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TERRITORIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF URBANIZATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

Abstract

The purpose of the work is to study the problems of territorial and economic development within the confines of regulated activation of urbanization processes in the Republic of Kazakhstan. To achieve it, authors analysed the statistical data on such indicators as population density, administrative-territorial division, according to which significant disproportions of territorial and economic development and settlement in the republic, the development of the regions of Kazakhstan were revealed. The authors studied the main provisions of regional policy, considered the main directions of state management of the formation of centers of urbanization with the decisive role of cities with a population of millions people in the optimization of regional economic systems. Research on this topic allowed the authors to conclude that the process of urbanization in Kazakhstan has a dynamic character and has not yet exhausted its potential, which gives reason to conclude that it is necessary to form new centers of urbanization and agglomerations. The article examines the main trends of the urbanization process at the present stage, namely, in economically developed countries, where urbanization has reached a sufficiently high level, the share of the urban population is growing at a slower pace, whereas in developing countries the urbanization process continues to grow in breadth and has a spontaneous, uncontrollable character. At the same time, the growth of population in cities far outstrips their economic development. Materials and research methods. When studying the territorial and economic features of urbanization in Kazakhstan, a complex of the following research methods were used: monographic, program-targeted, statistical analysis. In this work also used such theoretical research methods as comparisons and generalizations, scientific abstraction and synthesis.

Key words: urbanization, agglomeration, city, region, population, regional center, regional policy.

Introduction

The growth of urban population has become a distinct feature inherent to historical development of the civilization. The urbanization process had several stages among which the most intensive is connected with the industrialization stage. The urbanization in the contemporary time is a full-scale process changing the role of cities not only in individual countries, but in the universal space in whole. This process, to a significant extent, was favored by the independence got by countries at all continents including the post-Soviet territory.

In the course of independence years, the Republic of Kazakhstan pays a lot of attention to the tasks of territorial development. The implementation of the state policy in the field of comprehensive development of regions is based on the adopted Main provisions of the General scheme of territory arrangement in the Republic of Kazakhstan updated considering the Strategy “Kazakhstan–2050”: new political course of the established State, and corrections of the national and governmental programs, strategic plans of the national authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan that represent a brief summary of the main project proposals and decisions on arrangement of the Republic of Kazakhstan territory for the intermediate (year 2020), estimated (year 2030), and predicted (year 2050) terms of projecting under the updated General scheme of the territory arrangement in the Republic of Kazakhstan [1].

The main problem is the disproportion in social and economic development of regions that is, first of all, stipulated by nature and climate conditions. The most part of Kazakhstan territory is represented

by semi-desert and desert zones. For the development of such regions the huge amount of financial and other resources is required.

The most important indicator of urbanization is the share of urban population in the country. In Kazakhstan, in 2016 this indicator was 57.2%, and in 2020 the urban population increased up to 59.1% [2].

The incremental rate of urban population growth is reasonably stipulated by the implementation of large investment projects in cities, concentration of science-based enterprises, developed engineer, transport, informational communications, better quality of medical, educational, social services, higher level of income and other.

Highlights

The paper considers contemporary tendencies of urbanization, describes its features in Kazakhstan basing on statistical data, shows the main tendencies of the state management of the urbanization centers forming in the Republic.

Materials and investigation methods

While investigating the territorial and economic features of urbanization in Kazakhstan, a set of the following investigation methods was used: monographic, special-purpose, statistical analysis. The work has also applied such theoretical methods of investigation as comparison and generalization, scientific abstraction, and synthesis.

Results, discussion

Cities are the locomotives of economy. If at the early stages of cities establishing the determining factors for its appearance were people settlement in favorable environmental conditions and then forming of sedentary life and gradual growth of administrative power of policies, nowadays the contemporary city is a center of economic and political influence.

There is distinct interconnection between the level of economic development and degree of urbanization. Many countries show a tendency when the low level of GDP corresponds to small share of population in cities and vice versa, the urbanization potential in economically underdeveloped countries is quite high (Table 1).

Table 1 – GDP and urban population share, 2020

Country	GDP per capita, US dollars	Share of urban population,%
Great Britain	44117	83,7
Russia	27930	74,6
China	17192	60,3
Indonesia	12222	56.0
Egypt	12790	42.7
Bangladesh	5307	37.4
Cambodia	4695	23.8
Burundi	760	13.4
Note – reference [3, 4].		

The scientific research has confirmed that increase of urbanization level by 1% has ensured the growth of the gross domestic product per capita by 10% in China, and by 13% in India [5].

The relatively high rate of urban population increment is observed in the developing countries where the breakthrough growth of urbanization level is caused by the migration of rural population to cities. If in economically developed countries, where the urbanization has reached quite high level, the growth of urban population share is slower and number of city people in some capitals and big cities even decreases, in the developing countries the urbanization process continues to grow broadside and has spontaneous, uncontrolled character. At the same time, the population growth in cities, as rule, is much ahead of its economic development.

The contemporary processes of growth and settlement of population, changing of its structure cause a lot of problems that should be resolved considering the specifics of different country development level.

For Kazakhstan, the comprehensive development of regions is one of the main tasks of the national policy. Its solving is complicated by disbalance of territorial and economic development and contrast settling in the Republic (Figure 1).

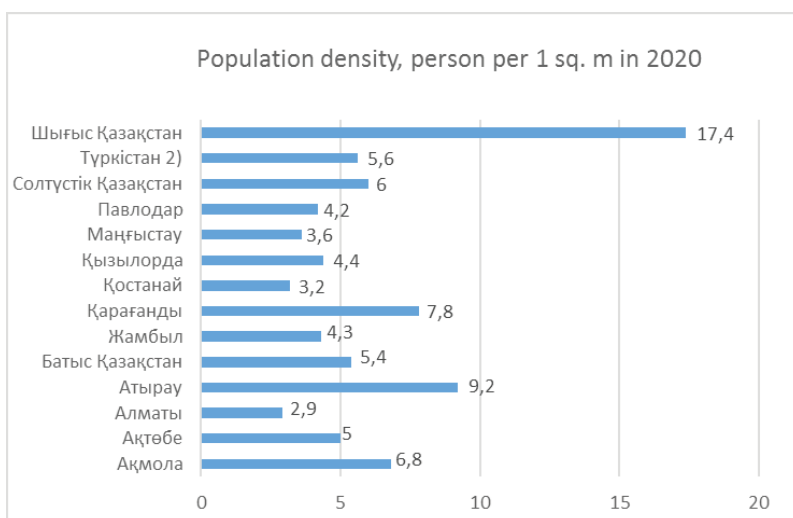


Figure 1 – Population density, person per 1 sq. m in 2020 [6]

The process of urban agglomerations network forming in Kazakhstan, as natural continuation of the global process, has determined as prospective centers the cities Almaty, Nur-Sultan, Shymkent, and Aktobe, and regional centers and cities Semey and Turkestan. The most urbanized are three cities in the Republic, its population is more than million people – the highest population density is in Almaty – 2806.5 persons per 1 sq. m, then the capital Nur-Sultan – 1425.5 and Shymkent – 892.7 persons per 1 sq. m [6]. The status of the nationwide city given to Chimkent city has provided it with capabilities to implement the widescale projects and attract large investments.

Currently, there are 88 cities and towns in the Republic, among them 37 have regional status, and 48 have district city status (Figure 2).

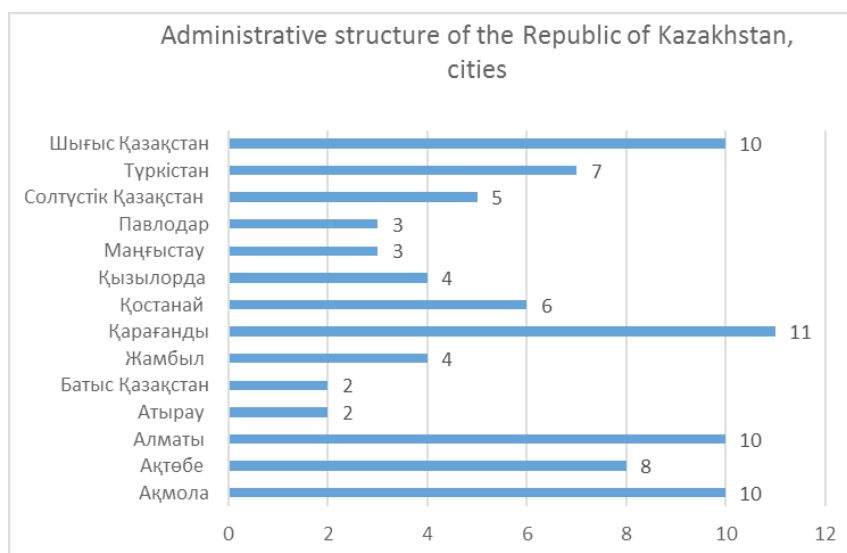


Figure 2 – Administrative structure of RK, cities [6]

Distribution of cities by regions reflects the asymmetry of its development caused by the climate conditions. The large extension of Kazakhstan territory from the east to the west covers different nature zones including the semi-desert and desert zones occupying the major part of plain Kazakhstan. For the development of these territories and creation of comfortable conditions for living there, the huge amount of financial and other resources is required. The hard development of these regions causes relatively small number of large urban centers. The disproportions in economic development

of regions are also reflected on territorial distribution of rural settlements, Mangystayu, Atyrayu, Kyzylorda regions close this list too (Figure 3).

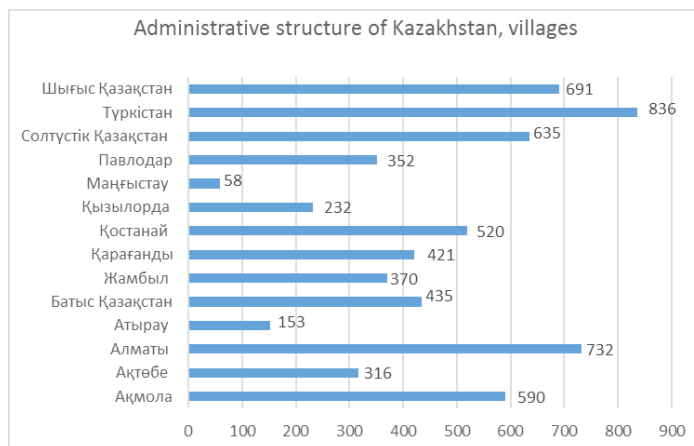


Figure 3 – Administrative structure of RK, cities [6]

In many world countries the large-scale “village-city” flows are accompanied by forming of agglomerations. Thus, by 2030, at least 70% of Kazakhstan population could live in cities. Namely such share of population urbanization, in experts’ opinion, will allow forming the contemporary post-industrial economy [7].

The growth of urban population is a natural process typical for the most countries of the world. In view of rural people all advantages are on the city side. There one can achieve a right for favorable future, well-paid work, qualitative education, good medical service, and housing conditions. The base of the internal migration to cities is population having agriculture labor experience. The city industry and service sphere are not able to ensure the employment for everyone considering that the workforce arriving to cities is not qualified or has low qualification. The shortage of job opportunities and problems with employment became one of the main reasons of the so-called “false” urbanization [8].

According to the new regional policy of Kazakhstan, its economic territories are divided into the following categories – “first level” cities (agglomerations), “second level” cities (regional centers, Semey and Turkestan cities), “third level” cities (small and monocities), key rural settlements, and border territory.

The “first level” cities or urban agglomerations reasonable become the key factors of the contemporary settling in the most world countries. In Kazakhstan, these are Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent, Aktobe cities.

The “second level” are 14 cities, among them 12 cities are administrative centers of 12 regions (Kokshetayu, Taldykorgan, Atyrayu, Uralsk, Taraz, Karaganda, Kostanay, Kyzylorda, Pavlodar, Petropavlovsk, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Aktayu), 2 cities are of regional significance (Semey, Turkestan).

The “third level” cities (small and monocities) on its geographical location are divided into the following city types: at the zone of agglomerations influence, along the motor highways and railways of the Republican and international significance, and at border territory.

This plan of the territorial and space development of the country realizes the new regional policy aimed at the creation of the rational territorial arrangement of economic potential and favorable conditions for population living. It is based on the rational balance of the priority development of prospective centers of economic growth and support of regions with low economic potential at minimum sufficient level of life quality standard.

The regional policy aimed at the balanced development of regions, increase of employment and population life quality independently on the place of their living, should, in the long run, ensure the gradual urbanization and optimized territorial and economic organization of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The development of depressive regions with unfavorable conditions for people living is aggravated by relatively small number of large cities. In this regard, it is important to form new centers of urbanization and agglomerations. By the present moment, Aktobe has more than 500 thousand people, Karaganda is on the way to half million population; definite demographic potential have Taraz, Pavlodar, Ust-Kamenogorsk towns.

Conclusion

Thus, the analysis of the territorial and economic features of Kazakhstan urbanization allows concluding that the main problem is the disproportion in social and economic development of regions. To implement the managed urbanization, the specific attention is paid to development of agglomerations – the macro-regions with centers of economic growth in large agglomerations – Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent, and Aktobe are formed on the national level, the regional centers and Semey, Turkestan towns, small towns and monocities were determined as growth points at regional level. At the present stage the regional policy of Kazakhstan is aimed at ensuring the forming of the rational territorial arrangement that includes stimulation and regulated development of urbanization processes being a starting point of the economic growth of the national economy, development and support of the prospective settlements having economic and demographic potential.

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ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНЫЕ И ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ УРБАНИЗАЦИИ В КАЗАХСТАНЕ

Аннотация

Целью работы является исследование проблем территориально-экономического развития в рамках регулируемой активизации процессов урбанизации в Республике Казахстан. Для ее достижения проведен анализ статистических данных по таким показателям, как плотность населения, административно-территориальное

деление, по которым выявлены существенные диспропорции территориально-экономического развития и расселения в республике, развития регионов Казахстана. Авторами изучены основные положения региональной политики, рассмотрены основные направления государственного управления формированием центров урбанизации при решающей роли городов с миллионным населением в оптимизации региональных экономических систем. Исследования по данной теме позволили авторам сделать вывод, что процесс урбанизации в Казахстане имеет динамичный характер и еще не исчерпал свой потенциал, что дает основание сделать вывод о необходимости формирования новых центров урбанизации и агломераций. В статье рассмотрены основные тенденции процесса урбанизации на современном этапе, а именно в экономически развитых странах, где урбанизация достигла достаточно высокого уровня: доля городского населения растет более медленными темпами, тогда как в развивающихся странах процесс урбанизации продолжает расти вширь и имеет стихийный, неуправляемый характер. При этом рост населения в городах, как правило, намного опережает экономическое развитие. При изучении территориально-экономических особенностей урбанизации в Казахстане применялся комплекс следующих методов исследований: монографический, программно-целевой, статистический анализ. В работе также были использованы такие теоретические методы исследования, как сравнения и обобщения, научная абстракция и синтез.

Ключевые слова: урбанизация, агломерация, город, регион, народ, обласной центр, региональная политика.

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ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ УРБАНДАЛУДЫҢ АУМАҚТЫҚ ЖӘНЕ ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ АСПЕКТІЛЕРІ

Андатпа

Жұмыстың мақсаты – Қазақстан Республикасындағы урбандалу процестерінің реттелетін белсендіру шеңберінде аумақтық-экономикалық даму мәселелерін зерттеу. Оған қол жеткізу үшін халық тығыздығы, әкімшілік-аумақтық бөліну сияқты көрсеткіштер бойынша статистикалық деректерге талдау жүргізілді, олар бойынша республикада аумақтық-экономикалық даму мен қоныстанудың, Қазақстан өңірлерінің дамуындағы елеулі сәйкессіздіктер анықталды. Авторлар өңірлік саясаттың негізгі ережелерін зерделеді, өңірлік экономикалық жүйелерді оңтайландыруда миллион халқы бар қалалардың шешуші рөлімен урбандалу орталықтарын қалыптастыруда мемлекеттік басқарудың негізгі бағыттарын қарастырды. Осы тақырып бойынша зерттеулер авторларға Қазақстандағы урбандалу процесі серпінді сипатқа ие және өзінің әлеуеті әлі таусылған жоқ деген қорытынды жасауға мүмкіндік берді, бұл жаңа урбандалу орталықтары мен агломерацияларды қалыптастыру қажеттілігі туралы қорытынды жасауға негіз бола алады. Мақалада қазіргі кезеңдегі урбандалу үдерісінің негізгі тенденциялары қарастырылған, атап айтқанда урбандалу айтарлықтай жоғары деңгейге жеткен экономикалық дамыған елдерде: қала халқының үлесі баяу қарқынмен өсуде, ал дамушы елдерде урбандалу үдерісі кеңейе түсуде және стихиялық, бақыланбайтын сипатқа ие. Бұл ретте қалалардағы халық санының өсуі, әдетте, экономикалық дамудан әлдеқайда алда. Қазақстанда урбандалудың аумақтық-экономикалық ерекшеліктерін зерделеу кезінде мынадай зерттеу әдістерінің кешені қолданылды: монографиялық, бағдарламалық-мақсатты, статистикалық талдау. Жұмыста сонымен қатар салыстыру және жалпылау, ғылыми абстракция және синтез сияқты теориялық зерттеу әдістері қолданылды.

Тірек сөздер: урбандалу, агломерация, қала, аймақ, халық, облыс орталық, аймақтық саясат.