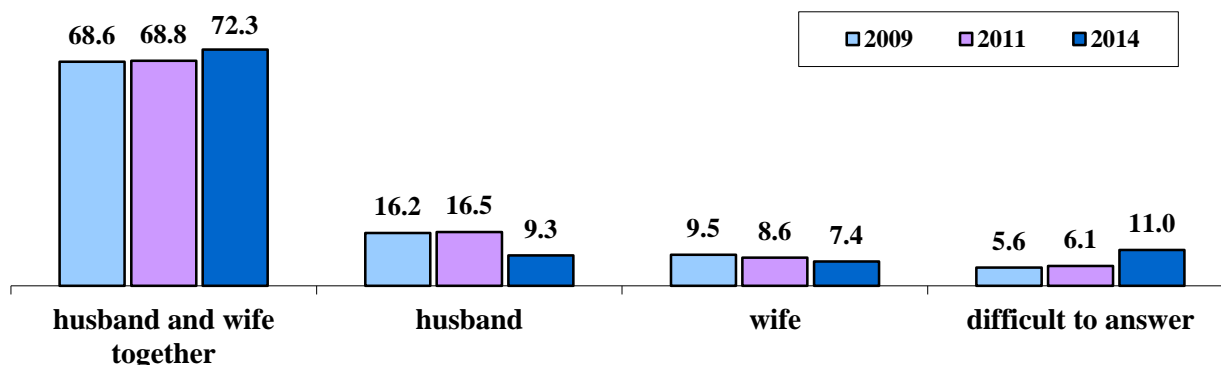
**Picture. 21. How do u feel about abortion, i.e. artificial interruption of the pregnancy?** (Respondents in %)



Polls show that the majority of the population believes that about the application of family planning methods (protection against unwanted pregnancy) should worry both of the spouses equally. Striking fact is that the number of citizens, who is responsible for protection from unwanted pregnancy for a woman, in recent years, has decreased, however, and the responsibility of men in 2014 said much fewer people than in previous years.



**Picture. 22. What do you think who of the spouses should be worried about the application of various methods of family planning?(Respondents in %)**



## Conclusion

The results of public opinion polls conducted by the Center "Ijtimoiy Fikr" in monitoring mode, strongly suggests that women are playing an increasing role in all spheres of the Uzbek society, due to the conditions that are created in the country as a result of government policies aimed at protecting the rights and social support for women. The country has the legal rules governing the combination of women's professional and family responsibilities, the protection of maternal health, the provision of social benefits and preferences. Real freedom of women in economic and social life of each of them provides freedom of choice in employment, education, family, entrepreneurship, social and spiritual life.

Surveys revealed that during the years of independence Uzbek women become more confident in their legal protection. There is a positive trend of increasing the number of women who indicated that really feel their legal protection (91.5%). The high degree of sense of women of their legal protection because they are convinced that they can find support in the event of violations of their rights in public, social and civil institutions of the country. Effective enforcement of the rights and freedoms of women in the country guarantees, according to the women, a strong legal framework, which is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Polls have shown that a family in Uzbekistan preserves its social and moral value. Family and family foundations are the most important priority values in the system and the structure of values of citizens of Uzbekistan.

During the years of independence in Uzbek society there are positive trends in reproductive attitudes of citizens. Almost half of respondents strongly agreed with the statement that "the family without children or a child - not a normal family that the main meaning and value of the family - in the presence of children." The stability of the citizens' opinion polls indicated for several years. This confirms the fact that the children were and still are the main value of the Uzbek family.

Polls have shown that Uzbek citizens demonstrate importance to family planning, attitude about which during the years of independence has changed dramatically among citizens of Uzbekistan. As follows from the results of the poll, changes in thinking, behavior and

psychology of citizens who now realize the importance of preserving reproductive health of mother and child, compliance with the required birth interval have occurred. Important for Uzbek citizens acquiring the optimal distribution of material resources in the family to ensure the planned number of children, the most complete possible quality of life in a prosperous society. The resulting survey data capture consistently high positive attitude to the issue of citizens evaluating family planning as a necessary and positive step, which gives the opportunity to have a healthy and wanted children, provide them with material to give them a good education, and by strengthening the increasing role and responsibility of the health system, to ensure the formation of a healthy younger generation.

Public opinion in the years of independence, regular opinion polls in the monitoring mode, as itself is an important indicator of the development of civil society. The freedom to study public opinion in Uzbekistan expresses the human right to information, the promotion of equality between women and men, which is a fundamental and integral part of democratic governance.

The needs and interests of both sexes equal opportunities for women and men to create a harmonious society, improves the quality of life, increases the economic progress and development, so further study of public opinion on the basis of the various monitoring public opinion polls allows to find new mechanisms and ways to improve the legal culture and deepening cooperation between the state and civil society organizations.