



## LITERATURE AS A REFLECTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: THE LEGAL DIMENSIONS IN GAFUR GHULAM'S WORKS

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### ABSTRACT

*This article is devoted to the legal interpretation of social injustices reflected in Gafur Ghulam's work, in particular, issues related to women's rights, gender equality, and children's rights are analyzed within the framework of modern legislation. The writer's works cover the role of women and children in society, the issues of discrimination and legal inequality they face. The article highlights how the historical problems described by Gafur Ghulam are reflected in modern legislation and their relevance from a legal point of view.*

Literature has long been a mirror of society, shedding light on social injustices, inequalities, and human rights issues. Gafur Ghulam, one of Uzbekistan's most influential writers and poets, used his works to critique economic disparity, labor exploitation, gender inequality, and the oppression of marginalized groups. His stories and novels provide a valuable perspective on these issues, which can be analyzed through the lens of modern legal principles, including human rights laws, labor regulations, and gender equality policies.

A master of storytelling, Gafur Ghulam drew inspiration from folk traditions, which played a crucial role in shaping his literary career. Folklore allowed him to deeply explore people's lives, emotions, and struggles, capturing their language, culture, and artistic expressions. His ability to blend realism with humor and emotion made his works particularly impactful, resonating with readers across generations. Through novels and stories such as "Yodgor", "Shum Bola", "Soyalar", "Mening O'g'rigina Bolam", "Afandi O'lmaydigan Bo'ldi", and "Chorbazarchi", Gafur Ghulam exposed the harsh realities of the 20th century, offering a vivid portrayal of societal flaws and injustices.

### **Gender equality and Forced Marriage in Yodgor**

Gafur Ghulam's novella Yodgor presents a powerful depiction of gender inequality and the struggles faced by women in the past. One of the most striking moments in the story is the meeting between Jo'ra and Mehrixon, where Mehrixon reveals that her husband beats her and that she was forcibly married off by her parents. This reflects the reality that many women in the 20th century were denied their rights and subjected to domestic violence.

Modern legal frameworks, such as Uzbekistan's Family Code, emphasize that marriage must be based on mutual consent. This stands in stark contrast to the forced marriage

depicted in Yodgor, highlighting the significant progress made in ensuring women's rights. The novella also touches on the issue of child marriage when Saodat is engaged to Jo'ra at the age of 13. Under current Uzbek law, the legal marriage age is 18, and child marriage is strictly prohibited. This contrast between past traditions and present legal protections underscores the advancements made in protecting children and ensuring gender equality.

#### **Child Abandonment and Children's Rights**

Another significant theme in Yodgor is children's rights. Mehrixon's decision to leave her child with Jo'ra raises serious legal and ethical concerns. Under modern laws, children deprived of parental care must be placed under the guardianship of responsible authorities to ensure their well-being. Today, Uzbekistan's legal system has established strict procedures to protect abandoned or orphaned children, ensuring they receive proper care and education.

#### **Poverty and Social Injustice in "Mening O'g'rigina Bolam"**

Gafur Ghulam's short story *Mening O'g'rigina Bolam* paints a heartbreaking picture of poverty and desperation. The story highlights how extreme financial hardship forces individuals, including children, into theft simply to survive. Instead of attending school and building a future, children are forced to work or resort to crime due to the lack of opportunities and resources. This theme remains relevant today, as modern legal frameworks emphasize every child's right to education, protection, and a safe environment. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), along with national laws, ensures that children are safeguarded from economic exploitation and have access to education and healthcare. The struggles depicted in *Mening O'g'rigina Bolam* serve as a reminder of why such legal protections are essential.

**In conclusion**, Gafur Ghulam's literary works provide a compelling reflection on the social injustices of his time, many of which continue to be relevant today. His depictions of forced marriage, domestic violence, child abandonment, and extreme poverty highlight the struggles faced by marginalized groups, particularly women and children. When analyzed through the lens of modern legal principles, his works emphasize the importance of continuous legal and social reforms to protect human rights and ensure justice. By showcasing past inequalities, Gafur Ghulam's literature serves as both a historical record and a call for progress. His storytelling not only sheds light on past injustices but also reinforces the importance of laws that protect the rights of the most vulnerable members of society. Through his powerful writing and deep understanding of human nature, Gafur Ghulam remains one of the most significant figures in Uzbek literature, inspiring ongoing discussions about social justice and legal reforms.

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