

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN URBAN AREAS: ANALYSIS BASED ON THE EXAMPLE OF OKTEPA NEIGHBORHOOD AND WAYS TO ADDRESS THEM

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Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada shahar hududlarida uchraydigan ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy muammolar Farg'ona tumani Oqtepa mahallasi misolida atroflicha tahlil qilinadi. Xususan, aholi bandligi, daromadlar darajasi, infratuzilma holati, ta'lim va tibbiyot xizmatlaridan foydalanish imkoniyatlari kabi muhim omillar o'rganiladi.*

Kalit so'zlar. *Ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy muammolar, shahar hududlari, Oqtepa mahallasi, aholi bandligi, daromad darajasi, kambag'allik, ijtimoiy xizmatlar, hududiy rivojlanish, ijtimoiy himoya, iqtisodiy islohotlar.*

Аннотация.

В данной статье подробно анализируются социально-экономические проблемы, возникающие в городских районах на примере махалли Актена Ферганского района. В частности, изучаются такие важные факторы, как занятость населения, уровень доходов, состояние инфраструктуры, доступность образования и медицинских услуг.

Ключевые слова. *Социально-экономические проблемы, городские территории, микрорайон Октепа, занятость населения, уровень доходов, бедность, социальные услуги, региональное развитие, социальная защита, экономические реформы.*

Abstract. *This article provides a comprehensive analysis of socio-economic problems observed in urban areas, based on the example of the Oktepa neighborhood in the Fergana district. In particular, key factors such as employment of the population, income levels, the state of infrastructure, and access to education and healthcare services are examined.*

Keywords. *Socio-economic problems, urban areas, Oktepa neighborhood, employment, income level, poverty, social services, regional development, social protection, economic reforms.*

Introduction. In recent years, the acceleration of urbanization processes has led to the increasing complexity of socio-economic problems in urban areas. The growth of the population, employment challenges, income inequality, insufficient infrastructure, and issues related to the quality of social services are among the most pressing concerns. In particular, studying these problems at the neighborhood (mahalla) level is of great importance as a key factor in regional development.

This article analyzes the socio-economic problems present in urban areas using the example of Oqtepa neighborhood in Fergana district. The main objective of the analysis is to identify existing problems in the area, examine their underlying causes, and develop scientifically grounded recommendations and proposals for their resolution. The study employs statistical data analysis and observational methods. Through these approaches, the standard of living of the population, employment conditions, the level of infrastructure development, and access to social services are comprehensively evaluated. The results of this analysis hold significant scientific and practical importance in ensuring sustainable urban development, improving public welfare, and establishing effective governance within the mahalla system.

Relevance of the Study. Today, addressing socio-economic problems in urban areas is one of the priority directions of state policy. The rapid pace of urbanization, population growth, and increasing internal migration are intensifying the pressure on urban infrastructure. This, in turn, leads to issues such as unemployment, poverty, social inequality, and environmental challenges.

Objective of the Study. The aim of this research is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic problems in Oqtepa neighborhood based on statistical data and to develop scientific and practical recommendations for their resolution.

Main Part. Oqtepa neighborhood is one of the important social areas within Fergana district, and the demographic processes occurring there directly influence regional development indicators. According to data from the Fergana regional statistics department, the region has one of the highest population densities in the country. This increases the demand for social services at the neighborhood level. The large population size in Oqtepa, particularly the high proportion of youth, places additional pressure on the labor market, education system, and social infrastructure.

Although the high share of youth is a positive demographic factor, ensuring their effective employment remains a pressing issue. According to the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ensuring youth employment is a priority area nationwide. Therefore, providing vocational training and integrating young people into the labor market is an important task in Oqtepa as well.

Employment remains one of the key socio-economic problems in the area. The unemployment rate is largely explained by the mismatch between labor market demand and supply. Despite the relatively high share of the service sector and small businesses

in Fergana region, a gap exists between the qualifications of the population and the requirements of available jobs. Therefore, it is necessary to create new jobs, develop small businesses, and provide vocational training to improve employment levels.

Poverty is also present in the area, indicating the existence of socially vulnerable groups. Within the framework of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the social protection system, targeted programs are being implemented to reduce poverty. This increases the need for individualized work with low-income families at the neighborhood level.

Infrastructure issues are another important factor affecting regional development. Although increasing investment in the region positively influences infrastructure development, problems related to internal roads, drinking water supply, and the quality of communal services persist at the neighborhood level. Therefore, modernizing engineering and communication networks is of critical importance.

Education and healthcare systems are key determinants of public welfare. Population growth increases demand for these services. Thus, expanding access to services through the development of schools, preschool institutions, and healthcare facilities is necessary.

Issues of social security and crime prevention also require attention. Strengthening cooperation between neighborhood institutions and law enforcement agencies is essential in preventing offenses. Since low employment levels may contribute to increased crime, these areas should be addressed in an integrated manner.

Environmental problems also affect regional development. As a result of urbanization, the volume of waste is increasing. According to the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan, improving waste management systems is a pressing issue. Therefore, measures should be taken to promote waste sorting, recycling, and environmental awareness within the neighborhood.

Overall, the socio-economic problems in Oqtapa neighborhood are closely linked with broader regional and national trends. Addressing them requires a comprehensive approach, including improving employment, developing infrastructure, strengthening social protection, and resolving environmental issues.

Conclusion. Based on the above analysis, it can be concluded that while the socio-economic situation in Oqtapa neighborhood of Fergana district is relatively stable, several systemic problems persist. In particular, the high population size and significant share of youth increase the demographic potential of the area but also place additional pressure on employment, education, and infrastructure systems.

The analysis indicates that employment remains one of the most pressing issues, with a persistent mismatch between labor market demand and supply. Although the level of poverty is relatively low, the presence of vulnerable groups necessitates the strengthening of targeted social policies.

Infrastructure-related issues, particularly those concerning internal roads, communal services, and engineering networks, hinder regional development to a certain extent. The increasing demand on education and healthcare systems, as well as environmental and social security concerns, requires a comprehensive and integrated approach.

These problems are interrelated and should be addressed not individually but within a unified system. To resolve socio-economic issues in Oqtapa neighborhood, it is necessary to implement комплекс measures aimed at increasing employment, developing small businesses, modernizing infrastructure, strengthening the social protection system, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Such an approach will contribute to sustainable regional development, improvement of living standards, and strengthening of social stability.

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