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## **THE FEATURES AND FACTORS OF THE POPULATION'S LOCATION IN THE REGION OF FERGANA**

**Annotation:** *This article reviews the regional differences of the population's location in Uzbekistan, and the features that are specific to the location of the population in Fergana region and some factors affecting it.*

**Keywords:** *Location of population, water resources, irrigated agriculture, Fergana region, hydrographic web, rural settlements, irrigation systems, urban agglomerations.*

Differences in the territorial location and density indicators of the population of Uzbekistan are caused by a number of factors, such as natural-climatic, land-water resources and transport routes of the regions. The population has been engaged in irrigated agriculture since ancient times, and it is also located in the oases and valleys that are more convenient for the population to live and work. Such areas may include Chirchik-Ahangaran, Ferghana, Zarafshan, Surkhon-Sherabad, Khorezm and Karshi.

The natural conditions and the diversity of the possibilities of socio-economic development of the territory of our country affect the population's location and density indicators. In particular, the average population density in the country in 2019 was 1 km<sup>2</sup> and 74 people and regionally one can see the difference between Navoi and Andijan (8.8 people in Navoi, 713 people in Andijan) [4]. At the same time, the population is sparsely populated in areas that are unfavorable to live and farming and are not sufficiently equipped with hydrographic facilities and here the population density is lower than the average population density of the republic. Among such regions are the Republic of

Karakalpakstan (11.2), Navoi (8.8), Bukhara (47.0), and Jizzakh (63.8) provinces. However, recent population growth and the development of manufacturing processes in the country have also contributed to the increase in the density in previously sparsely populated areas. This situation is mainly observed in the Mirzachul, Karshi deserts and Central Fergana, which are used for agricultural purposes.

It is known that the analysis of population's location plays an important role in the size of a country or region. It can be seen that the area of high-density regions is not very large, or vice versa. Fergana region, which is being analyzed, is only 4% of the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with more than 28% of the population.

At the same time, the population in the regions decreases with distance from major cities, transportation routes and hydrographic facilities. This can be seen in Fergana, Margilan, Kokand, Namangan and Andijan.

The influence of the natural and socioeconomic factors that are specific for the location and density of the population is higher. The natural and socioeconomic factors that influence the region are most influenced by the location and density of the population. Land and water resources play an important role in the conditions of the Fergana region. This is because the location of the population is closely connected not only to the roads and the cities, but also to the hydrographic web. It is appropriate to note this characteristic of the population as a feature of the Fergana Valley.

The peculiarities of the location of the population are also reflected in urban and rural areas. In particular, today about half of the population of Uzbekistan lives in about 12 thousand villages and small settlements in different sizes [1]. This requires the development of social infrastructure, industrial production and transport in rural areas. Consequently, comprehensive socio-economic development of rural areas is one of the most important fields of regional policy.

It is known that the Fergana Valley is significantly different from the other parts of the country for its population density. For example, in 2019 the population density in the country was 74 people, and regionally it was 713 people in Andijan, 545 in Fergana, 370 in Namangan [4].

Hydrographic facilities, that is, water sources, should be emphasized as the main factor affecting the population's location in the region. Specifically, the Syrdarya, Sokh, Isfara, Isfayramsoy in Fergana region, Karadarya, Moylisoy, Okbuura, Aravonsoy, Shahrihonsoy in Andijan region, the Naryn, Kosonsoy, Chortaksay, Namangansoy in Namangan region and Govasoy rivers highly influenced the location of the population and these hydrographic facilities have the highest population density. At the same time, in some rural areas with intensive development of agriculture, population density reaches 700 people, even 1,000 people. These include Asaka, Shahrikhon, Altinkul, Buloqboshi, Izboskan districts of Andijan region, Namangan, Naryn, Turakurgan, Uychi, Uchkurgan districts of Namangan region, Baghdad, Tashlak, Uchkuprik, Buvayda, Rishtan and Kuva districts of Ferghana region. On the contrary, low population density is observed in Ulugnor (over 130 people) in Andijan region, Pop (72 people) and Mingbulok districts (160) in Namangan region. In turn, statistics show that population growth in newly developed areas of Bo'z district in Andijan region and Yozyavan district in Fergana region is growing. Today, in these areas per sq. km. 335 and 260 respectively [4].

It is noteworthy that the hydrographic web also affects the size of rural settlements. In population geography, rural settlements are divided into different groups according to the number of their population and functions to do. In most cases, rural settlements are up to 100; 100-500; 500-1000; 1000-3000; 3000-5000; divided into groups of 5000 and above [1]. Big and large villages with a population of 3,000-5,000 people, 5,000 or more, are concentrated in densely populated areas, oases and valleys, including Fergana, Andijan, and Namangan regions. Currently, the proportion of big and large villages in these regions is 1/5

of the total rural population. Furthermore, such villages are mainly located in the areas where irrigated agriculture developed and the distance between the villages is close or dense. For example, in Andijan region the average distance between villages is 2 km. In the Fergana, Namangan, Tashkent and Khorezm regions this amount is 3.5-4 km.

The analyses show that the differences found in the distribution of rural areas by regions are influenced by, first of all, their natural conditions and their proximity to irrigation sources. It should be noted that in the newly developed and foothill areas, small villages with a population of up to 500 people are predominant. On the contrary, big and large villages are most commonly found in densely populated areas. Clearly, water resources, irrigational watering systems have had a significant impact on the historical formation of rural settlements in Fergana Valley.

From ancient times irrigated agriculture has given birth to large villages, and densely populated areas play an important role in the formation of complex urban systems, namely Fergana-Margilan, Andijan, Namangan, and Kokand agglomerations [3].

Moreover, further development of the social infrastructure system at the local level is an important factor in the socio-economic development of the regions, which is also reflected in the specificity of the territorial distribution of the population. At the same time, the number of the rural population, its location and territorial formation of rural settlements have unique regional features and play an important role in the economic and social development of the country.

The Fergana valley, whose population is dense, is distinguished from other regions of the country by its natural-climatic, economic, socio-demographic features and the specific feature of the location of population. This socio-economic geographical situation is considered to be a key factor in the regional organization and development of social infrastructure in the region.

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