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Research Article

FEATURES OF THE URBANIZATION PROCESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the features of urban growth and the formation of their systems in the conditions of independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the impact of political, economic and social changes in the process of urbanization, classification and functional change of urban systems.

KEYWORDS

City, urbanization, urban settlement, settlement, urban settlement, industry, social, economic development, infrastructure.

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Introduction

As you know, cities, being political, economic and cultural centers, reflect the level of development of the country's economy and urban life. The development of the process of urbanization, the growth of cities and the formation of urban settlement are the result of historical, economic, social development. During the years of independence, the features of the development of urbanization in the republic have been influenced by political, economic and social processes, which, in turn, have affected the growth of cities and the proportion of the urban population, the functional typology of cities and their classification by size.

Currently, more than 34.5 million people live in Uzbekistan, of which 17.5 million (50.7%) are rural residents. Thus, in Uzbekistan, according to 1991 data, there were 119 cities and 115 urban settlements, the total population of which was 836.6 thousand people, or 40.5% of the total population. After the well-known decision on some mitigations of the main criteria, urban development in the republic (2009) began to grow rapidly: there were 120 cities and 1067 urban-type settlements, where 50.1% of the total population of the republic lives. This was due to the transfer of 966 rural settlements to the rank of urban settlements.

This decision directly affected the socio-economic and demographic development of the country.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

As a result of this indicator, urbanization in the republic immediately rose from 35.8% to 50.7%. As of January 1, 2021, there are 1,187 urban settlements in the country, of which 1,067 settlements, or more than 80%, are urban settlements with a population of no more than 10,000 people. A significant amount of the transfer of rural settlements to urban settlements in the republic prevailed in all regions of the Ferghana Valley, in Andijan, Fergana and Namangan regions, which as a result led to a sharp increase in the number of urban population and the number of urban settlements. As can be seen from Table. 1, the highest rates of the proportion of the urban population are in the regions of the Ferghana Valley.

As a result of the adopted resolution, the level of urbanization in the republic was compared to the world average, and on the other hand, the transformation of rural settlements into urban settlements, to a certain extent, was considered as their development into potential centers of socioeconomic development for adjacent territories.

An analysis of the current state of urban settlements in the Republic of Uzbekistan revealed a number of social, economic, environmental and other major problems that hinder the development of urban settlement. The results of studying the economic base of cities and urban-type settlements have now revealed significant differences in quantitative and qualitative indicators. So, for example, an urban

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settlement may correspond in terms population, but differ in terms of employment. In most urban-type settlements, employment of the population is dominated by rural labor. Also, in terms of quality indicators, in terms of the level of industrial, social development and infrastructural development, there are significant shortcomings in many urban settlements of the country.

Modern problems of the urban settlements of the republic are largely the result of the specifics of the internal and external conditions for their development, the natural and socio-economic characteristics of each urban settlement. At present, the development of urban settlements is associated with the solution of such economic and social problems as the economic development of the country, state regulation of the distribution of productive forces, the full and efficient use of labor resources, and improving the standard of living of the population of cities of various ranks.

One of the main strategic directions of reforming Uzbekistan is the restructuring of the economy. In the adopted Action Strategy for five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, along with priority areas in the field of reforming the state administration system, improving the legislative framework, special attention is also paid to the issues of integrated and balanced socio-economic development of regions, districts and cities, optimal and efficient use of their potential, ensuring the integrated and effective use of the natural, mineral, raw materials, agricultural, tourism and labor potential of each region by expanding the scale of modernization and diversification of the economy of the territories, accelerated development of relatively lagging regions and cities, primarily through increasing their industrial and export potential.

Table 1. Administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Uzbekistan (according to the data of 01.01.2021)

	Territory (thousand km²)	District s	Total - cities	including, Republican and regional subordination	Urban settlements	Populatio n by region
The Republic of Uzbekistan	448,97	175	120	32	1067	
Republic of Karakalpakstan	166,59	16	12	1	26	1990000
areas:						
Andijan	4,30	14	11	2	79	352614
Bukhara	40,22	11	11	2	68	1924200
Jizzakh	21,21	12	6	1	42	136500
Kashkadarya	28,57	13	12	2	117	3213090

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Navoi	111,1	8	7	3	46	1000000
Namangan	7,44	12	8	1	115	2900000
Samarkand	16,77	14	11	2	88	4000000
Surkhandarya	20,1	14	8	1	112	2700000
Syrdarya	4,28	8	5	3	25	900000
Tashkent	15,25	15	16	7	95	3000000
Ferghana	6,76	15	9	:::::::::: 4	197	3800000
Khorezm	6,05	11	1 3	2	56	1900000
Tashkent city	0,34	12	1	1/0_	1	2700000

^{*} The table was compiled based on the materials of the statistical collection "Demographic Yearbook of Uzbekistan". Tashkent -2021.

Also, in the adopted development strategy, a special role belongs to the active development of small towns and urban-type settlements through the creation of new industrial facilities and service centers in them, the creation of small industrial zones, the attraction of funds from large economic associations, bank loans and private foreign investment, further development and modernization of production facilities, broad development of private entrepreneurship and improvement of living conditions of the population, ensuring balance and sustainable development of the national economy2.

The main factors of city formation in the republic were: the performance of administrative functions, the development of land and water and mineral resources, as well as hydropower and water management construction, industry and transport, etc. According to the functional typology, the cities of Uzbekistan can be divided into the following types: -administrative centers, cities with the primary importance of industrial and transport functions, industrial and transport centers, resource, as well as cities with the primary importance of the organizational and economic functions.

The size of the city in different historical periods was determined ambiguously. To determine the urbanization of the republic, the following classification is most acceptable: "small cities" up to 20 thousand people, "semi-medium cities" from 20-50 thousand inhabitants, medium - 50-100 thousand and large - 100 thousand or more. "Small cities" with up to 20 thousand people include 32 cities, "semi-medium cities" make up 49, the group of medium-sized cities includes 30 cities, large cities make up 7 with a population of 250 to 499.9 thousand people. Not a single city of the republic is included in the rank of cities with a population of 500 thousand to 1 million inhabitants, and the only city of Tashkent is a millionaire city with a population of more than 2.7 million people.

The second largest city in terms of population is the ancient city of Samarkand, which for a long time was the largest cultural and political center of Central Asia, with a population of 493.0 thousand people, and the third largest city is

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Namangan with a population of 475.7 thousand people.

One of the main problems in the development of cities and their regional systems is the strengthening of their production potential and, above all, industry. Attracting foreign investment for the development of large oil and gas fields in the southwestern part of the country, mechanical engineering in Andijan, Khorezm, Samarkand regions, the creation of large textile enterprises in Bukhara, Tashkent, Fergana, Namangan regions, as well as the implementation of large investment projects in all regions on the formation and development of information and communication infrastructure and improving the provision of water to the population contributes to the development of industry as a city-forming base and the formation of the socio-economic efficiency of urban settlement in general.

At present, the Free Industrial Economic Zone (FEZ) "Navoi" and Special Industrial Zones in Angren and Jizzakh have been created in the republic, and it is also planned to create new economic zones "Kokand" in the Fergana region, "Urgut" in the Samarkand region, "Gijduvan" in the Bukhara region and "Khazarasp" in the Khorezm region, which will significantly affect the territorial organization of productive forces, the further development and improvement of urban settlement and the accelerated socioeconomic development of the surrounding regions.

The main factor in city formation is transport, since the formation of urban settlements in

Uzbekistan was associated with the construction of transport routes. During the years of independence of the republic, in order to deepen integration and develop international and interregional relations, a large role is given to attracting investments for the implementation of transport projects related to the creation of modern highways and railways. Thus, the Navoi-Uchkuduk-Sultanuvaystag-Nukus and Tashguzar-Baysun-Kumkurgan railways across the Kyzylkum desert were built and put into operation, the construction of a new highway eastward through the West Tienshyan Range, connected with China, has begun, as well as completed the construction of the Navoi airport and the international logistics center in Angren. The construction of these main routes contributes to the improvement of both the external and internal transport network, the use of the opportunities of the adjacent territories, and serves to form the supporting frame of settlement and the impetus for the development of urban settlements. And the most important importance of the development of transport infrastructure is reflected in the improvement of the geopolitical and geostrategic position of the country.

CONCLUSION

An analysis of the study of the features and trends of the urbanization process in the Republic of Uzbekistan made it possible to draw the following conclusions:

The adopted resolution on some mitigations of the main criteria for town formation in the

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- republic (in 2009), led to the rapid growth of urban networks and the size of the urban population as a whole, but the transformed settlements into small towns do not meet the status of a city in terms of quality indicators;
- Over the years of independence and in the conditions of market relations, there have been no significant changes in the growth of cities and the formation of urban systems, there is also a weak development in functional development and classification by population;
- One of the main problems of urban development and the formation of urban systems in Uzbekistan is the development of production potential, social development and the use of the economic potential of the regions.

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