

Some Analyzes of the Classification of Medium and Small Cities

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ABSTRACT

This article contains an analysis of research conducted on small and medium-sized cities, opinions about its borders abroad and in our country. Also, the number of small cities is given in the cross-section of regions, and the population growth of the names of medium-sized cities is given.

To date, small and medium-sized cities have been politically and socially neglected in international urban geography studies, as is evident from the relevant publications, especially when comparing studies on different city categories and urban studies disciplines. The total number of publications indexed by Google Scholar between 2000 and 2019 on "global cities" or "world cities", "megacities" or "mega cities", "metropolitan regions" is shown to be generally high. It can be seen that research activity in the field of small and medium-sized cities lags far behind other city categories; in particular, the increase in the number of publications is less dynamic. The total number of scientific articles published between 2000 and 2019 was 7.2 times higher for global cities or world cities, 6.7 times higher for megacities and 3.7 times higher for metropolitan cities than small and medium-sized city publications at the end of 2019 high. This quantitative analysis shows that small and medium-sized cities have played a subordinate role in research to date, or as Garies and Milber point out, the existing literature in this area of research has received little attention to date. . In the scientific literature, the development of large industrial cities is mainly studied and paid attention to. In this, the main emphasis is placed on their economic-geographic location in relation to raw materials, energy resources, transport highways, and large centers.

Because they determine the main and important characteristics of cities. Sufficient experience has been accumulated in the study of socio-economic problems of urban residents. However, it has not been studied in full analysis, which reveals the specific characteristics of small cities. Studying this criterion as a basis for the typology of cities is also appropriate and a novelty in

science. It is no secret that a large part of the population around the world lives in small and medium-sized cities. In particular, Servillo identified 8,314 small and medium-sized cities across Europe, and noted that they account for 21.6% of Europe's population. In France, INSEE stated that in 2010, 869 urban centers with a population between 5,000 and 50,000 accounted for 17.3% of the population. Also, one of the characteristics of urbanization in Central Asia and Uzbekistan is the large number of small and medium-sized cities. There are different views about the boundaries of small and medium-sized cities in different countries. For example, the lower limit for defining small towns in Denmark is 250 inhabitants, in Northern Ireland it is 4500, in Austria 5000 and in Japan 30000 inhabitants. In France, urban centers with between 3,000 and 20,000 inhabitants are often considered small towns, although some researchers maintain a limit of 5,000 inhabitants. In Poland, a threshold of 10,000 inhabitants is often used to distinguish between a small town and a village, but in some studies this threshold is lowered to 5,000 inhabitants or raised to 20,000 or even 50,000 inhabitants. When it comes to medium-sized cities, for example in France, the most commonly used limits are cities with between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants. However, different forms of the city can be observed within these limits. Initially, the national policy on medium-sized cities, implemented from 1973 to 1982, targeted municipalities of this size, but later the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Research, INSEE, advocated for it to remain.

Table 1. The share of permanent urban population and small towns in the regions of the UZR

Territories of the Autonomous Republic of Uzbekistan	The permanent population of the city is one thousand people	up to 10 thousand	10-20 thousand	20-50 thousand
UzR	17932.6	905	150	85 636.1 636.1
QR	954.2	20	9	3
regions				
Andijan	1699.2	45	27	15
Bukhara	725.8	72	6	3
Jizzakh	675.3	29	12	6
Navoi	505.5	45	3	3
Namangan	1899.5	97	12	10
Samarkand	1483.1	73	13	10
Syr Darya	374.3	19	7	3
Surkhandarya	993.3	105	10	4
Tashkent	1477	80	10	8
Ferghana	2188.7	168	24	6
Khorezm	636.1	49	2	6
Kashkadarya	1460	103	15	8

In Uzbekistan, it is called "Urban Planning Code", Chapter I, Article 12 - Types of Settlements. In it, the towns are divided into the following according to the number of inhabitants.

1. Big - the population consists of more than 20 thousand people
2. Average population is from 10,000 to 20,000 people
3. Small - towns with a population of up to 10,000 people

Small towns make up more than 4/5 of the geourbanization of Uzbekistan. If the number of urban settlements with a population of up to 10,000 was equal to 32.6% in 2000, 29.2% in 2008, 81% in 2016, and 76.5% in 2023.

The table was compiled by the author based on the information of the General Directorate of

Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

From the data, we can analyze that large rural-type cities with a population of up to 10 thousand are superior in number in Fergana, Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Namangan regions, and there are more resource cities or a small sector that processes agricultural raw materials. There are many small towns of 10,000-20,000 inhabitants in Andijan, Fergana, Kashkadarya, and Samarkand regions. They also mainly serve as district centers. Andijan, Namangan, Samarkand regions are the leaders with more than 20,000. Demographic potential of these cities can also be included in the group of cities with well-developed production, service, urban infrastructure. From 2010 to 2020, the population of Uzbekistan increased by 20 percent. The rural population is growing faster than the urban population, and the population of small towns is growing faster than that of large cities. At the same time, almost 80% of small towns in the country are located within 50 km of a city with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

In 2016, there were 20 cities in Central Bashkiria with a population of 50-100 thousand, which corresponded to 1.6% of the total urban settlements. In 2023, the number of such cities will be 23, and 1 of urban settlements. We will consider these cities below.

In our view, the main tasks of small and medium-sized cities in the process of urbanization are related to the following.

- Increase sustainable economic development
- Improving the standard of living of the population in small and medium-sized cities
- Ensuring the construction of housing, production and social infrastructure facilities on a larger scale
- Effective use of land resources
- Ensuring the priority tasks of industrial-innovative development and penetration of the digital economy into small and medium-sized cities
- optimizing the development of medium and small cities

Table 2. Population growth of medium-sized cities of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2000-2023 years)

No	Cities	Year of establishment	2000	2016	2023
1	Asaka	1937	54.8	62.2	77.7
2	Beruni	1962	47.3	55.9	65.6
3	Denov	1958	63.0	78.3	94.8
4	Gulistan	1952	55.1	63.1	79.1
5	Koson	1972	53.9	68.9	85.7
6	Kogon	1929	52.9	57.8	63.7
7	Kosonsoy	1973	4.7	50.9	59.9
8	Kattakurgan	1868	66.1	69.4	80.6
9	Nurafshon	2017	-	-	54.1
10	Urgut	1973	49.4	65.3	83.2
11	Kuva	1974	36.2	46.4	53.5
12	Kuvasoy	1954	24.7	44.3	52.9
13	Parkent	1984	43.2	60.2	68.6
14	Takhiatosh	1953	51.5	47.5	52.0
15	Tortkol	1973	48.6	58.2	66.3
16	Zarafshon	1972	53.3	62.3	75.3
17	Yangyol	1934	58.9	55.3	85.5
18	Chust	1969	60.7	69.1	81.1

19	Chortok	1976	45.4	53.4	61.5
20	Chimboy	1926	33.1	50.4	56.2
21	Khojayli	1926	69.2	67.8	74.8
22	Khiva	BC IV century	48.8	58.9	96.9
23	Shahrikhan	1970	58.2	71.4	85.9

The table is compiled based on the data of the General Directorate of Statistics of OZR.

Since 2011, the Economic Research Center has been implementing the project "Development of Sustainable Urban Infrastructure" with the support of ESCAP and the UNDP office in Uzbekistan. The first stage of the project (2011) was devoted to the development of the cities of Uzbekistan, and its results were presented at the international seminar held in Tashkent on July 5-6, 2011.

Conclusion

In general, despite the large number of small and medium-sized cities around the world today, little attention is paid to them. However, they are the main point that acts as a bridge between the big cities and the villages. The development of rural settlements is determined by the level of development of small and medium-sized cities. For this reason, it is necessary to determine the factors that develop this type of cities and towns from an economic geographical point of view.

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