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Socio-demographic problems in urban areas of the Republic of Kazakhstan

ABSTRACT

Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on the specialty 6D060900 «Geography»

General description of the work. Paper deals with the social and demographic problems of urban areas in Kazakhstan. The main tendencies of global urbanization and their peculiarity in Kazakhstan as well as the impact of socio-economic processes to the increase of the urban population were revealed and on the basis of this there were worked out the scientific and methodological approaches to the economic-geographical researches of urban regions in Kazakhstan. The scientific concept and the strategy of development of urban regions in Kazakhstan were offered with the analysis and evaluation of social-economic and demographic development of urban areas and also there were made series of maps of Kazakhstan with GIS.

Relevance of the work. Demographic factors of urban territories play main role in the social-economic development of the country and, in many respects, they determine the trends and the directions of development of Kazakh society. Therefore the study of the problems of social and demographic development of the urban population of Kazakhstan gives an indication of the degree of development of society on a whole to determine its concerns and outline the prospects for further development.

Today, one of the important tasks is to implement targeted regulation in the public interest the development of cities, placing the urban and rural areas, the development and implementation of an effective population policy, research and study the process of urbanization.

Analysis of territorial structures, cities and the network of settlements and the revelation of regional features of the process of urbanization is an important task of science and practice. In terms of social change and technological progress of the city have an increasing impact on society, in its interaction with the nature.

It is known that the city, as a complex, and multifaceted organism where intertwined set of social, economic and technological developments, acts Integra and the command center of economic regions become the leading element of the territorial division of labor. Feature of the urban development of Kazakhstan is in the fact that due to the historically established territorial location some small, small town in a single settlement system cannot fulfill the role that they should be. This is related to the first phase of the social and demographic problems of the population of large, medium and small cities in Kazakhstan.

The solution of this task requires a thorough study of the problems of existing urban settlements by region, by government according to their specific
characteristics. The signification of these problems exacerbated by the process of urbanization. All of these determine the scientific relevance of the studied problem.

**Purpose of the work:** based on the analysis and assessment the socio-demographic factors of urban development in Kazakhstan to identify priority areas of territorial features. In this regard, we undertook the following tasks:

- To identify the main trends of global urbanization and their peculiarity in Kazakhstan;
- To develop the scientific and methodological approaches of the study of socio-demographic processes of urban areas;
- Analysis and assessment of present demographic situation of the urban population of different categories based complex economic-geographical analysis of factors and conditions of development;
- To identify relationship and mutual development of urban areas to the strengthening of city-forming functions and bearing frame settlement;
- To develop scientific concepts of urban regions of Kazakhstan.

**The object of the study.** Settlement of urban population of Kazakhstan.

**The subject of the study.** Socio-demographic processes of urban areas of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**Researching methods.** System analysis, mapping, mathematical and statistical methods, GIS technology, geospatial analysis.

**Scientific novelty of the study.** During the work at the first time in was undertaken the attempt of an integrated and economic-geographical study of the problems of social and demographic development of the urban population of Kazakhstan in the modern period. And based on the study of socio-economic and demographic foundations of the city of Kazakhstan it was identified the priority areas and in the improvement of the regional urban structures of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**Scientific and practical significance of the work.** Main results, conclusions and recommendations contained in the thesis, made a series of maps can be used to develop effective social and population policies in the monitoring of socio-demographic development of the urban population and to manage the process of urbanization in the regions of Kazakhstan. Results of thesis are using in academic processes in Al-Farabi KazNU.

**Testing work.** The main provisions of the thesis is reflected in seven publications, including three editions listed the Monitoring Committee of Education and science of Kazakhstan, an article was published in the international scientific publications with data on the knowledge base of Scopus with impact factor; reported at scientific conferences: “The current economic, social and political geography: problems and prospects” (Almaty, 2009), “Russia and the World: regionalism in the context of globalization” (Moscow, 2010), “VI Zhandaev okulary” (Almaty, 2011).

**Main results:**
- Identified the main trends of the world of global urbanization and their peculiarities in Kazakhstan;
- Developed scientific-methodical approaches study of socio-demographic processes of urban areas;
- Made analysis and assessment of present demographic situation of the urban population of different categories;
- Identified relationship and mutual development of urban areas to the strengthening of city-forming functions and bearing frame settlement;
- Developed the scientific concept and the main directions of development of urban areas in the country;
- Compiled a series of maps on the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of urban areas with using GIS technology.

**The structure and volume of the thesis.** The work consists of three chapters, introduction, conclusion, list of references. The main content of work is set to 126 type written pages, illustrated with 15 figures and 21 tables. Bibliography includes 162 references.