

## Factors for the Development of Social Infrastructure of Small Towns Today

**Kayumov Kahramon Nozimjonovich**

*Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Uzbekistan*

**Zaitov Elyor Kholmamatovich**

*Associate Professor of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology (PhD)*

**Ahmedov Kahramon Abdulhamid o'gli**

*Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Uzbekistan*

**Mahmudova Munira Djourayevna**

*Lecturer, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Uzbekistan*  
*E-mail: n.qayumov@inbox.ru*

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### ABSTRACT

This article mainly focuses on the factors of development of the social infrastructure of small towns, the history of the study. At the same time, it also explores the policies for the effective integration of small towns into the structure of the environment, cultural life, aesthetic, historical, scientific, social or spiritual values used in the past, present and future generations, and the effective development of social infrastructure.

**Keywords:** small town, social infrastructure, globalization, integration, services, healthcare, health insurance, low-income, intellectual services, manufacturing, social policy, rational activity, healthy competition, socially competitive, high guarantees, declarative.

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### INTRODUCTION

At present, Uzbekistan is undergoing profound changes. This affects the whole society, as well as its various components, including the development of small towns. In addition, the sociological analysis of changes in the social reality of our country shows that today, with the rapidly changing world market conditions and growing competition in the context of globalization, our market is becoming more and more difficult to build and strive for. Nowadays when there is a lot of demand on government for issues like lists of programs, small industrial

zones, development of services, establishment of livestock, poultry and greenhouses, new start-up projects for graduates of vocational colleges and universities, as well as, youth employment and the development and implementation of trends in particular, it is important to take a completely new approach to solving problems. This highlights the need for a more detailed study of the problems in this area in the context of sociological research.

Out of 119 cities in the country, 81 are small towns. It is clear that everything that happens in small towns affects a major part of the socio-economic life of Uzbekistan. Small towns

are far from the main trade markets, which allows them to feel more clearly the socio-economic problems that exist in society. That is, radical changes in small towns affect all aspects of social life. Research shows that the unemployment rate in small towns in the country is higher than in rural areas. In particular, the development of small towns is hampered by the level of housing, infrastructure, manufacturing, services, and governance issues.

It is clear from the scientific literature in the field of urban sociology published abroad that the concept of infrastructure was first used in the early twentieth century from the point of view of the objects and facilities necessary for the full functioning of the armed forces. Later, in the 1940s, infrastructure was understood as an integral part of the industry and the institutions that created the necessary conditions for the material production of society. From the 1970s to the 1980s, the socio-economic literature of the former Soviet republics often referred to infrastructure as a collection of engineering and technical buildings and structures. Today, the term infrastructure is becoming more and more important as a holistic system of providing services to the population. Based on the content of this article, it can be said that infrastructure is an integral part of any unitary economic system and structures established in these small towns. Literally, infrastructure is the basis, the foundation, the internal structure of the new economic system in small towns.

We know that the term "infrastructure" is derived from the Latin word "infra"; "Structure" means structure, location. The infrastructure of small towns is a system of services and their facilities that help to effectively operate the production and service sectors in this area and improve the living standards of the population. It is obvious that in the infrastructure of small towns, the development, provision of services and improvement of living standards are of particular

importance.

Production in the infrastructure of small towns includes services for the provision of energy, fuel, water, production facilities, capital construction and repair services to the population and business. The social infrastructure in this area is a system that serves to ensure the growth of human potential (capital) through the development of vocational education and health care. In our view, social infrastructure is a unique system that serves all aspects of social development by meeting the domestic, spiritual and cultural needs of people. According to economists, the average person in the world earns at least 15 euros a day. However, more than half of the world's population now earns seven times less than the average living wage. There are reports that people in the world's poorest countries earn less than 1 euro. But there is also evidence that the 200 richest people in the world earn an average of 25 euros per second.

The problem of social infrastructure of small towns has been the subject of scientific interest since the middle of the XIX century. The results of the study of the problems of management of social infrastructure of small towns are given in the works of sociologists such as R. Park, M. Weber, E. Durkheim, P. Sorokin. These scientists have identified the contradictions between economic and social development in the social infrastructure of small towns, the impact of social development on economic growth, the social infrastructure of small towns and the importance of social services to the population. In our view, the social infrastructure in small towns often develops spontaneously, and there is no integrated approach to their management. In the conditions of the emerging market, social institutions develop unevenly. In general, the socio-economic life of small towns is characterized by the degree of development and the degree of balanced and rational distribution of elements of social infrastructure.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Within the Commonwealth of Independent States, the problems of management and development of social infrastructure of small towns are reflected in the work of HA Aitov, G. Mlappo and other researchers. These authors make a significant contribution to the study of existing problems in social infrastructure in small towns and the development of methodologies for social management and planning and the generalization of practical experience in the management of social processes in society. They also put forward important scientific and conceptual views on the role of social infrastructure in the enrichment of human life on the example of the Russian Federation, the conditions for the organization of labor, social, cultural, family and domestic activities.

The main functions of social infrastructure in the social life of society are the planning of current and future needs of the population, the implementation of preferential payments, meeting the basic physical needs of the population, assessment of qualifications and important professional qualities, literacy, training, staffing, spiritual needs, social meeting the needs of the population, raising the spiritual and cultural level of the population, maintaining the socio-emotional environment, the formation of corporate culture and improving the social security of the population. Also, the market infrastructure, which is an important economic basis for the development of small towns today, serves to accelerate the circulation of goods, money and capital, and includes stock exchanges, the banking system, insurance services.

Today, to create socio-economically favorable conditions for small towns, such as large or medium-sized cities, to create a favorable investment climate and conditions for production and placement of social facilities for these social types of cities, to form a land market, to provide targeted funding, redirection is a topical issue.

Also, in order to ensure sustainable socio-economic development of small towns, effective use of existing natural and economic potential, budgetary and extra-budgetary resources and funds of the newly established urbanization fund, existing and planned free economic zones, especially small industrial zones should be taken into account. One of the most important issues is to increase the independence and responsibility of the city, to improve the statistical accounting of the urban population in accordance with international standards and rankings. In this regard, "the legislative framework governing the activities of free economic zones has been formed in the country, the mechanism of managing the activities of free economic zones and small industrial zones has been simplified by decentralizing administrative functions and expanding the powers of administrative councils."

In our opinion, today in the management and development of social infrastructure of small towns, it is expedient to pay special attention to the following issues:

- The formation of a system of voluntary and compulsory health insurance in small towns on the basis of modern requirements and the introduction of a public-private model in this process, especially the further development of private medical institutions, the state pays special attention to the poor;
- Special consideration of human capital in the further intensification of social policy in the system of small towns, regular encouragement of private service entrepreneurs, maintaining the same free public education for all, as well as bringing this system to the requirements of the world education system, export of highly skilled labor;
- Paying special attention to the intellectual and cultural factors of management and development of social infrastructure of small towns, the revitalization of intellectual services, regular consideration of the high demands of the younger

generation on art and creativity and the formation of the national brand;

- Further acceleration of environmental reforms in the system of small towns, the search for ways to rationally increase the funds raised by the state to address the problems in this area and the attention of the population to the environment, and the introduction of projects at various levels. Regular involvement of science, technology and innovation in the field is also important;

- Creation and development of innovation centers for the management and development of social infrastructure of small towns of Uzbekistan through the involvement of international companies and specialists, modernization of existing infrastructure, support of small and medium business, regularization of localization of production systems, capital amnesty, tax reforms raising public-private partnership to a new level, and so on.

In the management of the social infrastructure of small towns, the preservation of its facilities is of particular importance. It should be noted that the preservation of urban facilities is not limited to the preservation of individual buildings. At the same time, architecture is considered as one of the elements that comprehensively encompasses the urban environment and is formed as a complex and multifaceted field. Hence, the preservation of urban facilities is an important issue in urban planning.

The finished environment also played an important role in the emergence of small towns. A built-up environment is a set of resources and infrastructures created by human activities (as opposed to the natural environment) that are designed to serve a person. These include: buildings, roads, parks and other cultural facilities.

The landscape approach played an important role in the emergence of small towns. This is because the landscape approach has served to define the area of action for decision-making on the preservation of objects at the landscape level.

The landscape approach helps to decide on the appropriateness of specific actions and to facilitate planning, negotiation, and implementation of activities throughout the landscape (e.g., building a new road or planting seedlings).

The structure of the environment is also taken into account in the development of small towns. Typically, the structure of the environment refers to the environment in which the object is directly integrated and expanded, which is one of these elements, influencing the importance of the object in the heritage environment of the region.

Cultural life has played an important role in the development of small towns. Cultural life is understood as aesthetic, historical, scientific, social or spiritual values left for past, present and future generations. Cultural life manifests itself in a place, in its structure, environment, its use, meaning, essence, in archives, in confusing environments, or in complex (interrelated) objects. Places can have different values for individuals and groups of people.

Today, more than half of the world's population lives in cities. Innovation and creativity centers play a special role in the effective organization of the process of management of social infrastructure of small towns. Because these forms of activity provide employment and education to the residents of a small town, they greatly help people to realize their changing needs and aspirations. However, from a sociological point of view, rapid and uncontrollable urbanization can often lead to social and territorial fragmentation and a sharp deterioration in the quality of environmental conditions in cities and nearby rural areas. In particular, it may be related to the high density of buildings, the availability of standardized and homogeneous buildings, the loss of community space and cultural facilities, inadequate infrastructure, malnutrition, social isolation, and an increased risk of climate-related disasters.

Urban heritage, including its tangible and intangible components, is a key resource in enhancing the livelihoods of people in urban areas and contributing to economic development and social cohesion in a changing global environment. As the future of humanity depends on effective resource planning and management, heritage preservation remains a strategy to strike a balance between urban growth and quality of life on a sustainable basis. Over the past half century, the preservation of urban heritage has become an important area of public policy around the world. This is a response to the need to preserve values and make effective use of the historical heritage. However, the focus should be shifted from focusing on architectural monuments to the widespread recognition of social, cultural and economic processes in preserving urban values, striving to adapt existing policies to it, and creating new mechanisms to develop this concept.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Effective integration in the management of the social infrastructure of small towns and the need to define a strategy for their maintenance within the framework of the next broad goals of its sustainable development is the main priority for the government. Effective integration serves the interests of supporting public and private sector measures aimed at preserving the purity of the human environment. Effective integration requires the use of historical sites to identify and preserve, both from a landscape perspective, as well as to manage them in a broader urban context. In this process, special attention is paid to their physical forms, territorial organization and relations, conditions, natural features and the interaction of their social, cultural and economic values. Under this approach, leadership and governance responsibilities with the participation of a wide range of policy and stakeholders, and the participation of local, national, regional, international, public and private sector partners in

the urban development process are identified as priorities.

The degree of social protection in the formation of small town infrastructure depends on the degree to which social policy is shaped. The essence of social policy in the context of state-society relations is characterized by the fact that it is aimed at preventing the deepening of stratification between different segments of the population, ensuring a certain level of well-being. It is clear that the basis of social policy pursued by the state is the policy of rational formation of income. From this point of view, the peculiarity of small towns is determined by the degree to which their production and social spheres are closely intertwined.

Determining the priorities of social policy through the system of small town governance requires the solution of complex methodological and practical tasks, taking into account the views and opinions of the population and adhering to humane principles, due to the need to resolve conflicts on a regular basis. In order to achieve an optimal solution in this regard, it is important to pay special attention to: first, the timely identification of the most important and widespread contradictions that arise in the selection of priorities of social policy;

second, the development of social policy on the basis of humane principles; third, it will be necessary to make a rational choice of social policy priorities related to the social status and well-being of the society.

In particular, DZ Ernazarov rightly noted, "In a socially oriented market economy, by providing assistance to vulnerable groups of the population, the guarantee of living conditions, peace and interethnic harmony, successful implementation of reforms, the lowest income groups - the lonely elderly, pensioners and the provision of practical assistance to the disabled, that is, citizens who are in a difficult situation in the conditions of economic transition, has been



formed as the main direction of the social protection system. An entirely modern system of targeted social assistance has been created.”

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The income level of the population of small towns is an important indicator of the well-being of the region, according to which it is possible to determine the material and spiritual life, education, health, recreation and other needs of every citizen. Accordingly, social policy at the level of small towns is determined by the ongoing socio-economic reforms in the region and measures aimed at regulating the whole complex of relations between people.

The need to develop social sector policy in the infrastructure of small towns is mainly due to: First, the integral and continuous connection of

production and social spheres in society; secondly, the fact that the social sphere at the state and society levels is reflected in the interaction with large-scale urban planning and production activities is also reflected in the lifestyle of the population of small towns; third, we can observe the relative centralization of the social sphere in small towns; fourth, it is natural that small towns will experience acute social problems if a large enterprise ceases to operate; fifth, because small towns are not considered subjects of local self-government, their legal and socio-economic status is lower than that of other large and medium-sized cities.

Based on the need to address these issues, the Action Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 states that reducing the gaps in the level of socio-economic development of the regions.

One of the distinctive features of small towns is, firstly, that in this system the production and social spheres are inextricably linked. The sphere of production is related to kinship or neighborly relations, while the social sphere, in turn, is related to production ties and relations. Second, life activities in small towns are associated with the construction of a township around a large enterprise. Third, there will be two different types of small towns according to their functional function: nonfunctional and multifunctional cities, and areas with agricultural and industrial zones will be adjacent to them. Fourth, small towns are characterized by the centralization of social infrastructure, which is a factor that facilitates its management, but also reflects its shortcomings. Fifth, the cessation or liquidation of large enterprises in small towns is also characterized by the emergence of a critical social situation.

As a result, for example, an entire mining town or oil town will be liquidated. An example of this is the cities of Angren or Chirchik. These cities experienced a serious socio-economic crisis

after the collapse of the former union. Unemployment in these cities is much higher than in rural areas. Also, due to the level of housing, infrastructure, production, services and management problems, the solution of serious socio-economic problems in these cities is becoming a priority. It is no coincidence that today the head of our state pays special attention to solving the problems in these regions. Sixth, many small towns are district-dependent towns, which in practice remain legally and socio-economically dependent. Sociologists also believe that the social crisis in small towns can be caused by:

- decline in the quality of social and cultural services to the population;
- material base, shortcomings in the financing of socio-cultural spheres, leading to a violation of human resources,
- low quality services of social facilities;
- Lack of science-based goal-oriented policy of comprehensive reform of the social sphere;
- Lack of a concrete and effective mechanism of state support of the social sphere, etc.

The following technologies will help to achieve effective results in the formation of small town infrastructure: the application of policy technology aimed at solving a specific socio-economic problem in society in the formation of small town infrastructure; rational use of functional diagnostic technology in the management and optimization of small town infrastructure; social certification technology; technology of social forecasting of small town infrastructure; target software technology and reengineering technology;

local self-government and social partnership technology of the population, etc. For example, the application of policy technology aimed at solving a specific socio-economic problem in society in the formation of small town infrastructure is evident in identifying current problems of social development, hierarchy of

problems, distinguishing between basic and primary problems, mobilizing forces and resources to solve them. Therefore, on December 20, 2018, the World Bank modernized the urban infrastructure of three cities of Uzbekistan - Kagan (Bukhara region), Chartak (Namangan region) and Yangiyul (Tashkent region), create new public places, improve the transport system for public convenience and had allocated \$ 100 million to improve the system of opening municipal services.

Today, the Republic of Uzbekistan has entered a new stage of development. The reforms being carried out in various spheres of our society are a clear confirmation of this. These include practical work in education, health, governance, the judiciary, economics, construction, social security and other areas. In this regard, it is appropriate to quote President Sh. Mirziyoyev: "The period has begun, when each of us, first of all, the task of heads of public administration is to ensure the responsible implementation of the tasks assigned to us on the basis of a critical assessment of the state of affairs."

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This means that all of us must fulfill our duties responsibly and make a sincere contribution to the development of our country. From this perspective, each of us has a role to play in the development of small towns. The third priority of the "Strategy of Actions" on the five priorities of the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, developed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev in 2017, is "Economic Development and Liberalization", in which we focus on the following. In other words, paragraph 3.5 of this priority is entitled "Comprehensive and appropriate socio-economic development of regions, districts and cities, the effective and optimal use of their existing potential," which aims to accelerate socio-economic development, increase living standards

and incomes of each region, ensuring comprehensive and efficient use of natural, mineral resources, industry, agriculture, tourism and labor potential;

expanding the scale of modernization and diversification of the regional economy, reducing the gaps in the level of socio-economic development of the regions through the rapid development of districts and cities with relatively low levels of development, primarily through increasing industrial and export potential;

the issues of accelerated development of small towns and settlements through the establishment of new industrial enterprises and service centers, the creation of small industrial zones, the attraction of funds of large business associations, bank loans and private foreign investment.

From the above tasks, it is clear that in the framework of the Action Strategy, new tools and mechanisms that provide the pace of management and development of social infrastructure of small towns are being used more widely, taking into account world experience. In this context, in the context of complex changes in the world, the management and development of social infrastructure of small towns, to prevent the emergence of existing socio-economic problems in society, improve living standards, land reform; stabilization of housing policy should be addressed. Development of state policy aimed at providing the regions with transport and social infrastructure, reducing the cost of mortgage lending, attracting foreign investment and financial resources of businesses to address various socio-economic problems, including the construction of affordable housing for low and middle income families.

Therefore, in the Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Oliy Majlis dated December 28, 2018, such measures as "Development of medium and long-term programs for the development of industry in each district and city, development of the State Program to

increase urbanization to 60% by 2030" was put forward.

In short, the effective use of the principles of social policy in improving the infrastructure of small towns in a market economy is mainly due to: thirdly, to ensure consistency of current and future goals, social standardization, healthy competition, high responsibility, differentiated approach, regular provision of intellectual resources, fourthly, targeted social policy, targeted social assistance, orientation to the use of social services, paid and the balance between free social services, social insurance, social guarantees, as well as ensuring the priority of the declarative principle is also important.

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