

WAYS TO EFFECTIVELY USE AND IMPROVE REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL BUSINESSES

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Abstract: This article analyzes the use of regional opportunities in the development of small businesses, the identification of specialized areas for small businesses, and the solutions and problems of increasing their competitiveness based on the rational use of resources.

Keywords: small business, regional opportunities, specialization, economic development, infrastructure, innovation, efficiency, financial activities, strategic planning

ПУТИ ЭФФЕКТИВНОГО ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ И РАЗВИТИЯ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫХ ВОЗМОЖНОСТЕЙ В РАЗВИТИИ МАЛОГО БИЗНЕСА.

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Аннотация: В статье анализируется использование региональных возможностей в развитии малого бизнеса, выявляются специализированные направления деятельности малого бизнеса, а также пути и проблемы повышения его конкурентоспособности на основе рационального использования ресурсов.

Ключевые слова: малый бизнес, региональные возможности, специализация, экономическое развитие, инфраструктура, инновации, эффективность, финансовая деятельность, стратегическое планирование

Introduction

In the current conditions of the formation of market relations, liberalization of the economy, improvement of the business environment, support for small business and private entrepreneurship have become one of the priorities of state policy. Small businesses play an important role in ensuring stability in the national economy, creating new jobs, increasing incomes, producing innovative products and expanding the range of services.

Today, all regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan have various infrastructural, natural, labor and economic resources for the development of small businesses. Each region, district or city has its own unique potential, and by properly directing and effectively using them, it is possible to ensure regional economic growth. For example, the development of agribusiness in regions specializing in agriculture, and the processing industry in areas close to industrial enterprises, will lead to significant economic results. However, practice shows that in some regions the existing opportunities are not fully used or they have not been sufficiently analyzed.

Analysis of literature on the topic

Small businesses are not only drivers of economic development, but also play an important role in ensuring social stability, reducing poverty, increasing employment, and implementing innovative ideas.[1] One of the urgent tasks for today's economy is to deeply study the activities of small businesses, especially at the regional level, determine how effectively existing opportunities and resources are being used, analyze the obstacles and problems they face, and develop proposals and recommendations to overcome them.

Josef Schumpeter saw small business as the main source of economic change and innovation. According to Schumpeter's theory, regional specialization is a key factor in the development strategy of small businesses. [2] He emphasizes the role of small businesses in creating new jobs, attracting innovations, and diversifying regional economies. Beck, T., & Demirguc-Kunt

link economic growth to human capital and innovation, emphasizing the training of qualified personnel and the development of knowledge-based economic activities within regional opportunities. The development of education and science in regions serves the sustainable growth of small businesses.[3]

Research methodology. The study studied the development rates of small business entities in accordance with regional characteristics, existing infrastructural conditions, the level of use of natural resources and the practical impact of state policy. In addition, the aim was to study the role and importance of regional opportunities in the development of small business, and comprehensive research methods were used in this regard, combining theoretical and empirical approaches.

The scientific views of international and local economists on this topic - in particular, J. Schumpeter, Beck, T., & Demircuc-Kunt, M. Porter, J. Schumpeter.A and Uzbek economists (Akhmedov.M , D,Shaxidova and others) were analyzed. Based on their theoretical approaches, the relationship between small business and regional opportunities was clarified on a conceptual basis.

Analytical analysis methods were widely used during the study. Based on the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other open sources, the number of small businesses, their distribution by region, and the level of job creation were analyzed for 2020-2024.

These interviews identified real problems, practical experiences and proposals that cannot be reflected in statistical data. In order to identify regional differences, Tashkent city, Fergana region, Bukhara, Karakalpakstan, Surkhandarya and Jizzakh regions were selected as examples. Economic conditions, resource potential, infrastructure level, population employment and

social environment indicators related to business activity in these regions were analyzed.

Results and analysis. As a result of the reforms implemented in the economy of Uzbekistan in recent years, small business and private entrepreneurship are developing rapidly. The government is creating a foundation for the expansion of entrepreneurial activity through various programs and approaches aimed at supporting this sector, a system of tax incentives, loans, subsidies and grants.

According to statistics, by the end of 2024, the number of small businesses operating in Uzbekistan exceeded 600 thousand. They account for about 56 percent of the country's GDP and 75 percent of employment. The share of small businesses is especially large in the service and trade sectors, and in recent years, growth has also been observed in production and innovation areas. When viewed by region, the relative level of development of small businesses varies. For example, in large centers such as Tashkent, the Fergana Valley regions, Samarkand and Bukhara, small businesses are relatively stable and active. On the contrary, in regions with relatively low economic potential - the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Surkhandarya and Jizzakh regions - entrepreneurial activity is lower. Although small business has become significantly more active in Tashkent city, Andijan and Fergana regions, this sector has not yet been able to demonstrate its full potential in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Jizzakh and Navoi regions.

Research results. As a result of these studies, it was clearly demonstrated that territorial opportunities are a decisive factor in the development of small businesses. The level of development of small business activities in the regions of Uzbekistan varies, and these differences are mainly associated with economic, infrastructural, social and geographical factors. Statistical analysis showed that in the capital and industrialized regions (Tashkent city, Tashkent region, Fergana Valley) the number of small business

entities, their share in GDP, as well as activity in the service and trade sectors are much higher than in other regions. Also, the pace of development of small businesses in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Surkhandarya and Jizzakh regions is slow, which is explained by insufficient infrastructure, a weak investment environment, the inability to fully use state programs and a shortage of personnel. 65% of entrepreneurs who participated in the study identified financing and infrastructure problems as the main obstacles.[11]

The growth in incomes and significant changes in living conditions are noticeable. Statistical data also show that in 2016-2020, the total income of the people of our country increased by more than 2.6 times. Our place in the world arena in this area is also increasing every year. It was noted that in the Global Innovation Index, Uzbekistan improved its position by 29 points compared to 2015, taking 93rd place among 131 countries and 4th place among the countries of Central and South Asia.

Conclusions and suggestions. The study revealed that each region has its own natural, economic, demographic and social resources, the rational and effective use of which is an important factor for the successful operation of small businesses. Small businesses do not develop at the same rate in each region. The main reason for this is the presence of unique natural, economic, demographic, infrastructural and cultural opportunities in each region. For example, irrigation-based agriculture is developing faster in regions rich in water resources, while production and technological services are developing faster in industrial centers. Differences between regions, the level of resource utilization and the imbalance of infrastructure are emerging as a significant problem in the development of small businesses. Each region and district should develop a specialized strategy for the development of small businesses based on its natural, economic and social potential.

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