BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg
BG PULSE JOURNAL

FEATURES OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAMARKAND REGION IN THE 50S-80S OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Nazarov O'rol Sirojiddin ugli
A doctoral student at Sharof Rashidov Samarkand State University.

Abstract: This article analyzes the socio-economic development processes of the Samarkand region in the 50s-80s of the 20th century based on archival documents and statistical data. The study covers the transformation of cotton growing into a priority area in agriculture, the development of industrial enterprises, urbanization processes, changes in the education and healthcare systems. The results of the economic and social policies implemented in the region and existing problems are also scientifically assessed.

Keywords: Kattakurgan, Darg'om district, State Construction Committee of Uzbekistan (Gosstroy), Mitan district, Gagarin street

Samarkand region, as one of the largest agro-industrial regions of the republic in the 50s-80s of the 20th century, occupied an important place in the processes of economic and social development. During this period, the region experienced the expansion of the network of industrial enterprises, the transformation of cotton growing into a priority area in agriculture, the development of irrigation systems, as well as certain changes in the fields of education, healthcare and culture. Therefore, the study of the features of the socio-economic development of Samarkand region during this period is one of the important issues of the history of the region.

In the 50s-80s of the 20th century, agriculture occupied one of the leading places in the economy of Samarkand region. The region's agricultural production was specialized in accordance with the natural and geographical conditions and available land and water resources. While cotton growing was developed as the main industry in irrigated areas, grain growing was considered a priority in the arable lands, and cattle breeding was considered a priority in the pasture areas.

The resolution "On measures to restore and develop cotton growing in Uzbekistan in 1946–1953", adopted by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on February 2, 1946, defined the priority areas of post-war agrarian policy.[1] Based on this resolution, special attention was paid to increasing the volume of cotton cultivation, expanding irrigated land, and developing irrigation facilities. As a result, agricultural production in the regions of the republic specialized in cotton growing, including the Samarkand region, was reorganized on the basis of plans established by the center.

The assignment of the task of reducing the cultivation of grain crops on irrigated land and transferring them to other regions to local authorities, as well as freeing up 218 thousand hectares of irrigated land for grain and alfalfa crops, was a practical expression of the Soviet state's policy of agricultural specialization.[2] These measures were aimed at further increasing the economic importance of cotton growing, taking into account the use of irrigated land resources in accordance with the priority areas set by the center. As a result, the share of cotton and alfalfa crops, which played an important role in its crop rotation system, increased in the composition of agricultural crops.

It was necessary to reconstruct and expand the Samarkand cotton ginning plant, build and launch a 5,000-spindle spinning mill, increase the capacity of the shoe factory, and install 145 new weaving looms at the silk weaving factory.[3] Such infrastructural changes are considered a regional manifestation of the Soviet modernization policy. Through the technical re-equipment of

industry and increased labor productivity, the Samarkand region has passed an important stage in its economic and social development.

In 1947, the volume of production of various products increased by 45.2 percent or 18,234.9 thousand rubles compared to the reporting year of 1946. In particular, the silk weaving factory exceeded the 1946 plan by 18.7 percent, while the Kattakurgan cotton ginning plant fell short of the plan by 12.9 percent.[4] During this period, a number of measures were taken to restore production capacity at industrial enterprises, expand the raw material base, and improve the use of labor resources. Also, through the introduction of new technological equipment and the reorganization of existing production lines, stable growth rates were achieved in some sectors.

In the early 1960s, Samarkand witnessed the construction of the first new type of apartment buildings on Dehkan Street (now Gagarin Street). Here, the State Construction Committee of Uzbekistan (Gosstroy) ordered the construction of 15,000 m² of housing.[5] The implementation of this project marked a fundamental shift in urban planning policy of the time. For the first time, standardized projects, typical planning standards, and constructive approaches designed for the rapid construction of apartment buildings were introduced into the construction process.

Mechanical engineering, the chemical industry, light industry, the food industry, the energy industry, and the silk processing industry grew significantly. The products of these industries were famous even beyond the borders of the republic. By 1958, 50 large factories and plants, equipped with first-class machinery, were operating in the city.[6]

According to archival documents, the results of the 1946–1947 school year were unsatisfactory for the education system of Mitan district. According to reports, 702 children were not enrolled in school at all during the year.[7] This is explained by the difficult socio-economic conditions after the war, excessive involvement of the population in labor, and the lack of material and technical base of educational institutions. Also, the fact that 191 students dropped out of school indicates that the activities of schools in the district were unstable, student attendance was low, and the economic situation of families had a negative impact on the educational process.

According to sources, the local budget of Dargom district increased from 3 million 451 thousand soums in 1939 to 4 million 300 thousand soums in 1946, which is 46.3% of the total. State benefits were paid to 41 mothers in 1939, while 416 mothers received 851 thousand soums in 1947. Also, out of 121 mothers with many children, 55 were presented for awards. One of them received the title of “Heroic Mother” and 44 were awarded orders and medals.[8] At the same time, in the post-war years, as part of the expansion of the social protection system, the volume and scope of benefits allocated to mothers and families with children increased. This process indicates the gradual formation of social policy at the regional level. The practice of encouraging and rewarding mothers with many children occupied a special place in the structure of the state’s socio-demographic policy, and this direction was implemented through various incentive mechanisms.

According to archival data, in Samarkand, the Central Committee emphasized the need to quickly replenish the rural medical network with doctors. In 1951, a total of 77 doctors were sent to the region. Of these, 50 were left in Samarkand by the regional health department, and only 27 were sent to rural areas and workers' settlements.[9] As a result, the issue of providing rural medical institutions with qualified doctors was not fully resolved, and the possibilities for providing medical services were not formed at the same level across the regions. This situation indicates that in the process of developing the health system in the region, differences between urban and rural areas persisted.

According to archival documents, as of January 1, 1960, there were a total of 6,350 hospital beds in the health institutions of the Samarkand region.[10] Their distribution by region reflects the organizational structure of the regional medical system. During this period, certain work was carried out to expand the network of health care institutions and increase the possibilities of providing inpatient medical services to the population. The number and location of hospital beds were inextricably linked to the population of the region, the territorial location of settlements, and the infrastructure of existing medical institutions. The number of pharmacies in cities also increased. In 1967, 9 pharmacies served the population in the city of Samarkand. However, there was a constant shortage of medicines, including vaccines and other medical devices, as well as equipment and supplies for hospitals, and the situation worsened in the 1980s. This situation was not only a result of shortcomings in the work of the health care system, but also the economic crisis in the former Soviet state, and the lack of necessary medical equipment was one of the reasons for the deterioration of the sanitary and epidemiological situation in the republic.[11]

In conclusion, in the 50s-80s of the 20th century, the socio-economic development processes in the Samarkand region took place under the influence of the centralized policy of the Soviet state. During this period, as a result of the development of cotton growing as a priority sector in agriculture, irrigated land resources were redistributed and the specialization of agricultural production increased. At the same time, the agro-industrial potential of the region expanded through the reconstruction of enterprises in the industrial sector, the commissioning of new production facilities, and the improvement of technical equipment. The studied sources indicate that urbanization processes in the Samarkand region have accelerated, housing construction, education, and healthcare systems have developed. However, changes in these areas have not occurred equally in all regions. In particular, there is a shortage of qualified medical personnel in rural areas, incomplete coverage of children with education in some districts, and problems with material and technical support have persisted. Also, despite the expansion of the network of health care institutions, the shortage of medicines and medical equipment, especially in the 1980s, negatively affected the functioning of the system. In general, although the socio-economic development of the Samarkand region in the 50s-80s was characterized by the processes of industrialization, specialization of agriculture and development of social infrastructure, this development was carried out within the framework of the capabilities and limitations of the centralized management system. Therefore, this period is of particular importance in the history of the region as a stage when, along with economic growth, the internal problems of the existing system were clearly manifested.

REFERENCES

1. Samarqand VDA 74 - fond, 1-ro'yxat, 283-ish, 5-varaq
2. Ўзбекистоннинг янги тарихи. 2-китоб. Ўзбекистон совет мустамлакачилиги даврида. – Т.: 2000. – Б. 506-b
3. " O'zbekiston tarixi. IX jild. Samarqand tarixi. / mas'ul muharrir B. S. G'oyibov / Toshkent. "O'zbekiston" - 2023 – y. 332-b
4. Samarqand VDA 74 - fond, 1-ro'yxat, 284-ish, 3-varaq
5. Jonas van der Straeten vs Mariya Petrova. " The Soviet city as a landscape in the making: planning, building and appropriating Samarkand, 1960s – 80s " Central Asian Survey – 2022
6. " O'zbekiston tarixi. IX jild. Samarqand tarixi. / mas'ul muharrir B. S. G'oyibov / Toshkent. "O'zbekiston" - 2023 y. 334-b
7. Samarqand VDA 74 - fond, 1-ro'yxat, 1742-ish, 1-varaq

8. Samarqand VDA 74 - fond, 1-ro'yxat, 1740-ish, 3-varaq
9. Samarqand VDA 74 - fond, 1-ro'yxat, 669-ish, 2-varaq
10. Samarqand VDA 74 - fond, 1-ro'yxat, 1052-ish, 5-varaq
11. "Samarqand va Zarafshon vohasi tarixi zamonaviy tadqiqotlarda". Samarqand o'qishlari – I. mas'ul muharrir D. A. Alimova. "Akademnashr" – 2020. 221 - b