



Article

Daily Lifestyle and Material Environment of the Population of the Kashkadarya Oasis

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Abstract: The article describes the daily life of the population of the Kashkadarya region of the Uzbek SSR in 1964-1985. During this period, the demographics and urbanization processes in the region, the income of the population, as well as the issue of social security, the results achieved in the production of agricultural products, as well as the state of health care and public education, were studied in detail. As a result of the development of the Karshi steppe, the living conditions of the population improved to a certain extent. Many residential buildings and cultural and household facilities were built and put into operation in the regions. In particular, the areas of public services for the population improved. It is these processes that are analyzed in detail in this article.

Keywords: Kashkadarya, population demographics, agricultural products, social security of the population, reservoirs, cultural institutions, healthcare, public education, recreation areas.

1. Introduction

The socio-economic policies implemented in Uzbekistan during the second half of the twentieth century brought significant changes to the everyday life and material environment of the population. In particular, the period from 1964 to 1985 represents an important stage in the history of Soviet Uzbekistan, characterized by relatively stable economic development, the expansion of agricultural and industrial production, the intensification of irrigation projects, and the gradual growth of social infrastructure. These processes directly influenced the living conditions of the population and transformed such essential aspects of daily life as housing, employment, income, access to public services, education, healthcare, transportation, and cultural facilities.

The study of everyday life is important because large-scale economic and political processes are ultimately reflected in the material conditions and social experiences of ordinary people. Statistical indicators concerning production growth, construction, agricultural output, or state investment do not always fully demonstrate how these changes affected the population at the local level. Therefore, the analysis of daily life makes it possible to examine the relationship between state policies and the practical conditions in which people lived and worked. In this regard, the history of the Kashkadarya oasis provides a particularly important example for understanding the social development of Uzbekistan during the Soviet period.

However, the modernization of the region was not uniform. While new infrastructure and social facilities were established in district centers, newly developed agricultural areas, and urban settlements, many rural communities continued to experience difficulties related to housing shortages, insufficient access to drinking water and natural gas, and the limited availability of municipal and household services. Population growth often created additional pressure on existing infrastructure, and the expansion of construction did not always fully correspond to the growing social needs of the population. Therefore, the history of the Kashkadarya oasis during 1964–1985 should not be interpreted solely as a period of continuous improvement. Rather, it was a complex process in which economic achievements coexisted with persistent social and regional inequalities.

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The demographic and urbanization processes of this period also had a direct influence on the material environment of the population. Changes in the distribution of people between rural and urban areas affected the demand for housing, schools, hospitals, transportation, commercial establishments, and public services. At the same time, the predominance of agriculture in the regional economy meant that the daily life of a considerable part of the population remained closely connected with collective and state farms. Agricultural production determined not only employment and income but also the organization of settlements, working conditions, access to social services, and the broader rhythm of everyday life. Thus, the development of the Kashkadarya oasis must be examined through the interaction between agricultural specialization, demographic change, infrastructure development, and the living conditions of the population. Particular attention should also be paid to the development of social infrastructure. During the period under study, the construction of residential buildings, schools, kindergartens, hospitals, shops, cultural institutions, cinemas, recreation facilities, and household service centers gradually changed the social landscape of the region. Electrification, gasification, road construction, and the expansion of water supply networks also played an important role in improving living conditions. Nevertheless, the availability and quality of these services differed considerably between individual districts and settlements. The existence of new facilities did not necessarily mean that all sections of the population enjoyed equal access to them. For this reason, the analysis of everyday life requires attention not only to the construction and introduction of new social facilities but also to the extent to which they met the practical needs of the population. Another important aspect of this research is the relationship between economic development and social welfare. Increases in wages, pensions, social benefits, and agricultural income contributed to improvements in the material situation of certain groups of the population. At the same time, the level of welfare depended on occupation, place of residence, access to public services, and the general level of development of a particular district. The study of these differences makes it possible to move beyond a generalized understanding of Soviet social policy and to evaluate how broader economic measures were reflected in the everyday experiences of the population of a specific region.

2. Methodology

In the process of preparing this article, historical-analytical, comparative, statistical and systematic approaches were widely used. The principles of historicity and consistency were taken as the main methodological approach. This made it possible to reveal and analyze the dynamics of the development of the social processes under study.

3. Results

Although the housing stock expanded in Kashkadarya in 1964–1985, problems with housing supply remained due to the fact that population growth rates exceeded construction volumes. Multi-storey buildings were built at the expense of state funds, and the construction of model residential buildings was encouraged in villages. However, many families could not fully use municipal services for a long time. During this period, certain work was carried out on electrification, gasification, and expansion of drinking water networks. Although the construction of the Karshi Main Canal served the development of the oasis economy, the supply of drinking water and natural gas remained low in some remote villages. In the Beshkent district, in 1966, the 4th mechanized mobile column, the "Gozal" household service house, and the local industrial complex were put into operation. In 1968, with the help of the district's construction organizations, a 2-story school building named after Oybek with a capacity of 680 seats was built and put into operation. This expansion of industrial and construction organizations, as well as household service and educational branches, paved the way for the expansion of landscaping and administration in the district. In the early 1970s, the streets of the district center were repaired and expanded, asphalt was laid, sidewalks were laid, the streets were electrified, and many cultural and residential buildings were erected. In 1970, a two-story "Rohat teahouse" and a 500-

seat cinema building named after Sobir Rakhimov were built in the district center, and in 1971, a 140-seat "Lola" kindergarten were built and put into operation. In 1973, the streets of the district were illuminated with electric lights. In this regard, an organization called "Beshkentsvet" was created to illuminate the streets with electric lights. [1][2] The level of development in the oasis was uneven. In particular, by 1969, a water supply system was operating in the village of Chandir in the Kasbi district, a hospital was commissioned after major repairs, and the electrification of the village and the radio installation of houses continued. In the district, 37 households were provided with televisions, 28 households with stoves, and 52 households with gas stoves. The asphaltting of the Jeynov-Chandyr road has begun.[3] In 1968, with the help of construction organizations of the Beshkent district, a two-story school building named after Oybek with a capacity of 680 students was built and put into operation.[4] The state budget of the Uzbek SSR for 1967 was approved at 2 billion 265 million 579 thousand soums, or 12.9 percent more than in 1966. By this period, the population's income had increased significantly compared to 1965. The wages paid for labor increased. In 1965, the average monthly wage of a collective farmer in our region was 49 soums, while in 1966 it was 52 soums. The cost of paying state pensions and benefits in the region amounted to 9 million 817 thousand soums in 1964, 10 million 807 thousand soums in 1965, and 12 million 228 thousand soums in 1966. In 1966, 19,433 disabled citizens received state pensions and 57,068 mothers with many children received state pensions.[5]

As for the population structure, in 1979, there was a predominance of men in the cities of Mubarak, Talimarjon, and Kamashi, and women in the cities of Koson, Kitab, Guzar, and Beshkent, while only in Yakkabag was there equality between the sexes. Although the population of cities increased, it decreased in percentage terms. In 1979, 10.2 percent of the region's population lived in new cities. This indicates that the rural population growth rate in the region has increased compared to the urban population.[6]

The construction and commissioning of the Chimkurgan reservoir (reservoir) was of great importance in providing water to the Koson district and the village of Maymanok. After the Talimarjon reservoir was commissioned by drawing water from the Amu Darya River, the construction of the Ulyanov Canal reduced water shortages in Maymanok and increased cotton cultivation.[7] The construction of the reservoir undoubtedly contributed to the prosperity of the local population. The district residents were engaged in cotton cultivation. The Ulyanov (Kasbi) district fulfilled its cotton production plan in October 1971. The harvest was abundant in the fields. It was necessary to collect and pick without destroying a single seed. Cotton harvesting was further intensified in the areas. Taking into account some shortcomings made in 1971, steps were taken towards the goals of 1972. The honest work done bore fruit. In 1972, the steppes managed to deliver 55,579 tons of "white gold" to the state.[8] In 1971-1975, 630 million soums were allocated for the irrigation and development of the first stage of the Karshi desert, including 475 million soums for capital construction and installation work. A procedure was established for paying 1.4 times the salary of those involved in the irrigation and development of the Karshi desert for working in desert and waterless areas.

Boymurad Ashurov from the village of Chim in the Kashkadarya region was appointed brigade leader in 1965. The brigade led by Boymurad Ashurov achieved high results year after year, achieving high cotton yields. His services were duly recognized and he was awarded two gold

and two silver medals at the National Economic Exhibition. In 1969, the collective farm managed to obtain 22,282 centners of grain from 3,480 hectares of land, 42,000 centners of cotton from 1,500 hectares of cotton, and 22,766 centners of corn from 100 hectares of land. The income from livestock farming was also quite good. He delivered 2,580 centners of milk, 1,016 centners of meat, 51 centners of wool, and 600 pieces of karakul skins to the state. The collective farm earned 1 million 946 thousand 44 soums from cotton growing, 3 thousand soums from potato planting, 17 thousand 100 soums from vegetables, 141 thousand 480 soums from cattle breeding, 31 thousand soums from sheep breeding, 14 thousand 200 soums from poultry farming, 16 thousand 560 soums from cocoon farming, a total of 2 million 322 thousand 604 soums. Part of this profit was spent on improving the working and recreational conditions of the collective farm members. During 1966-1970, more than 10 field sheds were built and electricity was connected to them. The constructed field sheds were equipped in accordance with the requirements of the time and adapted for the farmers to relax.[9]

4. Discussion

Many commercial and residential buildings were put into operation in the cities of Qashqai region. For example, in the city of Koson in 1973, a general merchandise store, an industrial goods store, and a ready-made clothing store were built and put into operation. Existing stores were removed from capital and current repairs. Similar changes can be seen in other cities. In the city of Guzar, the construction and commissioning of the "Universal" store were planned in 1976. The area of the store's sales hall was 726 sq. meters. The shopping complex employs 41 sales staff. [10] In the cities of Kashkadarya region, the number of household service branches and the amount of services provided to each person increased year by year. In 1975, there were 45 households providing services to the residents of Qamashi, and in 1979, their number increased to 54. In 1975, 4 soums and 20 tinyas were provided to each person, and in 1979, 6 soums and 65 tinyas were provided. [11]

The provision of services to the population in the oblast districts also improved year by year. [12] At the 4th session of the Jeynov village council in the Kasbi district on December 29, 1980, it was reported that the provision of services per capita amounted to 1 soum 35 tyys last year, while this amount was 1 soum 45 tyys in 1980.[13] In 1983, a cotton ginning plant was built and put into operation in the village of Jeynov. The village council also had 16 shops and 2 canteens at its disposal.[14] On 13 January 1985, the Beshkent Health Resort, which provides services at the republican level, was launched in Beshkent. There were also problems with the establishment of baths and hairdressers in the region. For example, by 1985, the bathhouse in the city of Koson had fallen into disrepair due to neglect.[15]

5. Conclusions

In 1964–1985, the daily life of the population in the Kashkadarya oasis went through a complex and multifaceted stage of development. As a result of the large funds allocated by the state to the development of social infrastructure, significant changes were made in the areas of housing construction, electrification, education and healthcare. However, the quality of public utilities and the differences between rural and urban areas did not allow for a full improvement in the

daily living standards of the population. Therefore, studying the history of daily life in the Kashkadarya oasis is of great importance not only for the history of the region, but also for the scientific assessment of the characteristics of social development of Uzbekistan during the Soviet era.

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