

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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A B S T R A C T

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH

Relevance of the topic and degree of elaboration. The Republic of Azerbaijan is developing successfully and has been among the world leaders in a number of modern directions of economic, social and humanitarian development in recent decades. This is reflected in the reports of international organizations, including the World Economic Forum.^{1 2} Under the leadership of the President of the country, Commander-in-Chief İlham Aliyev, the occupied territories were liberated from occupation, and the sovereignty of the country was restored. With this, 4 resolutions of the UN Security Council and decisions of other international organizations were implemented.³

A special state program called "Azerbaijan 2030: National priorities for socio-economic development" was adopted by President İlham Aliyev with the relevant decree dated February 2, 2021, for the regeneration of the territories freed from occupation and completely destroyed, and for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes. In addition to ensuring the "great return" of refugee and internally displaced families, the adopted state program also envisages the formation of a "green" economy and an inclusive society, which are important conditions for inclusive and sustainable development. The implementation of all these interrelated goals is based on the principles of sustainable development and involves the comprehensive implementation of economic, social and environmental projects that take these principles into account. The goals set in the state program are one of the factors that show the relevance of the current topic.⁴

¹ World Economic Forum, Energy Transition Report, October 2023. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/10/energy-transition-progress-trilemma/>

² World Economic Forum, Energy Transition Report, October 2023. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/10/energy-transition-progress-trilemma/>

³ United Nations, Security Council 4 Resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh. (Resolution № 822, 853,874,884) 1993. <https://2001-2009.state.gov/p/eur/rls/or/13508.htm>

⁴ Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin “Azərbaycan 2030: sosial-iqtisadi inkişafa dair Milli Prioritetlər”in təsdiq edilməsi barədə sərəncamı, Bakı şəhəri, 2 fevral 2021-ci il.

Other factors that indicate the relevance of the topic are related to two events of national and international importance that have already occurred and are expected in 2024. The first is the declaration of 2024 as the year of "Solidarity for the Green World" based on the decree of the President of the country. The second, along with this nationally important event, is the holding of the COP29 conference dedicated to climate change in 2024 in Azerbaijan based on the decision of international organizations. Reducing the impact of climate change to zero or significantly reducing it, as well as ensuring environmental protection and ecological safety are important directions of inclusive development planning and management. It should be noted that the policy related to the transformation to efficient energy and the transition to green energy has been implemented by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev for more than 20 years. The adoption of the "State Program on the use of alternative and renewable energy sources in the Republic of Azerbaijan" ⁵ on renewable energy in 2004, and the implementation of engineering, economic and legal measures related to this field in the following years are steps that serve the sustainability of development and the formation of an inclusive society. All these features are indicators of the relevance of the current topic.

Although inclusive development implies the creation of equal opportunities for every person and society in all situations, inclusive development is of special importance for some individuals and different groups of society. This primarily applies to those who have limited opportunities due to natural causes or as a result of any event. For this reason, inclusive education and inclusive healthcare, being an important direction of an inclusive society, is an important tool that ensures the health of disabled people of different ages and increasing their knowledge and skills. Activities in the field of inclusive education and inclusive healthcare are carried out by both state organizations and civil society. The most successful activity in this

⁵ Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin "Azərbaycan Respublikasında bərpa olunan enerji mənbələrindən istifadə olunması üzrə Dövlət Proqramı"nın təsdiq edilməsi haqqında 462 nömrəli Sərəncamı. Bakı, 21 oktyabr 2004-cü il

field is shown by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. As a result of the activities of Mehriban Aliyeva, the First Vice-President of Oka, the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, using innovative approaches, constantly improving activities are carried out in the field of inclusive education and inclusive health care, which determines the relevance of the current topic.^{6 7}

In the book "The Politics of Inclusive Development: Interrogating the Evidence" written by world famous scholars Sam Hickey, Kunal Sen, Badru Bukenya and published in 2015, inclusive development is associated with solving social problems. According to the authors, inclusive development is a process in which material and social income is distributed equally among all members of the society, regardless of religious, racial, and gender factors. [56]⁸

As an indicator of the degree of development of the problem, "Learning, Innovation and Inclusive Development: New perspectives on economic development" written by A.D. Anderson and B.H. Johnson and published in 2012 strategy and development related) can be cited. In this work, it is noted that inclusive development implies the integration of people and groups isolated from society into society. In addition, inclusive development ensures equal distribution of formal and informal income among members of society and encourages people's participation in shaping the future of society.⁹ As it can be seen, inclusive development in this case also aims to integrate people isolated from society, separate individuals and groups into society. In other studies, inclusive development mainly involves full or partial integration of people who need special care and are isolated from society for certain reasons.

⁶ Təhsilə dəstək" proqramı, Heydər Əliyev Fondu, 2023-cü il. <https://heydar-aliyevfoundation.org/az/content/blog/132/T%C9%99hsil%C9%99-d%C9%99st%C9%99k>

⁷ "Yeniləşən Azərbaycana yeni məktəb" proqramı, Heydər Əliyev Fondu, 2023-cü il.

⁸ Hickey S., Sen K., Bukenya B. "The politics of inclusive development: Interrogating the evidence". Oxford University Press, 2014.

⁹ Johnson B., Andersen.A.D "Learning, Innovation and Inclusive Development: New perspectives on economic development strategy and development aid". Aalborg University (Globelics Thematic Report). 2012

G. Rauniyar and R. Kanbur, who are among the scientists conducting research in the field of inclusive development, conducted interesting research on inclusive development in 2010 with the financial support of the Asian Development Bank. They state that inclusive development cannot be limited to growth alone. Thus, inclusive development should be understood as increasing the well-being of human society through the development of economic, social and political ecosystems.¹⁰

Presentation of inclusive development problems as a multidimensional indicator based on economic, social, ecological and demographic indicators was presented in the works of academician Urkhan Alakbarov. This principle was used in many works of Academician Urkhan Alakbarov. Thus, the factors that are important for the preparation of the dissertation - the classification of the stages of human society development, the analysis of the evolutionary process of development assessment methods, the importance of the indicators of increasing human potential that are important for the formation of an inclusive society, including the analysis of areas such as environmental protection to ensure ecological safety Academician U. Alekbarov's "Basics of Human Development", "Basics of Sustainable Development and Environmental Civilization Management", "Basics of Inclusive Development Management", "Basics of Sustainable Human Development and Ecological Civilization" and other scientific works were referred to. U. Alekbarov is the author of the first textbook in the world in the field of inclusive development management, and the English version of this textbook is distributed globally through the Amazon platform.¹¹

When we take a brief look at how the topic of the dissertation has been developed so far, it becomes clear that although topics similar to the topic of the dissertation have been researched by various scientists, the

¹⁰ Rauniyar, Ganesh; Kanbur, Ravi. Inclusive Growth and Inclusive Development: A Review and Synthesis of Asian Development Bank Literature. Asian Development Bank, 2009.

¹¹ Alakbarov U. Fundamentals of inclusive development management, the book for high schools, 2019.

study of the indicators affecting the provision of inclusive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan, their regional and global comparison has not been studied in a comprehensive scientific way. In general, it should be noted that the researches conducted in the direction of inclusion were mostly related to inclusive education or inclusive healthcare. Research aimed at eliminating the inequality observed in income and consumption in the society is limited. The number of studies conducted with the analysis of all indicators of inclusive development in any country is quite small. For this reason, the topic of this dissertation work is a topic that has not been fully developed and is a first in this field.

The object and subject of the research. The object of the research is the inclusive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the main indicators that define it. The studied indicators included the analysis of all three groups of indicators used for the assessment of inclusive development. Economic growth and development indicators of the country, the degree of coverage of the population with these indicators, equality in consumption and income and the sustainability of these processes, and effects on climate change belong to these groups characterizing inclusive development. The subject of the research is the regional and global comparative analysis of these indicators.

The goals and objectives of the research work. The purpose of the research work is to compare the work done in the field of ensuring the inclusive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the current situation in this field. In order to realize the set goal, scientific-theoretical research of the following issues has been defined as concrete tasks:

- to analyze in detail the effects on the surrounding economic, natural and social environment and the connection of the processes at different stages of the society's development;
- To analyze the evolutionary process of the methods used in the evaluation of the development of countries;
- To study the historical and scientific-theoretical bases of the formation of the concept of inclusive development;

- Analyzing the indicators necessary for ensuring inclusive development and clarifying their essence;
- Studying the increase of human potential as the basis of sustainable inclusive development, highlighting the work done in this direction in the country;
- To study the importance of measures implemented in Azerbaijan in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety;
- To study their effects on the formation of an inclusive society based on the analysis of the work done in the direction of ensuring the goals of sustainable development in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- To conduct a comparative analysis by examining how the sustainable inclusive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan is evaluated by international organizations.

These listed tasks cover all the main factors of inclusive development that we analyzed within the dissertation work.

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelty of the dissertation work is characterized by the first achievement of the researched problem and set tasks. Scientific innovation is defined by several directions mentioned below:

- for the first time, the activity of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of ensuring inclusive development was studied and analyzed in a detailed and systematic manner;
- for the first time, the concept of inclusive development was assessed as a national development evaluation process;
- for the first time, the work done in the direction of the participation of the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the international forums held in the field of ensuring sustainable inclusive development and the implementation of the obligations undertaken in those forums was studied;
- the evaluation of the achievements of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of sustainable inclusive development by international organizations has been studied in a comparative manner.

Scientific-theoretical and practical significance of research work. The scientific-theoretical and practical importance of the dissertation is that the dissertation work is one of the first scientific-research works in the field of sustainable inclusive development management in

Azerbaijan. Taking these into account, this dissertation can be widely used in the future in making practical decisions during the planning and management of sustainable inclusive development in regional and field areas, in the formulation of a regulatory framework on management, and also in the teaching process.

Approval and application. The dissertation was completed on the specialty "sustainable development management" of the "Sustainable development planning and management" department of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main provisions of the content of the dissertation are reflected in nine scientific articles published by the author. Scientific works have been published in the Republic of Azerbaijan, in other countries, in publications approved by national and international Scientific Attestation institutions. At the same time, the materials reflected in the dissertation were also presented at scientific conferences and seminars, and lectures given by the author.

The name of the institution where the dissertation work was performed. The dissertation work was completed at the "Sustainable development planning and management" department of the State Administration Academy under the President of Azerbaijan.

Dissertation structure. The structure of the research work is determined according to the nature of the topic. The dissertation includes the following sections: Title Page (315 characters), Table of Contents (2,366 characters), Introduction (14,428 characters), Chapter I (40,114 characters), Chapter II (56,214 characters), Chapter III (47,110 characters), Chapter IV (41,132 characters), Conclusion (3,725 haracters). There are 53 pictures and 9 tables in the research work.

MAIN CONTENTS OF THE WORK

In the **Introductory** section of the dissertation, the relevance of the subject and degree of development, the object and subject of the research, the goals and tasks of the research, the methods of the research are defined, the main propositions defended, the scientific innovation of the research, the theoretical and practical significance of the research are commented, the approval of the research work and the structure of the dissertation are noted.

The first chapter of the dissertation is called **"Formation of the concept of inclusive development"** and consists of three sub-chapters. In this chapter, extensive analyzes were made about the evolutionary process of the methods used in the assessment and evaluation of the development of the countries of the world. In addition, the scientific-theoretical nature of the concept of inclusive development, contemporary challenges and criteria have also been examined.

In the sub-chapter **"Assessment of the effects on the natural and social environment at different stages of the development of human society"** of the first chapter, an extensive research was conducted in the field of assessment of the effects on the environment and social environment at different stages of the development of humanity from the past to the present. The characteristic features of all stages of human society development are mentioned in that sub-chapter. The mentioned characteristics show that at all stages of the development of society, people were closely connected with nature and the environment, and lived in conditions dependent on it in all cases. For this reason, in a number of cases, although the activity of people is characterized by mainly positive results for the society from the economic and social point of view, at the same time, it also has negative effects on the environment. A number of sources indicate the rapid increase in the number of people on Earth as a reason for the occurrence of such processes.¹² In addition to the rapid increase in the number of the population, there is inequality in the use of these

¹² UNFPA's View On Population: An Economic Analysis Alejandro Cid, <http://www.bvrie.gub.uy/local/File/JAE/2003/iees03j3440803.pdf>, 15 pages;

achievements against the background of the scientific and technological progress and, accordingly, the achievements in the economy and social sphere. According to published statistics, there are huge differences in the incomes and consumption of the population between the countries of the world and within the countries.¹³

In the sub-chapter of the first chapter called **"Evolution and modern state of the development assessment process"**, it is noted that the planning stage is very important in every field of administration, including public administration. Effective planning begins first of all with the assessment of the current situation.¹⁴ The assessment of the development of countries or regions is carried out using relevant indicators. These indicators have changed and improved over time. The present sub-chapter analyzes how the development assessment process has changed.

In this sub-chapter, all the methods used in the assessment and evaluation of the development of the countries of the world from the past to the present have been investigated. Information about the GDP volume, which is used as the first method in development assessment, Human development index, Sustainable development index and finally the Inclusive development index, which is the most modern and newest method, was presented.

¹³ UNFPA's View On Population: An Economic Analysis Alejandro Cid, <http://www.bvrie.gub.uy/local/File/JAE/2003/iees03j3440803.pdf>, 15 pages;

¹⁴ Introduction to Public Administration, Academic Press, 2017, 346 p <https://www.pdfdrive.com/introduction-to-public-administration-e58958831.html>

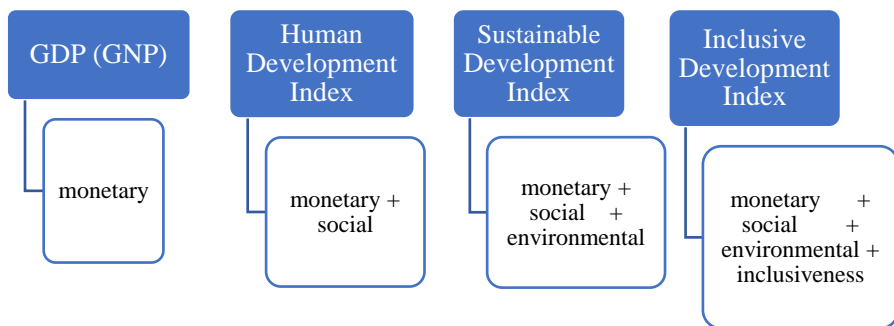


Figure 1. *Evolution of development assessment method.*

In Figure 1, the evolution process of the indicators used in development evaluation is presented. The given image was created by the author and is a unique research material. It is also clear from the picture that the measurement of development was initially carried out by the volume of GDP. However, this method was considered a generalized indicator. With this method, it was impossible to get information about the social status of the population. As can be seen from the picture, humanity has started to use other methods for evaluating development. In the mentioned sub-chapter, extensive analysis of all the methods given in Figure 1 is provided. The works of academician U. Alekbarov, who conducted great scientific research in this field, were widely used in the preparation of the picture.^{15 16}

In the third sub-chapter of the first chapter, which is called **"Inclusive development as a new stage of the development**

¹⁵ Ələkbərov U.K. "Dövlət qulluğu üçün insan potensialının formalaşdırılmasında innovativ idarəçilik texnologiyaları" adlı məqalə. Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı, № 3 (79), s 75-84, 2022-ci il.

¹⁶ Алакбаров У.К. Подготовка государственных служащих в области управления устойчивым развитием как фактор формирования инклюзивного общества. Ж. Государственная служба т.25, №5, с. 55-60.

assessment process", it is noted that for many years, GDP and GDP per capita have been considered as indicators of the development of the society and the state. Times are changing, new priorities, challenges are being formed, innovations are emerging. In the evaluation of the state's development, along with its economic strength, its sociality, ecological condition, sustainability, inclusiveness should also be taken into account. Therefore, the level of development of the society should be evaluated based on multiple criteria and not on one criterion.

In addition to economic development in the society, issues such as social responsibility, citizens' attitudes to work and workplaces, fair distribution of income, technologies of economical use of resources should also be investigated. Socially oriented effective management should be preferred in administration, an environment of social harmony should be formed in society, an inclusive society should have an inclusive economy, society and economy should be managed on the basis of socially oriented approaches and technologies. In order for everyone to work and receive appropriate wages, first of all, appropriate labor tools, working conditions, production and service areas should be created in order to realize his individual labor capacity. Everyone's ability to create value, regardless of their natural potential, should be recognized and realized. In this case, the economy will develop further due to the value created by that group of people.¹⁷

The need to provide all these multi-criteria, respond to new demands and challenges, and conduct a comprehensive assessment of development has led to the creation of the concept of inclusive development.

The second chapter of the dissertation is called **"The main directions of the inclusive development evaluation process"** and consists of four sub-chapters. This chapter is devoted to the analysis of indicators important for ensuring inclusive development and forming an inclusive society.

¹⁷ Əliyev R.M., Əliyev Ə.Q. "İqtisadi inkişafın inklüzivlik xüsusiyyətləri və onun formalaşması səviyyəsinin qiymətləndirilməsinin metodoloji əsasları" İnformasiya cəmiyyəti problemləri jurnalı, №1, Bakı, 2020-ci il.

In the sub-chapter of the second chapter called **"Evaluation indicators of inclusive development"**, it is noted that inclusive development is one of the most important obligations facing humanity. Thus, inclusive development involves solving all the problems that concern human society. Currently, all the countries of the world and international organizations have mobilized all their efforts to ensure inclusive development. Inclusive development is not only a theory of development used in public administration, it also plays a special role in evaluating the development of countries. In this modern era, the development of countries is assessed using the Inclusive Development Index (IDI).¹⁸

According to international standards, the assessment of the state of inclusive development, cross-country comparisons in this area are made on the basis of 12 different indicators. With these indicators (indicators), which can be summarized in three main groups, the state of inclusive development in countries is determined based on various economic, social, demographic and environmental parameters.

It can be seen from the published data that one of the important conditions of inclusive development is economic growth and economic development. This indicator was used as a key indicator at all stages of the development evaluation process. It is impossible to ensure inclusive development without economic development. However, economic growth only creates conditions for inclusive development. The financial resources obtained at the expense of ensuring economic development should be directed to the implementation of a successful social policy to improve the welfare of the population.

However, inclusive development, building a developing society is not limited to the existence of these two important conditions - successful economic and social policy. It is also important that this process is sustainable, that is, valid for future generations. For this reason, the concept of inclusive development has three different groups of indicators covering economic, social and sustainability

¹⁸ Qubadov M.N. "Azərbaycan Respublikasının inklüziv inkişafı: müasir vəziyyətlər və prioritetlər", İnsan və Biosfer (MaB-Yunesko) jurnalı, buraxılış 16, səh. 291-300, Bakı, 2021-ci il.

areas.¹⁹ We can realize inclusive development and form an inclusive society in the conditions of providing 12 multi-criteria formed from these three main indicators.

In the sub-chapter **"Efficient use of resources as an indicator of sustainable inclusive development"** of the second chapter, the issue of efficient use of resources, one of the indicators affecting the provision of inclusive development, was investigated.

From the reports presented in the area of inclusive development at the 2018 Davos World Economic Forum, it is clear that several resource-rich countries lag behind resource-poor countries on the inclusive development index.²⁰ The reason for this is that those rich countries do not use resources efficiently and optimally. The countries with limited resources took the leading positions in that report under conditions of efficient use of resources. In this sense, efficient use of resources is a very important indicator for ensuring sustainable inclusive development.²¹

It should be noted that "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for socio-economic development" approved by the relevant decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev dated February 2, 2021 is closely aligned with the concept of sustainable inclusive development.²² The five National Priorities approved by President İlham Aliyev set a number of goals. One of these tasks is the efficient use of energy and increasing the use of green energy sources.

¹⁹ Ələkbərov U.K. "İnküziv inkişafın idarə edilməsinin əsasları". Ali məktəblər üçün dərslik. 215 səh, Bakı şəhəri, 2018-ci il.

²⁰ World Economic Forum, "The Inclusive Development Index 2018: Summary and data highlights" 2018.

²¹ Qubadov M.N. "Azərbaycan Respublikasının davamlı inkişafın planlaşdırılması və idarəedilməsində dəyərləndirmə üsulları" Dövlət İdarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı, №3 (79), səh 93-102, 2022-ci il.

²² Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin "Azərbaycan 2030: sosial-iqtisadi inkişafa dair Milli Prioritetlər" in təsdiq edilməsi barədə sərəncamı, Bakı şəhəri, 2 fevral 2021-ci il. <https://president.az/az/articles/view/50474>

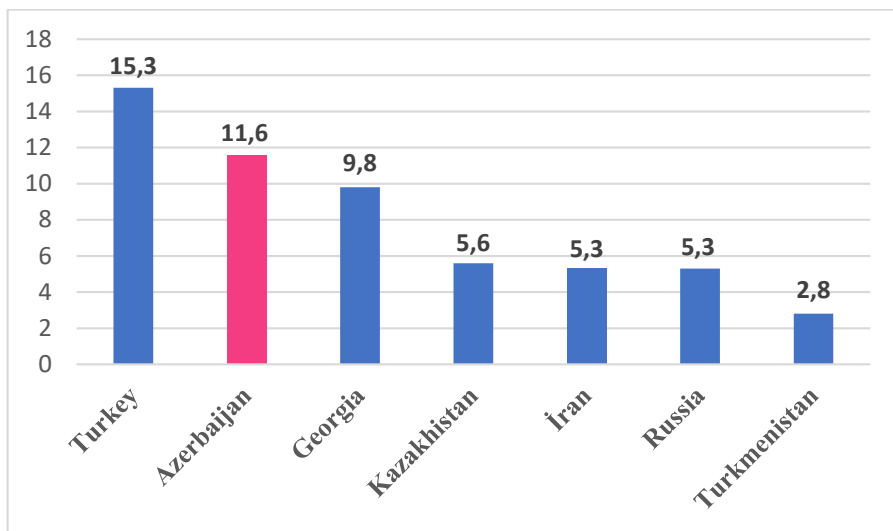


Figure 2. The value of GDP per unit of energy use of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries, expressed in US \$, taking into account the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP),
Data source: World Bank, 2024.²³

Monitoring of efficient use of energy is carried out on the basis of several indicators. One of these indicators is the value of products and services (GDP) produced as a result of the use of one unit of energy in different countries, taking into account purchasing power parity, in US dollars. In calculations, its amount in one kilogram of oil is taken as the equivalent of one unit of energy.²⁴

Figure 2 presents a diagram showing the efficient use of energy in Azerbaijan and neighboring countries.

It should be noted that the statistical indicators presented in Figure 2 are the latest data published by the World Bank for 2024 and create conditions for comparing energy efficiency. Figure 2 shows that

²³ The World Bank, Global Development data. 2024.

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.PP.CD?end=2022&locations=AZ&start=1990&view=chart>

²⁴ Ələkbərov U.K. “Azərbaycan Respublikası və keçmiş SSRİ ölkələrində davamlı inklüziv inkişaf: müqayisəli təhlil” adlı məqalə. Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı, № 1, s 123-138, 2020-ci il.

according to the latest data published by international organizations, the Republic of Azerbaijan ranks second among neighboring countries in the field of efficient management of natural resources, behind only Turkey.²⁵

In the sub-chapter "Global climate change as a factor affecting sustainable inclusive development" of the second chapter, it is noted that another indicator affecting the sustainable inclusive development index used in the evaluation of the development of the countries of the world is the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. There is a good reason for using this indicator in development evaluation. There are a number of global environmental problems on our planet. Among these global environmental problems, climate change occupies an important place. Climate changes harm not only countries' industries, but also agriculture, the environment, biodiversity, and global food and nutrition security.

A number of factors influence the process of climate change, the most important of which is the volume of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. Therefore, monitoring the process of managing the release of gases into the atmosphere that cause global climate changes is considered the main indicator of sustainable inclusive development. Evaluation of the indicator is carried out in two ways. The first method is the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas emitted into the atmosphere per capita per year in different countries, measured in tons. During the application of the second method, the amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere during the production of 1 US dollar of GDP is estimated in kilograms and grams.

Figure 3 shows a diagram that facilitates comparison and analysis of the amount of heat-producing gases released into the atmosphere by Azerbaijan and neighboring countries. The data presented in Figure 3 are based on the latest reports published by the World Bank. It is clear from the presented data that our country achieved a high result in this field by releasing 0.2 kilograms of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere

²⁵ Ələkbərov U.K. "Prezident İlham Əliyevin unikal dövlət idarəçilik texnologiyalarının parlaq hərbi sınağı" adlı məqalə. Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı, № 4, s 157-174, 2020-ci il.

during the production of a product or service worth 1 US dollar, taking into account purchasing power parity. Our country, which is the leader in the region in terms of the volume of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere, achieved its achievement in this field only due to the application of modern, innovative management technologies implemented by the country's President Ilham Aliyev. This result comes from the fact that, based on the data of the World Bank, in 2004 this figure was 1 kg.²⁶

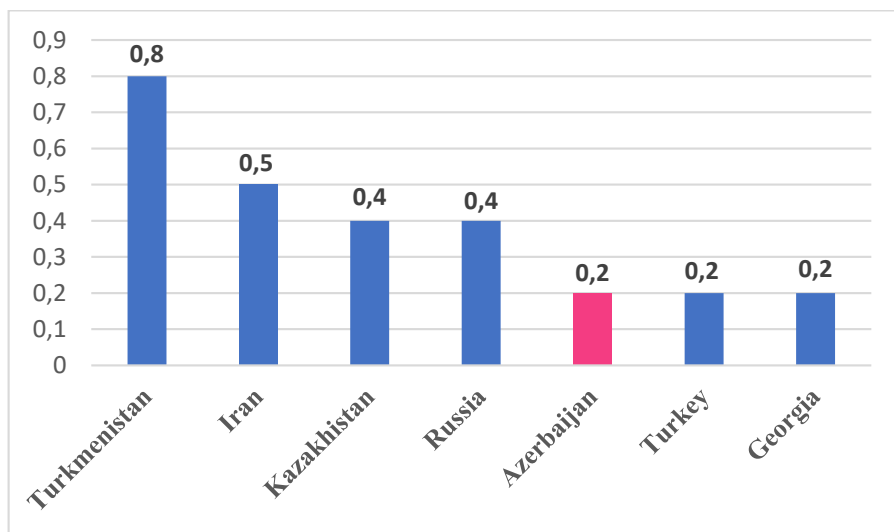


Figure 3. *In 2020, the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere during the production of 1 US dollar of GDP of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries (expressed in kilograms)*
Data source: World Bank, 2024.

The last sub-chapter of the second chapter is entitled "Specially protected areas as a factor affecting sustainable inclusive development". This subchapter analyzes the role of specially protected areas in ensuring inclusive development.

²⁶ The World Bank Data, Development Indicators
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD>

Protection of natural resources and their sustainable use, being one of the most important and global problems of the XXI century, is one of the priority issues that states consider it important to solve. Biodiversity, an integral part of natural resources and the overall ecological system, is a very important but still under-appreciated rich resource.²⁷ Recently, as a result of anthropocentric activity on our planet, ecosystems have been degraded, and many species of flora and fauna have been destroyed or their number has sharply decreased. Such a rapid loss of biodiversity could lead to a global catastrophe, putting the Earth and all living things in serious danger.²⁸ In the current sub-chapter, the importance of the protected areas serving the protection of biological diversity and ecosystems in the Republic of Azerbaijan, their touristic and ecotourism potential, and the importance of sustainable inclusive development has been examined.

The third chapter is called **"Indicators of inclusive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan"** and consists of three sub-chapters. This chapter is devoted to the analysis of the work done to ensure inclusive development in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In the sub-chapter of the third chapter called "Human development as the basis of sustainable inclusive development", it is shown that special importance is given to ensuring inclusive development in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as in the countries that have achieved high results in the economic and social fields of the world. It is necessary to note that the formation and construction of the transition to an inclusive society is possible in the conditions of sustainable development and the basis of human potential, its knowledge and skills, and its transformation into human capital in the economy. In this sense, in order to form an inclusive society and ensure sustainable

²⁷ Qubadov M.N. "Qorunan ərazilərin təbii ehtiyatların optimal idarəedilməsi və davamlı inkişafda rolu" İnsan və Biosfer (MaB-Yunesko) jurnalı, buraxılış 17, səh. 295-208, Bakı, 2022-ci il.

²⁸ Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin "Azərbaycan Respublikasında bioloji müxtəlifliyin qorunmasına və davamlı istifadəsinə dair 2017-2020-ci illər üçün Milli Strategiya"nın təsdiq edilməsi ilə bağlı sərəncamı. 3 oktyabr 2016-cı il.

inclusive development, the resources obtained due to economic growth should be directed to the development of human potential.²⁹

It is known that the assessment of the current situation in the field of human potential development is carried out with the Human Development Index.

According to UN reports, the human development index in the Republic of Azerbaijan has been increasing year by year, and since 2010, our country has entered the group of countries that have achieved high results in the field of human development (Figure 4).³⁰ It is possible to clearly see the positive development rate of our country in the field of Human Development in the last decade from Figure 4. It should be noted that the data presented in Figure 4 are taken from the Reports published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) over the last decade.³¹

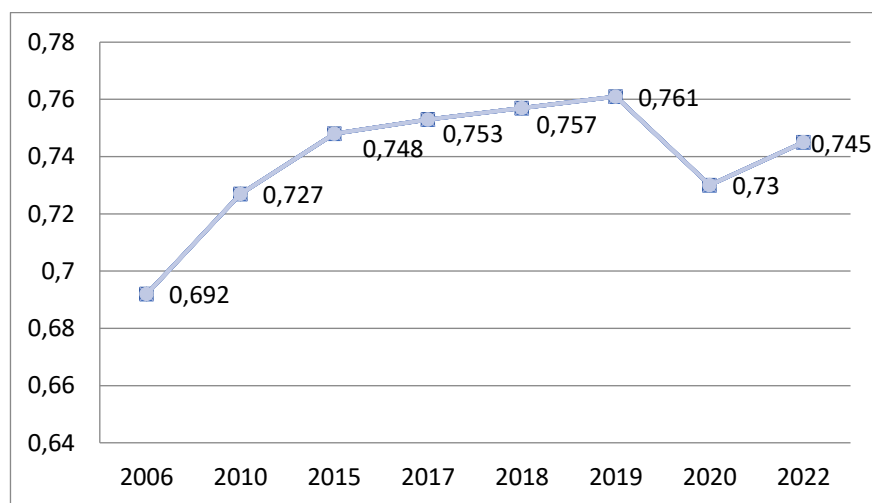


Figure 4. *Dynamics of the Human Development Index in the Republic of Azerbaijan.*

Data source: UN, 2022.

²⁹ World Economic Forum “Inclusive Development Report”, Geneva, Switzerland, 2018. https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Forum_IncGrwth_2018.pdf

³⁰ UNDP, Human Development Report 2019. New York, 2019, 366 pages.

³¹ UNDP, Human Development Report 2021/2022. New York, 2022, 320 p.

In the sub-chapter of the third chapter entitled "**Process of transformation of oil capital into human potential**", it is noted that in the past period, in order to ensure the sustainable development of the country, the formation of human potential, its transformation into human capital in the economy and its effective use were considered one of the main priority directions, and initiatives in this direction were taken by the state. supported. After the independence of Azerbaijan, the traditions of education abroad, founded by the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, were successfully continued at the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev, and state strategies and state programs related to the development of human capital were implemented during this period.

In the last sub-chapter of the third chapter called "**Sustainable development as the basis of inclusive development**", it is specially emphasized that while human well-being is closely related to the environment formed in the society in which he lives, the development of the society depends on the economic, social and environmental opportunities surrounding it. However, the limitation of natural resources, globalization, population growth, environmental pollution, global warming, etc. such problems put the existing ecosystem at risk and limit the development of future generations. A number of scientific approaches, models and concepts have been put forward to solve the problems and deficiencies that endanger the existing ecosystem. One of these concepts is the concept of sustainable development.³²

The sustainable development indicator of Azerbaijan is increasing year by year. Thus, in the "Sustainable Development Report - 2022" document of the UN, Azerbaijan ranked 50th among 166 countries of the world on the "Sustainable Development Goals Index". According to this indicator, our country is one of the regional leaders and ranked 50th, leaving behind all its neighbors except Russia (Figure 5). The report ranks Russia 45th, Georgia 51st, Iran 88th, Kazakhstan 65th, Turkey 71st, Armenia 66th and Turkmenistan 99th.

³² Azərbaycan Respublikasının Dayanıqlı İnkişaf Məqsədləri üzrə Milli Məlumatlandırma Portalı, "Dayanıqlı inkişaf konsepsiyasının yaranması və inkişafı" adlı məlumatı, Bakı, 2024-cü il

Our country scored 73.5 points out of a possible 100 of the "Sustainable Development Goals Index" (Figure 5). For comparison, it can be noted that the average indicator for this index in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia is 70.9. Azerbaijan has achieved such a success as a result of its far-sighted and consistent policy implemented in many fields for many years.³³

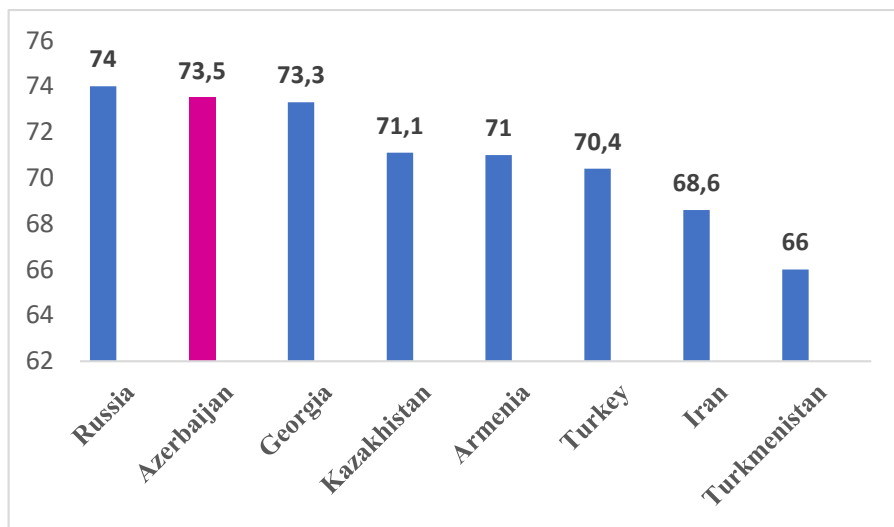


Figure 5. Sustainable Development Goals Index of the Republic of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries, for 2022,
Data source: UN, Sustainable Development Report 2022.³⁴

The fourth chapter is called "**Comparative analysis of the inclusive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan**" and consists of three sub-chapters. In this chapter, a comparative analysis of the inclusive development indicators of the Republic of Azerbaijan with countries

³³ Azərbaycan Respublikası Dayanıqlı İnkişaf Üzrə Milli Əlaqələndirmə Şurası, 06.10.2022 <http://sdg.azstat.org:8484/az/national-implementation-mechanism/452/milli-elagelendirme-surasi>

³⁴ United Nations, Sustainable Development Reports 2022, <https://www.sdgindex.org/reports/>

that are members of regional, global and international organizations has been conducted.

In the sub-chapter of the fourth chapter called "**Comparative analysis with regional countries**", a comparative analysis of the inclusive development indicators of the Republic of Azerbaijan with regional countries was given.

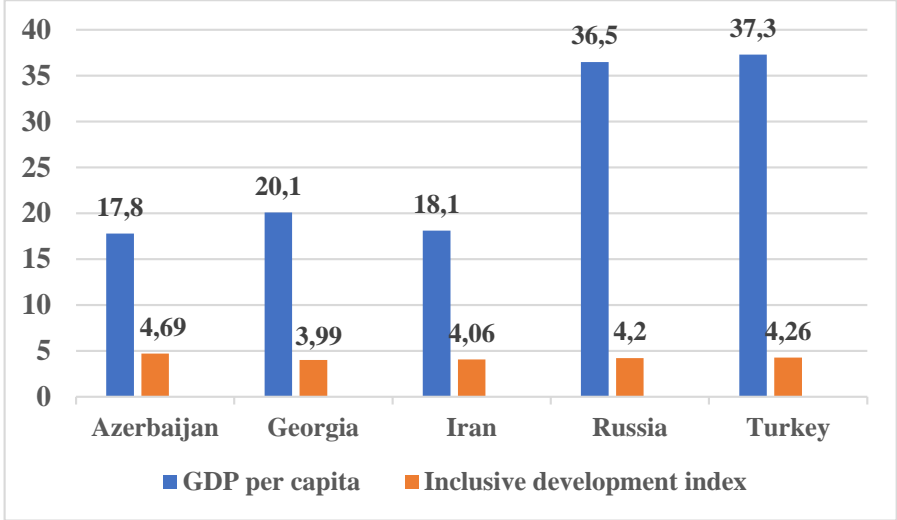


Figure 6. *GDP per capita of the Republic of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries and index of inclusive development.*

Data source: World Bank and World Economic Forum report.

Figure 6 shows information about the volume of GDP per capita of the Republic of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries and the index of inclusive development. The presented information is based on the official documents of the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.^{35 36} As can be seen from the figure, all the compared countries belong to the group of countries with transition economies according

³⁵ The World Bank, Global Development data.

³⁶ World Economic Forum "Inclusive Development Report", Geneva, Switzerland, 2018.

to their economic indicators, and their income levels are in the zone of average indicators in global comparison.³⁷

The data presented show that while high per capita income is an important factor in building a sustainable inclusive society, it does not guarantee success. Among the compared countries, the highest per capita income is observed in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey. Despite the fact that these countries are almost twice as high as other comparable countries in terms of GDP per capita, their inclusive development indices were 4.2 and 4.26, respectively. Among the compared countries, the best indicators of inclusive development were demonstrated by the Republic of Azerbaijan with an inclusive development index of 4.69. At the same time, the volume of GDP per capita in our country is 17.8 US dollars, taking into account PPP (purchasing power parity). The presented data once again demonstrate that although economic opportunities are important for ensuring inclusive development, they are not sufficient to achieve the goals envisaged in the field of sustainable inclusive development.

In the sub-chapter of the fourth chapter called "Global analysis with the countries of the world", the achievements of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of ensuring inclusive development are compared with the countries included in the "Big Seven" (G7) group.

It is known that inclusive development also involves the realization of a package of social programs. The Gini Coefficient is used to determine whether a social policy is successful or not.³⁸

One of the main features that distinguishes the theory of inclusive development from other theories is that it aims at equal distribution of income and consumption among the population. In 7, the latest situation regarding the Gini index indicator, which is used to monitor the process of equal distribution of income and the GDP per capita of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the countries included in the

³⁷ The World Bank, Global Development data.

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.PP.CD?end=2022&locations=AZ&start=1990&view=chart>

³⁸ Ələkbərov U.K. "Azərbaycan Respublikasının inklüziv inkişaf indeksi ölkənin innovativ inkişafının göstəricisi kimi" adlı məqalə. Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı, № 1 (61), s 133-142, 2018-ci il.

G7 group, is presented.³⁹ It is clear from the given data that although our country lags behind other compared countries in terms of income, the deviation in income distribution is minimal. The Republic of Azerbaijan, which has left behind all the countries included in the G7 group according to the Gini index, has created favorable conditions for ensuring a sustainable inclusive society. It is clear from the mentioned picture that the Republic of Azerbaijan has achieved important successes in the field of ensuring social development.

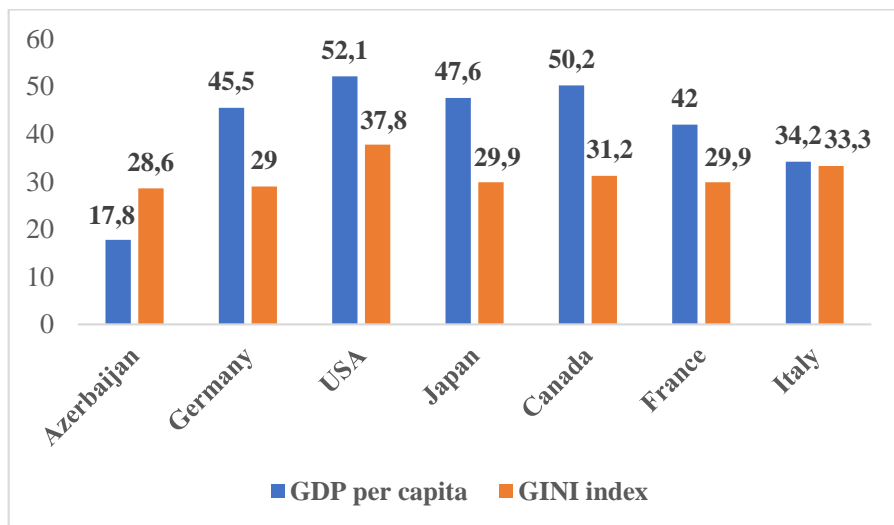


Figure 7. GDP per capita and Gini index of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the G7 countries.

Data source: World Economic Forum, 2023.

In the sub-chapter of the fourth chapter called "**Comparative analysis with the countries that are members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization**", a comparative analysis of the inclusive development indicators of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the countries that are part of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) of which our country is also a member is given. The State Security Council is considered to be one of the authoritative

³⁹ World Economic Forum, The Global Competitiveness Report 2018.

organizations that unites the countries of the region. As one of the founding members of the BSEC, Azerbaijan actively cooperates within the framework of the organization and supports initiatives aimed at increasing its efficiency.

| № | The name of the country | Inclusive development index | Its place according to the index of inclusive development | The place it occupies according to the volume of GDP per capita | GDP volume per capita |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Azerbaijan | 4.69 | 1 | 7 | 17.8 |
| 2 | Romania | 4.43 | 2 | 1 | 41.25 |
| 3 | Bulgairia | 4.41 | 3 | 3 | 33.84 |
| 4 | North Macedonia | 4.1 | 4 | 5 | 20.32 |
| 5 | Albania | 4.08 | 5 | 6 | 18.6 |
| 6 | Moldova | 4 | 6 | 8 | 15.7 |
| 7 | Greece | 3.7 | 7 | 2 | 37 |
| 8 | Serbia | 3.7 | 8 | 4 | 23.9 |
| 9 | Ukraine | 3.42 | 9 | 9 | 12.67 |

Table 1. *Indicators of economic and inclusive development of countries that are members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.*

Table 1 presents the information that enables the analysis of the economic and inclusive development indicators of the member countries of the BSEC. According to the report of the Davos Economic Forum, the HDI in the Republic of Azerbaijan is equal to

4.69.⁴⁰ According to this indicator, our country ranks first among the member countries of the BSEC (Table 1).

As can be seen from the table, Romania ranks first in the group in terms of its economic potential - gross domestic product per capita. However, the government of this country has not properly mobilized the existing economic opportunities to conduct a successful social policy. As a result, according to the index of inclusive development, Romania ranked 2nd in this group. It should be noted that Moldova, which ranks 8th in this group in terms of its economic resources, strengthened its position in the 6th place in the group in terms of the inclusive development coefficient by properly mobilizing its existing and relatively limited economic opportunities..

Table 1 prepared on the basis of reports of the World Economic Forum draws special attention to the information on the Republic of Azerbaijan. Our country has used its existing economic opportunities more effectively. When calculating GDP per capita, the economic potential of the Republic of Azerbaijan is not at all high compared to other countries included in this group. According to this indicator, the Republic of Azerbaijan ranks 7th among the member countries of the BSEC. Nevertheless, according to the index of inclusive development, our country ranks first in this group. The fact that Azerbaijan has achieved high results in the field of inclusive development with relatively limited economic opportunities is related to the mobilization of economic resources for successful social policy in our country.

The results, suggestions and recommendations obtained at the end of the research are reflected in **the Conclusion** part of the dissertation as follows:

The conducted studies showed that various multidimensional indicators are used in development assessment. Although it is necessary to use them for a certain purpose and to meet a specific

⁴⁰ The Global Competitiveness Report 2018.

<https://www3.weforum.org/docs/GCR2018/05FullReport/TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2018.pdf>

specific challenge, general and comprehensive progress can only be evaluated with inclusive development indicators.

It has been shown that although economic opportunities are an important condition for sustainable development and the formation of an inclusive society, they are not decisive. The Republic of Azerbaijan, which has a more limited economic opportunity (the value of income per capita), has surpassed financially richer countries in terms of inclusive development indicators. Behind the achievements of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of inclusive development is a well-thought-out and consistent state policy. This policy envisages the development of human potential and the creation of conditions for its transformation into human capital in the economy. The development of education, health and sports fields plays an important role for the formation of human potential.

It has been determined that the activity of the civil society, especially the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, is very important in achieving the achievements in the field of inclusive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan, along with the state structures. This includes economic activities as well as educational, health and social fields.

Based on the research, it was determined that according to the evaluations of international organizations, the Republic of Azerbaijan, which regained its independence relatively recently, is at the level of some developed countries with a history of hundreds of years, and in some cases it has even left them behind.

The main content of the research is reflected in the following published scientific works of the author:

1. Gubadov M.N. "Inclusive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan: current situations and priorities", Man and Biosphere (MaB - UNESCO) Issue 16, Pages: 291-300, 2021.
2. Gubadov M.N. "The role of education in the formation of an inclusive society", Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan: XXV Republican scientific conference of doctoral students and young researchers, pp. 273-276, Baku, November 23, 2022.
3. Gubadov M.N. "Evaluation methods in the planning and management of sustainable development of the Republic of Azerbaijan", Journal of Public Administration: Theory and Practice, No. 3 (79), pp. 93-102, Baku, 2022.
4. Gubadov M.N. "Energy efficiency management as a sustainable development factor", Public Administration: theory and practice journal, No. 1 (81), pp. 281-292, Baku, 2023.
5. Gubadov M.N. "The role of protected areas in the optimal management of natural resources and sustainable development", Human and Biosphere (MaB - UNESCO) Issue 17, Pages: 195-208, Baku, 2022.
6. Gubadov M.N. "The role of Heydar Aliyev in building an inclusive society", a scientific-practical conference dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of the national leader Heydar Aliyev at DIA, pp. 42-50, Baku, 2023.
7. Gubadov M.N. "Regional features of sustainable development in the context of global climate change", 7th CEO International Social Science Congress, No. 7, Page: 151-154, Uzbekistan, 2023.
8. Gubadov M.N. "The role of education in achieving sustainable development", No. 9, Page: 262-266, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, November 7-10, 2023.
9. Губадов М.Н. “Сравнительная оценка влияния факторов различной природы на инклюзивное развитие” журнал «Государственное Управление и Государственная Служба», РГКП «Академия государственного управления при Президенте Республики Казахстан», № 4 (87), Стр 14-19, 2023.

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