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INNOVATIVE MECHANISMS FOR THE STATISTICAL ASSESSMENT OF POPULATION QUALITY OF LIFE AND LIVING STANDARDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND DIRECTIONS FOR THEIR IMPROVEMENT UNDER CONDITIONS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

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Abstract. This article examines contemporary approaches, innovative mechanisms, and key directions for improving the statistical assessment of population quality of life and living standards in the Republic of Uzbekistan under conditions of sustainable economic growth. It substantiates the role of major indicators, including income, employment, education, healthcare, housing conditions, environmental quality, and digital infrastructure, in evaluating population well-being. In addition, the study statistically demonstrates the close relationship between quality of life and the principal drivers of sustainable development, including the green economy, digital transformation, and sustainable economic growth.

Keywords: quality of life; living standards; statistical assessment; population well-being; digital economy; sustainable economic growth; Big Data; artificial intelligence; composite index.

Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются современные подходы, инновационные механизмы и ключевые направления совершенствования статистической оценки качества и уровня жизни населения Республики Узбекистан в условиях устойчивого экономического роста. Обоснована роль основных показателей, включая доходы, занятость, образование, здравоохранение, жилищные условия, качество окружающей среды и цифровую инфраструктуру, в оценке благосостояния населения. Кроме того, в исследовании на основе статистического подхода раскрывается тесная взаимосвязь между качеством жизни и ключевыми факторами устойчивого развития, включая зелёную экономику, цифровую трансформацию и устойчивый экономический рост.

Ключевые слова: качество жизни; уровень жизни; статистическая оценка; благосостояние населения; цифровая экономика; устойчивый экономический рост; большие данные (Big Data); искусственный интеллект; интегральный индекс.

INTRODUCTION

In the context of globalization, the development of countries is assessed not only by the size of their gross domestic product (GDP), but also by the quality of life and living standards of their populations. The development of human capital, social protection, environmental sustainability, and digital accessibility has become an essential dimension of modern well-being [1]. In Uzbekistan, comprehensive reforms aimed at improving living standards, reducing poverty, and accelerating regional development are being implemented within the frameworks of the "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy. Therefore, the statistical assessment of quality of life is of considerable scientific and practical importance.

Quality of life is a multidimensional concept that reflects the extent to which the material, social, and environmental needs of the population are satisfied, whereas living standards are primarily characterized by income, consumption, employment, and housing conditions [3]. In international practice, quality of life

is assessed using indicators such as income, poverty, employment, life expectancy, healthcare, education, environmental quality, and access to digital services.

Within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), quality of life is assessed through the Human Development Index (HDI) [4]. This index integrates three fundamental dimensions of human development—a long and healthy life, access to education, and a decent standard of living—and serves as an important instrument for the comprehensive assessment of countries' socio-economic development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Issues related to quality of life and population well-being have been extensively examined in the international economic literature. The Human Development Index (HDI), developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is widely recognized as one of the principal international indicators for assessing countries' levels of socio-economic development [4].

Domestic scholars have mainly focused on such areas as living standards, poverty reduction, employment, and the green economy [3]. At the same time, there remains considerable scope for further research on the comprehensive statistical assessment of quality of life in Uzbekistan through the application of digital technologies.

The scientific novelty of this study lies in proposing an integrated approach to the statistical assessment of quality of life under the conditions of Uzbekistan's ongoing digital transformation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the objectives and tasks of the study, a set of contemporary statistical and economic analysis methods was employed. Time-series analysis was used to examine trends, growth rates, and patterns of sustainable development in key socio-economic indicators over time. This approach made it possible to identify the dynamics of population well-being indicators and assess their long-term development.

The index method was applied to represent complex and multidimensional processes through a single composite indicator. This method facilitated the assessment of overall trends in quality of life and living standards, the identification of the effects of various socio-economic factors, and the development of regional rankings based on integrated performance measures.

In addition, graphical and tabular analysis methods were used to present statistical information in a clear and accessible form, thereby improving data interpretation and strengthening the validity of the research findings. Graphical analysis was employed to illustrate changes and trends over time, while tabular analysis provided a detailed representation of the structure and dynamics of the selected indicators.

Furthermore, a composite assessment model was developed to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the population's quality of life. The proposed model integrates key dimensions, including income, employment, healthcare, education, environmental conditions, and digital infrastructure, into a unified assessment framework. This approach enables the measurement and comparison of overall well-being across the regions of Uzbekistan.

The empirical analysis was based on data obtained from the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and official national legislative and regulatory documents currently in force [5]. These data sources provided a reliable and scientifically grounded basis for the research findings.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Population Income in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Its Regions, 2014–2025¹

Classification	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Republic of Uzbekistan	4472	5127.5	5887.9	7258.7	8337.8	10176.6	11412.9	14232.5	16800.4	19456.4	23414.4	27511.7
Republic of Karakalpakstan	3138.8	3703.2	4134.7	5245.3	6232.6	7711.1	8882.1	10890.5	12558.2	14203.9	16699.4	18974.8
Andijan Region	4000	4574.7	5344.9	6709.2	7698.4	9466.5	10264.3	12530.4	15122.1	18272.2	22139.4	24237.5
Bukhara Region	5356.6	6094.1	6974.1	8739.6	10506.1	12373.6	13870.4	17623.2	20489.6	23073.5	27036.7	32322.2
Jizzakh Region	3851.7	4571	5182.1	6454.5	7815.4	9047.8	10262.9	12512.3	14226.2	16210.1	18368.3	21128.4
Kashkadarya Region	3918.4	4387.4	5219.1	6323.3	7137	8635.2	9560.5	11631.8	13779.3	15375.6	18212	21605.4

¹ author's development

Navoi Region	6893.8	8314.1	9257.2	11254.6	13133.1	16329.5	19280.8	24010.5	25887.3	30299.6	35463.4	41238.4
Namangan Region	3415.6	3905.5	4501.5	5725.3	6300	7767.9	8957.3	11140.4	13316.2	14646.6	16929.6	19624.8
Samarkand Region	3938.6	4359.8	5279.8	6474.5	7445	8639.1	9995.2	12212	14463.2	15837.4	19443.8	22556
Surkhandarya Region	3821.1	4331.6	4806.3	5909	6793.7	8260.8	9151.6	11354.4	13673.7	15310.7	17645.8	20697
Syrdarya Region	4704.2	5500.9	6394.2	7069.3	7695.4	9431.3	10323.1	12330.4	13792.4	15940.7	18631.5	21530.9
Tashkent Region	4913.5	5795.7	6394.4	7802.6	8739.2	10571	12423.5	15615.1	17552.1	20286.1	24005.3	27430.7
Fergana Region	3613.3	4165.9	4726.5	5685.7	6583.7	7673.6	8450.2	10974.9	13142.1	16212.5	17946.7	22478.7
Khorezm Region	4347	4818.5	5525.9	6918.9	8420.8	10313.1	11541.9	15062.2	18417.2	19439.6	24148.5	28636.1
Tashkent City	8700.3	10092.6	11685.1	14616.6	16439	21728.7	23054.9	28194.4	34358.4	42532.8	55979.4	67597

The dynamics of household income in the Republic of Uzbekistan and its regions during 2014–2025 indicate a stable upward trend. At the national level, the indicator increased from 4,472 in 2014 to 27,511.7 in 2025, representing an approximately 6.2-fold rise. This growth reflects the positive impact of ongoing economic reforms, which have contributed to higher household incomes and increased domestic economic activity.

At the same time, notable regional differences remain. In 2025, the highest household income level was recorded in Tashkent City, at 67,597, followed by Navoi Region, at 41,238.4, and Bukhara Region, at 32,322.2. Comparatively lower income levels were observed in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and in the Namangan, Surkhandarya, and Jizzakh regions. These differences may be associated with variations in the levels of industrial development, investment activity, employment opportunities, and the structure of regional economies (Figure 1).

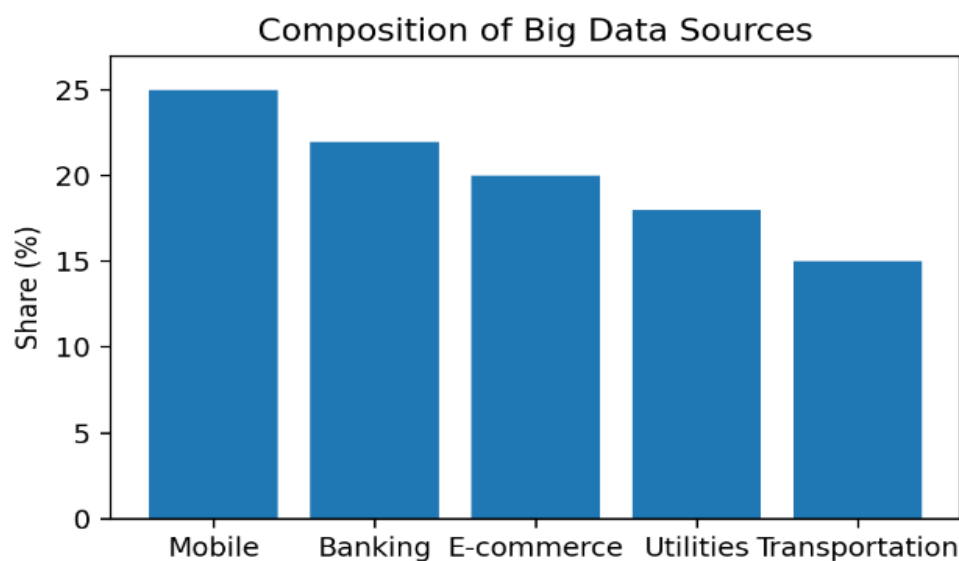


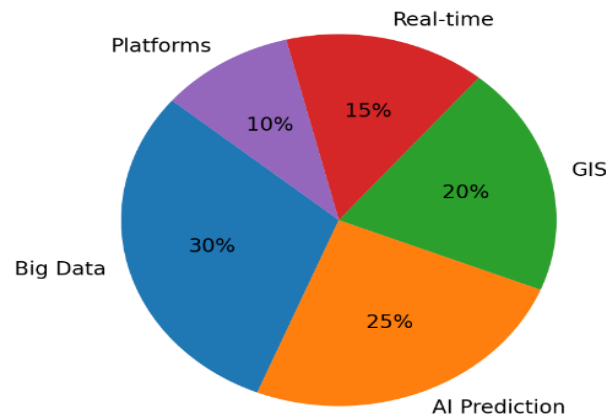
Figure 1. Composition of Big Data Sources²

Although all regions experienced income growth during the study period, the pace of growth varied across regions. As a result, regional income differences became more pronounced, with the ratio between the highest and lowest income levels increasing from 2.8 times in 2014 to 3.6 times in 2025. This trend highlights the importance of continuing efforts aimed at promoting more balanced regional development.

Therefore, the effective allocation of investment resources across regions, the modernization of infrastructure, and the creation of new employment opportunities are of particular importance for narrowing regional disparities and supporting balanced socio-economic development (Figure 2).

² author's development

Composition of Innovation Statistical Mechanism

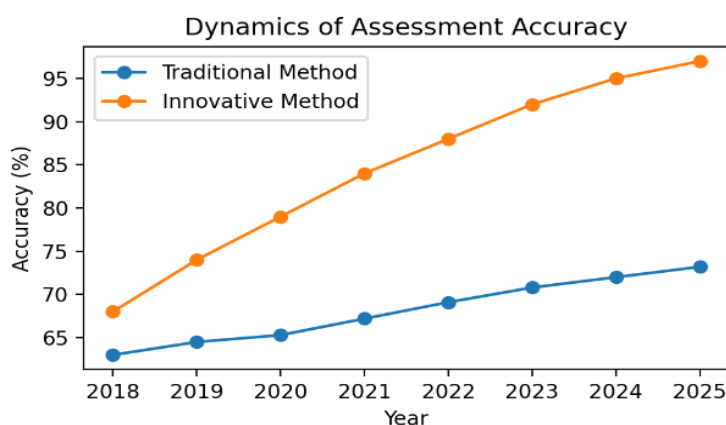
**Figure 2. Composition of Innovative Statistical Mechanisms³**

To ensure a reliable assessment of the population's quality of life and living standards, it is also essential to complement traditional statistical surveys with innovative mechanisms based on modern digital technologies.

Traditional statistical data are generally compiled at specific intervals and may not always provide sufficiently timely information to support prompt managerial and policy decisions. Therefore, developed countries increasingly apply Big Data, artificial intelligence (AI), geographic information systems (GIS), and real-time monitoring technologies to improve the accuracy, timeliness, and effectiveness of socio-economic assessments.

Big Data technologies enable the rapid collection and analysis of information on household consumption patterns, income levels, and regional economic activity through mobile communication records, banking transactions, e-commerce platforms, and utility payment systems [7]. Artificial intelligence, in turn, serves as an effective tool for forecasting poverty, unemployment, migration, and regional development trends.

Geographic information systems facilitate the preparation of thematic maps that illustrate regional differences in income, employment, healthcare, and environmental conditions, thereby improving the identification and analysis of territorial disparities. In addition, real-time monitoring systems make it possible to continuously track price dynamics, transportation flows, the quality of public utility services, and citizens' complaints and feedback (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Dynamics of Assessment Accuracy⁴**

Overall, innovative approaches based on Big Data, artificial intelligence, GIS, and real-time monitoring can significantly enhance the methodology used to assess the population's living standards and improve the effectiveness of the national statistical system. To ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the population's quality of life, the application of an integrated statistical model is considered appropriate. Such an approach makes

³ author's development

⁴ author's development

it possible to combine multiple socio-economic indicators into a single composite index, thereby facilitating comparative analysis across regions or countries.

From this perspective, the following Human Quality Index (HQI) is proposed as a comprehensive measure for assessing quality of life:

$$HQI = 0.25D + 0.20S + 0.15T + 0.15U + 0.10E + 0.15R$$

In this model, (D) represents income and employment levels, (S) denotes the performance of the healthcare system, (T) refers to the quality and accessibility of education, (U) reflects housing conditions and infrastructure development, (E) represents environmental quality, and (R) indicates digital accessibility and the availability of information and communication technology (ICT) services.

The weighting coefficients assigned to each component are determined according to their relative contribution to population well-being. Specifically, the income and employment dimension is assigned the highest weight of 0.25, as it constitutes a primary indicator of economic stability and household welfare. The healthcare component is assigned a weight of 0.20, reflecting its fundamental role in human capital development.

The quality and accessibility of education, housing and infrastructure, and digital accessibility are each assigned a weight of 0.15, as they represent essential determinants of modern living standards. Environmental quality is assigned a weight of 0.10, recognizing its significant contribution to overall quality of life.

When applied at the regional level, this composite index enables provinces, cities, and districts to be ranked according to their quality-of-life performance. Such an approach provides an effective analytical tool for identifying regional differences, assessing the effectiveness of social policies, and directing resources toward priority areas.

Furthermore, when applied in dynamic analysis, the index facilitates the monitoring of changes in population well-being over time and supports the evaluation of the effectiveness of long-term strategic development programs.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The statistical assessment of the population's quality of life and living standards in the Republic of Uzbekistan represents one of the country's key strategic priorities. The evaluation of national development requires consideration not only of economic growth, but also of household well-being, education, healthcare, environmental quality, and access to digital services. Therefore, improving the assessment system through the application of modern statistical methods, digital technologies, and artificial intelligence has become an important policy objective.

The findings of this study suggest that, in order to strengthen the monitoring of the population's quality of life, it is advisable to develop a National Quality of Life Index, publish quarterly regional well-being rankings, and establish a unified digital statistical platform. Furthermore, it is recommended to develop poverty maps, integrate environmental indicators into the official statistical system, and expand micro-level statistical surveys at the mahalla level.

In addition, the introduction of artificial intelligence into the statistical system to identify socially vulnerable groups, together with the inclusion of indicators related to gender equality and youth well-being, would contribute to improving the effectiveness of social policy.

Overall, the modernization of the quality-of-life assessment framework will support sustainable economic growth, enhance public welfare, and strengthen evidence-based policymaking in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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