

WOMEN – THE PILLARS OF OUR SOCIETY

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Karakalpak State University Women – the pillars of our Society

Summary: *The article talks about the main role of women in social life based on folklore.*

Keywords: *women, society, folklore, dastan, image*

In times of adversity, protecting the rights and interests of women, ensuring their full participation in the national economy, politics, and social life, preserving their health, providing education, and guaranteeing equal opportunities in science, culture, morality, and social protection is a matter of great importance. Our President has emphasized, "Today, every woman is not only a guardian of the family, but should also be an active participant in the democratic changes taking place in our country" [1].

The attitude towards women in our country is rooted in historical traditions. Our ancestors raised the future generation with the values of respecting and honoring women. Certainly, the cultural level and moral development of any society are reflected in its attitude toward women. Today, the place of women has become one of the key aspects of our state policy, especially in relation to the upbringing of youth. This is because the status of women is a key factor in determining the well-being of society.

As President Sh. Mirziyoyev said: "Our people have always shown great respect and reverence for women and mothers. Respect for women is a sign of respect for the future of society. Therefore, the cultural level of any society is determined by its attitude toward women" [2]. These wise words carry profound meaning.

Indeed, women are the foundation of our society, the core of our lives. With their presence, our lives become beautiful, our homes prosperous, and our culture enriched. A nation that respects women will prosper in the present and future. The labor of women nurtures the development of society, enabling it to achieve progress and success.

Currently, the role of women in our society is steadily rising. They are increasingly becoming an integral force in society. In every nation, the role of women has always been essential in shaping the cultural and social life. Women's inherent qualities—being observers, critics, and resilient performers—have been crucial throughout history in ensuring the strength and stability of any state.

Throughout history, female leaders have played a significant role in shaping the direction of their countries. Many of them were close advisors, supporters, and thinkers, especially in the earlier periods of history when their subtle perceptions helped their societies navigate challenges that men did not notice. This has led to the upbringing of strong, wise leaders throughout history.

The image of women in Karakalpak folklore and epics shows their wisdom, bravery, and role as educators of the younger generation. In Karakalpak epics, women are not only depicted as beautiful but also as wise and brave. They are often seen as the closest companions and advisors to the heroes of the stories. For example, the Karakalpak epics

present the characters of women like Gulayim, Ayparsha, and Altınay as wise, brave leaders and warriors. These characters are often portrayed as central figures in the struggle for freedom and the defense of the nation.

In addition to physical beauty, these women were known for their intellectual strength, courage, and the role they played in protecting their families and nations. The Karakalpak people have long revered women for their wisdom and bravery, as seen in their epics and folklore.

Notably, the folk tales also show how women contributed to the broader welfare of society. Women like Gulayim and Qanshayim, who fought alongside men in battles and helped in the struggles for national freedom, symbolize the strength of women in Karakalpak culture. They are depicted as possessing not only physical beauty but also intelligence, wisdom, and deep moral integrity.

In the modern context of Uzbekistan, women continue to evolve and contribute to the progress of society. Today, they are increasingly active in various fields, ensuring their rightful place in the advancement of the state and society.

They receive education, improve their skills, and participate in the democratic processes of the country.

In conclusion, the role of women in Karakalpak folklore and literature reflects the deep respect and admiration for women in society.

These women are depicted as strong, intelligent, and brave individuals who have a profound influence on the development of their communities.

Their contributions, both in times of peace and war, have shaped the course of history and continue to inspire future generations of women in Uzbekistan.

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