

Features Of Urbanization Processes And Changes In The Territorial Structure Of Citiesin The Republic Of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: The article considers the features of urbanization processes taking place in the Republic of Uzbekistan and changes in the territorial composition of urban population places. Moreover, factors affecting the urbanistic and territorial urbanistic composition of the regions, the location of the urban population, the development of large cities were studied.

Keywords: city, urbanization, territorial structure, urban settlement, cities network,territorial-urban structure, large city, agglomeration.

Introduction

After the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the improvement of the system of cities that form the core of the territorial structure of the country, the correct and effective use of their existing natural, production and scientific and technical potential became one of the pressing issues. Consequently, the structural structure of the national and regional economy is closely connected with the urban network and system. Therefore, it is crucial to investigate the changes in the urbanistic structure of the Republic in the conditions of new economic relations, as well as the country-specific aspects and impact of World Urbanization.

The main results and findings

At the same time, the system of urban settlement of the country needs to intensify its development. Urbanization is natural world process, the growth of cities, which manifests itself as a territorial concentration of population and production in spatial nodes, is a reflection of shifts in the sectoral

structure of the economy. Therefore, scientific studies of the prospects for urban expansion and the improvement of the territorial structure of urban settlement are gaining relevance.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 10, 2019 No. UP-5623 "On measures to radically improve urbanization processes" notes that "within the framework of ongoing structural transformations, along with the implementation of large strategic investment projects, the process of urbanization has not been taken into account at the proper level as a factor

contributing to sustainable development and growth in the well-being of the urban population ". Clause 4 of this Decree provides for the formation of an "Urbanization Agency under the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan", among the main activities of which is determined "identifying" growth poles", choosing places for management centers, coordinating policies in education, the formation of the labor market, internal external migration, regulation of the integrated development of the urban settlement system, the formation of an effective ratio of small, medium, large and large cities, taking into account world practice ”.

The regulation of the urbanization process and the smoothing of disproportions in the settlement system through the intensification of the socio-economic development of settlements of certain ranks are aimed at reducing territorial disparities and balanced development of the regional economy.

The main purpose of this study is an expression from the development of urbanization processes in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the composition of cities, as well as from the determination of the characteristics of the location of urban population. In order to achieve this goal, the following basic tasks were defined and fulfilled:

- ✓ to determine the characteristics of urbanization processes in Uzbekistan;
- ✓ to determine and analyze the urbanistic and territorial urbanistic composition of Uzbekistan;
- ✓ to investigate analysis of the location characteristics of the urban population;
- ✓ to study certain reasons and affecting the formation and development of major cities.

At the present stage of modernization of economic settlement and demographic structures in the context of globalization, a comprehensive study of urban settlements, taking into account their size and functional profile is very important. At the same time, the distribution of cities and towns by population size expresses urbanism, and the provision of regions with cities, primarily large ones, identifies their territorial-urban structure. In turn, these network-nodal structures serve as a kind of indicator, or spokesman, of the peculiarities of the territorial organization and concentration of production and population. In Uzbekistan, the development of urbanization processes, the formation of territorial-hierarchical systems of cities has its own regional characteristics. These features are caused by natural and geographical conditions, the presence of various forms of relief [1,45]. In this context, it is important to emphasize that the limited availability of land and, in particular, water resources suitable for the

location of production and resettlement of the population indicates the objective need for the accelerated development of urban forms of settlements.

The development of urbanization processes in the country is characterized by the following features:

- uneven replenishment of the city network in the historical retrospective;
- undulating change in the share of the urban population;
- the enlargement of urban settlement caused by the emergence of a large number of small urban settlements;
- the presence of poorly specialized, functionally undeveloped or monospecialized cities and towns;
- the predominant importance of natural population growth in the dynamics of the demographic development of urban areas;
- reducing the gap in the total and total fertility rates between the urban and rural population;
- some weakening of internal rural-urban migration with a change of permanent residence.

The regions of the Republic differ according to their urbanistic composition, their genetic characteristics, functional types and large size. In particular, on the eve of independence, the country had a total of 123 cities and 104 towns (urbanization rate-40,8 per cent). In 1992, there was a specific situation in the Republic's geourbanistics. This year there were 17 towns in different regions. They are in Jizzakh-Zarbdor and Zafarabad, in Samarkand-Mirbozor, Sirdaryo-friendship, in Tashkent-New Chinoz, in Kashkadarya-Nuristan, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan-Akshalak and Kazanketken [2,32]. In the same year, the urban network in the sluggish urbanized area suddenly expanded to 5 units (Angor, Do'lik, Sariq, Hurriyet and Elbayon), which is explained by the development of modern transport and other infrastructure in the region. On the contrary, cities such as Gurlan, Khonka, Shovot and Hazorasp in the Khorezm region fell into a series of settlements. In 1994, Payariq in Samarkand region, and in 1995 Shofirkon district centers in Bukhara region gained the status of the city (6,29).

Currently, the projects implemented in the International Logistics Center (Angren SIZ), Jizzakh special industrial zone and "Navoi" free industrial zone will play an important role in the development of the geography of cities of our country in terms of ensuring road independence. In particular, the commissioning of Uchkuduk-Sultanuways-Nukus in 2001, Tashkent-Boysun-Kumkurgan in 2007, Angren-Pop railways in 2016 allowed the formation of the country's railway system as an independent holistic structure.

The modern urban settlement network of Uzbekistan as on 01.01.2020 consists of 120 cities and 1067 urban settlements (Table 1). The number of the latter increased sharply in 2009, when about 1000 rural settlements were transferred to the category of urban settlements within the framework of the implementation of the State Program "Year of Development and Welfare of the Rural".

Table 1 Territorial and urban structure of the Republic of Uzbekistan (as on 01.01.2020)

Regions	Total population, thousand people	Urban population, thousand people	Cities	Urban settlements
The Republic of Uzbekistan	34558,9	17144,1	120	1067
Republic of Karakalpakstan	1923,8	930,5	12	26
Areas: Andijan	3188,2	1633,9	11	79
Bukhara	1946,9	709,5	11	68
Jizzakh	1410,6	648,0	6	42
Kashkadarya	3334,5	1410,4	12	117
Navoi	1013,8	487,7	7	46
Namangan	2867,4	1815,1	8	120
Samarkand	3947,4	1438,3	11	88
Surkhandarya	2681,0	954,0	8	112
Syrdarya	861,1	361,3	5	25
Tashkent	2994,0	1446,7	16	9
Fergana	3819,9	2117,7	9	197
Khorezm	1893,1	619,3	3	56
Tashkent city	2677,2	2571,7	1	1

The table was compiled based on the materials of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The number of “recruits” was especially large in the Fergana, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Andijan and Namangan regions [5,116]. All this led to significant shifts in the geographical system of urban settlements of the republic as a whole. As the analysis shows, out of 1067 all urban settlements in the country, 932 belong to the category of the smallest settlements with a population of less than 10 thousand people in each. They are home to 25.2% of the urban population of the country. At the same time, the link of medium-sized cities is poorly represented in Uzbekistan. Only about 20 cities belong to this category, and they concentrate 8.3% of the republic's citizens. Such an imbalance in the territorial structure of urban settlements indicates an insufficient formation, or immaturity, of the national

settlement system. The positioning of large and large cities in the general system, their place and role shows the development of the urban structure of the country.

It is they who determine the latest trends in the development of globalization processes and the phenomenon of urbanization in general. However, in Uzbekistan, due to the latest town-forming acts, the severity of large-city settlement is becoming less noticeable. Nowadays there are only 18 cities with a population of more than 100 thousand people in each. Of these, 1 is a millionaire city, 2 are the largest cities with a population of more than 500 thousand people (Namangan and Samarkand), 6 are large (Andijan, Fergana, Bukhara, Nukus, Kokand and Karshi), 9 are actually large cities. The rating of cities is unconditionally headed by the capital of the country, the city of Tashkent with a population of 2.5 million people. In this respect, it is the largest in the Central Asian region, the fourth in the CIS after Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kiev. Now it concentrates 7.5% of the total and 15.0% of the urban population of the republic (as on 01.01.2020).

As for a small town among the regional centers - Nurafshan and Gulistan, it is necessary to accelerate their socio-cultural and demographic development, improve the regional organizing and regional service functions. In the geography of urbanization development, it is interesting to analyze its territorial structure in the context of administrative regions. In this respect, the capital and Fergana regions clearly stand out from other regions of Uzbekistan. Tashkent region has 111 urban settlements, including 8 "welterweight", 3 medium and the same number of large cities. On another "battlefield" there are small and small towns and villages with a population of up to 10 thousand people, there are about 90 of them in total. However, in general, the "upper floors" of the hierarchical structure of the region's cities are quite powerful, and they play an active role in the territorial organization of the economy. Starting from 2017, the number of cities of regional subordination in Uzbekistan began to gradually increase. So, in 2017, the cities of Khiva, Shakhrisabz, Yangiyul and Akhangaran were restored to the status of cities of regional subordination, the newly-made center of the Tashkent region, Nurafshon (formerly Toytepa), was declared a city of regional subordination [9, 128].

Fergana region is also distinguished by the presence of large cities such as Fergana, Kokand and Margilan. But here the network of small urban settlements is highly advanced and cities with a population of 50-100 thousand people are completely absent. This leads to the polarization of regional settlement, its asymmetry, to a dispersed territorial-urban structure, which is, in general, an unfavorable situation for the placement of socio-cultural and industrial facilities. At the same time, it should be noted that one of the pronounced territorial systems of settlement of the country, the Fergana-Margilan agglomeration, has formed here. It is she, along with the Tashkent agglomeration, that determines the main frame-nodal component of the spatial development of urbanization. The urbanistic structure of the rest of the subjects of the Republic of Uzbekistan also has an ambiguous characteristic. For example, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the first city of Nukus (324.0 thousand) is 4.3 times ahead of the next

Khodjeyli (79.5 thousand). But on the other hand, a network of medium-sized cities is well represented here: Biruni, Turtkul, Khodjeyli and Chimbay. The spatial structure of the urban settlement of the densely populated Andijan region is also peculiar, which is administrative center, Andijan (about 450.0 thousand), is noticeably detached from the rest of the cities, 79.1 thousand people live in Shakhrikhan, 69.3 thousand people live in the center of Asaka which is the place of Uzbek car manufacturers. An even larger gap in the population size of the first and second cities (violating the Zipf-Stuart rule) is noted in the neighboring Namangan region. 74.2 thousand people live in Chust, and 640.1 thousand in the regional center of Namangan. Monocentricity of urban settlement and territorial-urban structure is also observed in the Samarkand region. The world famous Samarkand, which was once considered the capital of the empire of Amir Timur, now has more than 551.9 thousand inhabitants, and in the second city of the Kattakurgan region - 90.7 thousand, i.e. slightly more than in another medium-sized city - Urgut (74.6 thousand). In Bukhara, no less well-known in the historical and geographical aspect, the number of inhabitants is 281.4 thousand people, i.e. 4.5 times more than in the second city of the Kagan region. It is the only middle town in the Bukhara region; close to it is the city of Gijduvan, which, however, has less than 90 thousand inhabitants. Against the background of a monocentric territorial-urban structure, the Kashkadarya region stands out as a more "ordered" network of cities [6, 121]. 278.8 thousand people live in its administrative center Karshi, and 140.7 thousand people live in Shakhrisabz. It is the largest regional center of the country, which is included in the list of large cities of Uzbekistan. In our opinion, in the coming years, due to the reduction of the migration outflow from urban settlements abroad of the European population, as well as stable industrial development, the share of the urban population in the Republic of Uzbekistan will increase, primarily due to the accelerated growth of large, large, largest cities and the capital of the country the city of Tashkent.

Conclusion

Thus, although the development of cities in the first years of independence was somewhat slow, the number of them suddenly increased by five times due to the next "urbanistic wave". However, in this case, our country still remains relatively low in the world urbanization rate. In particular, Uzbekistan ranks 155th among 233 countries of the world in this indicator. For comparison, the rate of urbanization is an average of 56 per cent in the world, 48 per cent in the countries of Central Asia, 59 per cent in Asia, 52 per cent in Turkmenistan.

It is worth noting that in recent years there has been a decline in the level of urbanization in Uzbekistan, namely the process of urbanization's return. According to the analysis, the level of urbanization in the last decade has decreased from 51,7 percent to 51,0 percent. The same situation can be explained by the fact that the composition of cities does not change, the population in cities is low in natural growth, the number of small towns and their lack of compliance with urban planning

requirements, the abundance of mono cities specializing in a narrow sphere, almost ¼ of the urban population is embodied in the capital city.

This current situation determines the need for a comprehensive study of the opportunities and main directions of development of cities and towns, the growth of pole and centers.

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