

## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE STAGES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE KASHKADARYA REGION DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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**Abstract:** This research examines, in a comprehensive manner, the stages of social development and the historical aspects of demographic processes in the Kashkadarya region during the years of independence. In particular, the growth of the population, birth and death rates, migration processes, the level of urbanization, and socio-demographic changes in the population structure are analyzed on a scientific basis. The study reveals the impact of socio-economic reforms implemented in the region on the standard of living and well-being of the population. Furthermore, the trends of demographic development in the region are consistently highlighted, and their historical factors as well as contemporary significance are analyzed. The results of the study have important scientific and practical value for the development of regional strategies, improvement of social policy, and effective management of demographic processes.

**Keywords:** Kashkadarya region, years of independence, social life, demographic processes, population size, birth rate, mortality, migration, urbanization, socio-economic development, standard of living, demographic changes, historical analysis.

During the years of independence, profound socio-economic reforms have been implemented in all sectors of the Republic of Uzbekistan. These processes have significantly influenced the social life and demographic development of the country's regions, particularly the Kashkadarya region. The growth of the population, changes in birth and death rates, intensification of internal and external migration processes, as well as an increase in the level of urbanization, have fundamentally transformed the demographic profile of the region. At the same time, the development of social infrastructure, as well as changes in education, healthcare, employment, and social protection systems, have contributed to improving the standard of living of the population.

The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that a comprehensive historical study of social and demographic processes in the Kashkadarya region during the years of independence makes it possible to identify the main trends of regional development, assess existing problems, and determine future directions of development. In particular, analyzing the interrelation between demographic changes and social life is of great importance for modern scientific research.

The Kashkadarya region was established on February 20, 1943, and currently covers an area of 28.6 thousand km<sup>2</sup> (28,567 thousand hectares). At that time, it was separated from the Bukhara region. The Kashkadarya region was part of the Surkhandarya region from February 25, 1960, to February 7, 1984. The total length of the region's borders is 893.8 km, which constitutes 6.3% of the total borders of Uzbekistan [1].

One of the distinctive features of the contemporary demographic situation in Uzbekistan is the emerging trend of declining birth rates and natural population growth across regions, provinces, cities, and rural districts.

Demographic processes are phenomena that directly affect all economic and social spheres of life. The general patterns of population development (demography) create complex problems in regions characterized by specific economic and natural conditions, thereby posing new challenges to science. This is because these processes reflect the fundamental aspects of human life and mortality.



The above-mentioned aspects have significant scientific and practical importance in specific regions and include the following: accounting for changes in the total population size; the proportion of urban and rural population within the overall structure; and the sectoral composition and spatial distribution of employment resources [2].

Taking these aspects into account ensures the effective placement of production and the rational use of labor resources. In addition, the demographic policy of each country plays an important role; it must correspond not only to the socio-economic interests of the population within the country but also to those of neighboring states, as well as to the prevailing general mentality of the region.

According to the latest population census conducted in the republic (1989), a total of 19,780.0 thousand people were registered. Of this number, 1,594 thousand people lived in the Kashkadarya oasis, including 415 thousand urban residents (25% of the total population) and 1,179 thousand rural residents (75% of the total population) [3].

In terms of population size, the Kashkadarya region ranks third in Uzbekistan after the Samarkand and Fergana regions. At the same time, together with the Surkhandarya region, it leads the country in terms of population growth. In particular, while the population of Uzbekistan increased by 123.8% between 1989 and 2010, this figure reached 139.2% in Surkhandarya and 136.0% in Kashkadarya. It should be noted that these two regions play an important role in shaping the current demographic situation of the republic [4].

It is also possible to observe the comparison of the permanent population across different territorial units. When examining the birth rate at the district level, the highest number of births in 2010 was recorded in Chiroqchi and Shahrisabz districts, while the lowest birth rates were observed in Muborak and Mirishkor districts. By 2017, after the city of Shahrisabz was granted the status of a city subordinated to the region, the highest birth rate has been observed in Chiroqchi district. A decline in birth rates was noted in several districts of the region, including G'uzor (from 25.5 to 25.0 per mille), Dehqonobod (from 28.4 to 28.3 per mille), Qamashi (from 27.6 to 27.2 per mille), Kitob (from 24.6 to 24.3 per mille), Kasbi (from 25.6 to 24.1 per mille), Chiroqchi (from 30.3 to 30.2 per mille), and Yakkabog' (from 27.8 to 25.2 per mille) [5].

In 2018, an analysis of birth coefficients across the districts of the region showed the highest increase in Muborak district (from 22.1 to 24.7 per mille) and in the city of Qarshi (from 17.9 to 20.7 per mille), as well as in Koson (from 24.6 to 25.6 per mille) and Kitob (from 24.1 to 24.9 per mille) districts. The highest overall birth rate was recorded in Chiroqchi district (32.9 per mille) [6].

Furthermore, territorial analysis indicates that as of January 1, 2019, the largest population was concentrated in Chiroqchi district with 400.0 thousand people (12.4% of the regional population), followed by Koson district with 278.2 thousand people (8.7%) and the city of Qarshi with 270.4 thousand people (8.5%). Conversely, the smallest population was observed in Muborak district with 84.8 thousand people (2.6%) and Mirishkor district with 116.8 thousand people (3.6%). The population density amounted to 120 people per square kilometer [8].

The main causes of mortality in the region are primarily diseases of the circulatory system, accidents, poisoning and injuries, neoplasms, diseases of the digestive system, as well as, to a lesser extent, infectious and parasitic diseases and respiratory illnesses [9]. In addition, infant mortality has also contributed to demographic processes. In the region, 737 infant deaths were recorded in 2005, 725 in 2009, 568 in 2013, and 732 cases in subsequent years. The main causes of infant mortality include conditions arising during the perinatal period, respiratory diseases, congenital anomalies, and, to a lesser extent, accidents, poisoning, and injuries [10].

At the level of Uzbekistan's regions, the mortality rate generally shows a decreasing trend. In the Kashkadarya region, the mortality rate declined from 4.63% in 1997 to 4.0% in 2004 and



further to 3.9% in 2010. In terms of mortality, the Kashkadarya region is classified among areas with relatively low mortality (below 5.0%) [11].

An analysis of statistical data indicates that, compared to other regions, the lowest mortality rate is observed in the Kashkadarya region. At the same time, a decline in birth rates and fertility coefficients is also evident. Moreover, the majority of births occur among relatively young women. Natural population growth, which amounted to 37.7% in 1991, decreased to 17.7% in 1999, then increased to 19.1% in 2001 and 18.7% in 2004. In that year, the Kashkadarya region surpassed the Surkhandarya region (18.1%), which had previously ranked first in terms of natural population growth. In 2009, natural growth reached 20.5%, placing the region in fourth position in terms of natural increase. The population of the Kashkadarya region is primarily growing due to natural increase. Another noticeable demographic trend is the steady growth of the urban population [12].

Among the districts, the smallest population was recorded in Muborak district, totaling 67.1 thousand people, including 24.7 thousand urban residents and 42.4 thousand rural residents. The population of the city of Qarshi amounted to 228.2 thousand people. In Koson district, which occupies one of the leading positions economically, the population reached 215.4 thousand people, including 60.3 thousand urban residents and 155.1 thousand rural residents.

In 2004, the population of the region was 2,378.2 thousand people; in 2005, it reached 2,419.8 thousand; and in 2006, 2,462.2 thousand people. Of this number, in 2004 men accounted for 1,191.2 thousand and women for 1,187.0 thousand; in 2005 men numbered 1,211.8 thousand and women 1,208.0 thousand; and in 2006 men totaled 1,233.2 thousand while women reached 1,229.0 thousand [13].

The population of the region's cities has shown a slight increase in recent years. In 2015, in terms of population size, the cities of Qarshi and Shahrisabz ranked first, followed by Koson (71,437) and Kitob (42,401). Meanwhile, the cities of Yangi Nishon (13,643) and Talimarjon (11,324) were distinguished by relatively low population figures. The growth rates of cities in 1995 and 2015 varied: the highest growth was observed in Yangi Nishon, Talimarjon, and Chiroqchi (1.7, 1.6, and 1.6 times respectively), while the lowest growth was recorded in Yakkabog' (1 time).

Overall, small and medium-sized cities accounted for 9.1% of the region's population in 1995 and 9.7% in 2015. This trend can be explained by the expansion of urban areas, migration of rural populations to cities, and the tendency of rural youth who move to cities for education and employment to settle there permanently. This process has been particularly evident in cities such as Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Kitob, and Koson. The population of the oasis is increasing by an average of 60 thousand people annually.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, population demography is a process that directly influences the economic and social spheres of the region. At present, there is a growing tendency for people to migrate to cities, resulting in an increase in the share of the urban population. At the same time, the proportion of ethnic Uzbeks in the population structure is also increasing. This can be explained, among other factors, by the return migration of Europeans, particularly Slavic populations, to their historical homelands, as well as by higher birth rates in rural areas.

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