

## 1. Introduction

The Seventh Development Plan is the primary focus of this investigation, which also investigates the role of social security in bolstering the status of women. The primary goal is to evaluate the degree to which this plan offers practical solutions to the challenges faced by women, who are more susceptible to poverty and economic insecurity as a result of unstable employment and reduced income. Social security is regarded as a critical component of social policies and a means of addressing destitution, which is why it is deemed necessary for the attainment of social justice.

In Germany, the social security system was established by Otto von Bismarck in the late 19th century through the implementation of social welfare laws (Taro, 1997:20). This occurred during the Industrial Revolution, which facilitated the development of such a system by altering social relations and production. Industrialization not only resulted in technological and economic transformations, but also in the establishment of novel social institutions, such as labor unions (Bureau of Economic Research, 2004:5).

The initial social insurance law was enacted in Bismarckian Germany in 1881, and it rapidly disseminated to other industrialized European nations. The term “social security” was formally introduced in the United States in 1935, although some sources attribute its colloquial use to an earlier date, specifically to Simón Bolívar (Heydari, 2003).

Social security was acknowledged as a fundamental right in Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). The promotion of these policies in developing countries by international organizations like the United Nations, ILO, and ISSA has contributed to the reduction of poverty and inequality. In the present day, the majority of nations, including Iran, identify the primary responsibility of the government as the protection of vulnerable groups from risks such as neglect, illness, and old age, as well as the universal access to welfare services.

The economic strength and social structure of each country determine the level of social security policy, which is intended to offset the economic losses resulting from life events. Financial resources are not the sole determinant of efficiency in this domain; deficiencies can be rectified by selecting the appropriate structure and model. Consequently, the Iranian legal system posits that the establishment of a comprehensive social security system is necessary for the realization of social justice. 2017:12 (Khaleq-Parast et al., 2017: 12).

This is evident in the attention given to the social security issue in the laws and upstream documents of the system, including Principles 3, 21, 28, 29, 31, and 43 of the Constitution, the Law on the Structure of the Comprehensive Welfare and Social Security System, and the most recent document issued in this regard, the General Policies of Social Security, as well as in the 5-Year Development Plans. The Iranian social security system, which is founded on Islamic-Iranian values and justice, prioritizes public participation and structural efficacy in order to guarantee welfare, combat poverty, and provide assistance to vulnerable groups.

The effects, possibilities, and impediments of implementing social security policies in Iran are the primary focus of this research, which examines the fifth paragraph of the Seventh

Development Plan. The principal objective is to elucidate the solutions and clarify the policymaking environment, with a particular focus on assisting women as a vulnerable group. Consequently, the primary inquiry of this investigation is: “What are the most significant obstacles and opportunities for the realization of social justice in Iran with a particular focus on women, and what are the capacities and deficiencies of the fifth paragraph of the general policies of the Seventh Development Plan in the field of social security?” The research framework is developed by integrating the three components of policy (fifth paragraph), social justice, and the status of women. This combination demonstrates that realizing social justice is not possible only by passing progressive laws, but also requires the capacity of these laws to respond to structural gender inequalities.

## **2. Methodology**

This research is descriptive-analytical in nature and applied-developmental in purpose, and it has been conducted using a documentary study approach. The comparative qualitative content analysis method was employed to analyze the data, which were collected by examining primary sources (upstream statutes) and secondary sources (authoritative articles and reports). The content of the fifth paragraph of the Seventh Development Plan has been analyzed in accordance with the fundamental principles of social security in this method. This methodology enables the identification of policy implementation obstacles, strengths, and weaknesses, with a particular focus on the topic of women.

## **3. Findings**

This research, by analyzing the fifth paragraph of the general policies of the Seventh Development Plan in the field of social security, with special emphasis on the status of women, sought to explain the capacities, shortcomings, and obstacles to the realization of social justice. The research findings indicate that, despite the fact that this paragraph has a strong theoretical foundation and is adaptable to global models (through an emphasis on a multi-layered system and comprehensiveness), it is confronted with strategic weaknesses and profound structural challenges that render the realization of gender justice uncertain.

The policy's most significant asset is its multi-layered model (basic, additional, and complementary) and the integration of relief, support, and insurance areas. This integration establishes a theoretical framework that is suitable for addressing the needs of a variety of women, including those who are formally employed, informally employed, housewives, and vulnerable. Nevertheless, the primary shortcoming is the absence of sustainable financial resources and transparency in the implementation mechanisms, especially in the context of addressing the unique needs of women, including precarious employment, care burden, and vulnerability in retirement.

## **4. Conclusion**

The challenges ahead are classified at both macro and micro levels. At the macro level, rapid population aging poses a serious threat, putting additional pressure on insurance funds and increasing the number of elderly women without adequate coverage, jeopardizing gender equity. At the micro level, governance inefficiencies (such as parallel work of institutions,

absence of an integrated information system, and heterogeneous management) and ambiguity in the financing model undermine the practical realization of the ambitious goals of this section.

Therefore, the success of the Seventh Development Plan in this area depends on the transition from general policies to gender-focused operational measures. This transition requires the development of a complementary implementation document with three main axes: first, reforming the governance structure and establishing cross-sectoral coordination; Second, to stabilize financial resources, taking into account gender justice and new mechanisms (such as counting years of care); and third, to design practical strategies to manage the demographic challenge, focusing on the specific vulnerability of women. Without a serious determination to operationalize these axes, Article 5 will remain an ideal document lacking implementation, and a historic opportunity to diminish inequality and achieve women's economic security will be missed.