

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE SHAFIRKAN DISTRICT)

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Abstract. In recent years, the rapidly growing population in Uzbekistan, the industrialization of the country's economy, the growing demand for usable land, and the demand for settlements are also increasing. In particular, as a result of an increase in the density of the population in urban centers, various natural, socio-economic and ecological problems arise. The development of human settlements is somewhat complicated, especially in parts of the Oasis, which are surrounded by desert. In such areas, a sharp decrease in water content in recent years, an extremely low amount of precipitation, as well as a high level of evaporation, a high level of salinity directly negatively affect the network of human settlements of the population. This article provides a Geographical Survey of the human settlements of the Shafirkan district, located in the northern part of the Bukhara Oasis. The article presents suggestions and recommendations on the specific geographical position of human settlements in the territory, population, history of formation, net of human settlements, problems of human settlements and their solution, and considerations on the prospects for development.

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INTRODUCTION

Today, the fact that the population is at the center of economic reforms aimed at the formation of a stable and efficient economy in our country, as well as about 60% of the state budget expenditures of our country are directed to the development of the social sphere, scientific research of the population and related areas is somehow relevant.

Also, the increase in the population in Uzbekistan is increasing the need for social spheres, human settlements. Negative impacts on the ecological condition of the regions are increasing. Prejudice against water, land, biological and climatic resources is growing.

The Shafirkan District of Bukhara region, the object of study, also has a number of geographical and environmental problems that are an obstacle to the development prospects of the territory. Today, a geographical and ecological analysis of these problems is relevant.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

There are two directions in the Geographical study of the population. Firstly, more attention is paid to demographic orientation, namely population growth, age and gender, national composition, reproduction, and secondly, human settlements, the net of which are the result of the above geographical processes, are studied separately [3]. In the direction of human settlements, many scientists have worked in our country. In particular, the geographical features of the human settlements of the Bukhara region and the factors that affect their development, A.M.Mavlonov studied. [1]. There has also been much work done on the types of human settlements [4], urban settlements [2,5], rural settlements [6].

GENERAL GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

Shafirkan is a district in Bukhara region, established on September 29, 1926. The district is located in the north of Bukhara region and borders Vabkent district to the South, Romitan district to the south-west, Peshku district to the West, Gijduvan district to the East, and Konimex district of Navoi region to the North (figure 1).

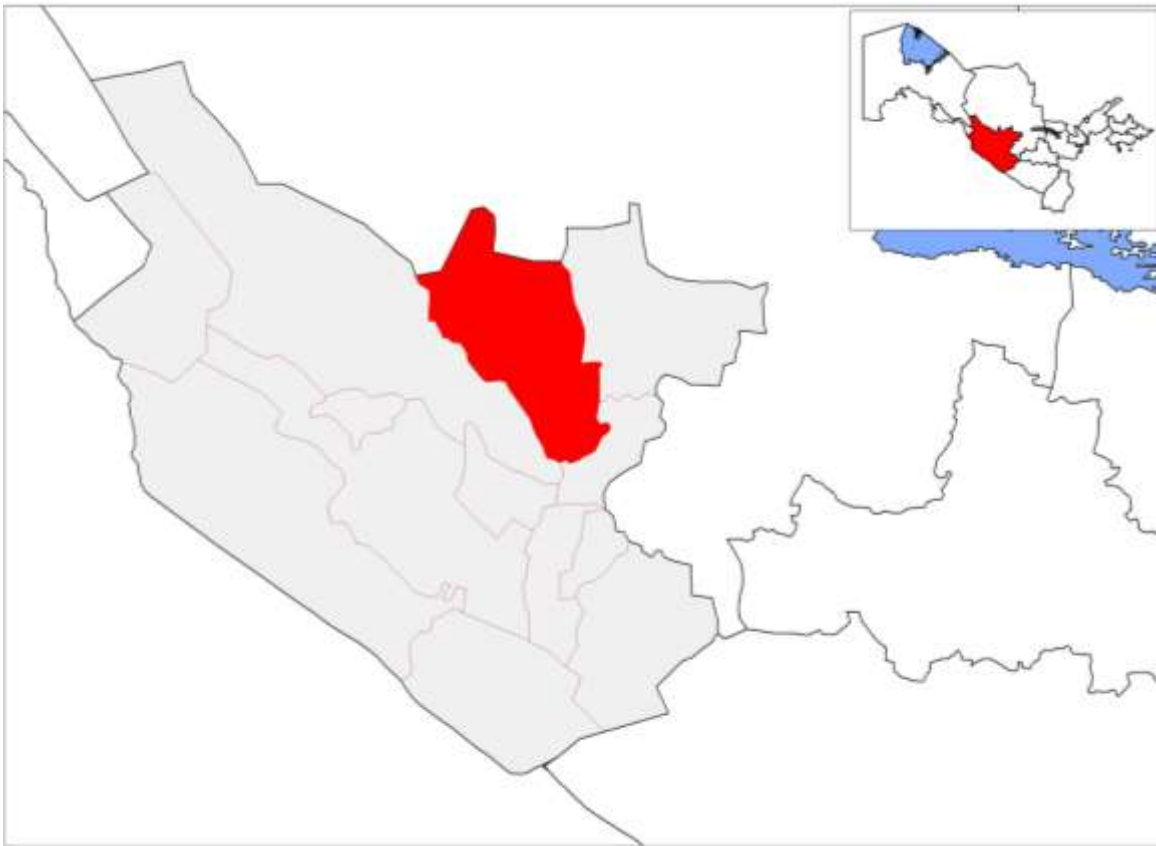


Fig.1. Source. Shafirkan district municipality statistics department.

The total area of the Shafirkan district is 3.72 thousand kv.km it is 9.2 percent of the total area of the province. Population 186.5 thousand people (01.01.2024) of which 43.2 thousand people live in the city, 143.3 thousand in the village. The district has a population of 9.1% of the province's population. Urbanization rates are considered low (23.2%), like other rural districts in the province.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In Shafirkan district, where the majority of the population is rural, the population settlement grid is predominantly rural. Today the district contains 1 city, 8 towns and 144 rural settlements [8,9].

Most of the human settlements in the district are very ancient, and their large size, architectural landscape, population, national, ethnic composition of the population, culture, ecological status and tourism potential are diverse, harmonizing mainly the nature of the desert zone.

Table 1. Net of human settlements in Shafirkan district

| № | Cities | Year of foundation | Population (thousand people) | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| | | | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2016 | 2024 |
| 1 | Shofirkon | 1995 | | 11,6 | 12,4 | 14,0 | 15,3 |
| № | Towns | Year of foundation | Population (thousand people) | | | | |
| | | | 2013 | 2016 | 2024 | | |
| 1 | Iskogare | 2009 | 4,3 | 4,5 | 4,9 | | |
| 2 | Talisafed | 2009 | 3,8 | 4,0 | 4,4 | | |
| 3 | Juyrabat | 2009 | 3,5 | 3,7 | 4,4 | | |
| 4 | Chandir | 2009 | 2,8 | 3,0 | 3,4 | | |
| 5 | Undare | 2009 | 2,5 | 2,6 | 2,8 | | |
| 6 | Quy Chuqurak | 2009 | 2,5 | 2,5 | 2,7 | | |
| 7 | Mirzoqul | 2009 | 2,4 | 2,5 | 2,6 | | |
| 8 | Gulomte | 2009 | 2,2 | 2,3 | 2,6 | | |
| Rural settlement classification | | | | | | | |
| The population is up to 1 thousand people | | Population 1-3 thousand people | | Population 3 thousand or more | | | |
| Number | Share (%) | Number | Share (%) | Number | Share (%) | | |
| 86 | 60 | 56 | 38,6 | 2 | 1,4 | | |

Note: the table is compiled by the author based on data from the Bukhara regional statistical department.

From the table above, we can see that the network of urban settlements in Shafirkan is located extremely sparsely. In contrast rural settlements are much larger. One of the main reasons for this was the fact that the settlements in the area were located along the Zarafshan River from time immemorial, and the main activity of the population was related to agriculture. Rural settlements can also be conditionally divided into three groups.

- Small rural settlements – the number of inhabitants up to one thousand people;
- Medium rural settlements – population from 1 thousand to 3 thousand people;
- Large rural settlements – population from 3 thousand to 5 thousand people;

The main rural settlement in the district corresponds to the contribution of small settlements in the district. The main reason for this is due to the fact that a large part of the territory is located in the Kyzylkum desert and permanent water resources are limited.

The human settlements are located very unevenly throughout the territory. About 90 percent of the human settlements are located in the south of the district. Due to the spread of typical desert landscapes in the central and northern parts of the territory, the settlements are located extremely sparsely. The location of the rural settlements in the district can be divided into 4 geographically conditional parts.

- The rural settlements located in the center of the Oasis (Revgar, Naqosh, Savrak)
- The rural settlements bordering neighboring districts (Madaniyat, Mavri, Yuqori Chitgaron)
- The rural settlements located between Oasis and desert (buffer zone) (Jilvon, Quy Gilvon, Tezguzar)
- The rural settlements located within the desert (Churuq, Yangibog‘)

Today the district is threatened by a number of geocological problems. Including the increasing shortage of running water, the increase in dust days, the decrease in groundwater levels, the increase in salinity levels of agricultural land. The occurrence of such problems in recent years is mainly due to a sharp increase in population numbers, the lack of rational use of cross-border rivers and other reasons. Troubleshooting or mitigating the above problems is one of the pressing issues of today.

By solving the water problem, several of the above geocological problems can be solved. In particular, the district is geographically located in the sharply continental part of the temperate region, and the demand for water will be very high, especially during the summer “chilla” period. During this period, the channel water is also sharply reduced.

Under these conditions, it can be a good solution for each household to use “small reservoirs”

that collect spring and winter precipitation. For example, the roof of most house in rural areas today is covered with hard cover (slate). Through a single centralized system, rainwater is collected into “small reservoirs” established in the hut, and during the summer “chilla” period, each hut will be able to irrigate its irrigated land in its area for 1-2 months.

We know that 1 millimeter of rain produces 1 liter of water on 1m² surface. Observations show that the roof section of the huts in the district, covered with hard cover, occupies an average surface area of up to 60 m². the average rainfall in the region is around 120-140 millimeters. It follows from this that on average, in apartments covered with a solid coating of 60 m², around 7,800 liters of water can be collected in one season.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, water resources remain relevant in the formation of human settlements in all regions located in the Bukhara Oasis, including in the Shafirkan district, where water is the most basic, and in determining the future prospects of the territory.

Conclusions and proposals to determine the prospects for the development of human settlements in the Shafirkan district and mitigate the existing geoeological problems in the area:

1. To introduce the project of “small reservoirs” in each apartment as soon as possible.
2. Due to the limitations of land resources, it is necessary to develop standards regarding the size and structure of new apartments under construction in rural areas.

3. It is advisable to increase the scale of building multi-storey houses in the agro-suburbs of the district center and the area and save limited land and water resources through this.
4. Residents located adjacent to the desert zone should be protected from the desert zone through natural barriers and protect the territories from desertification.

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