

Problems of Urbanization of Azerbaijan

Vusat Afandiyev, Firangiz Gasimova

Abstract - In the article the appearance of cities, urban development, socio-economic development, the concentration of production, population and settlement, based on scientific and technological progress is the result of industrial production, is talking about the problems arising in the process of urbanization. The regulation of agglomeration that is the result of urbanization development in spite of its being of current importance is a poor investigated and difficult-to-resolve problem. The thorough changes which have occurred in the economic, social and political life of the country in the course of last years from the geographical - territorial, industrial point of view are such an important, diversified and dynamic processes that the scientific perception and research on demand of time of the new realities connected with them has turned to a burning problem. The special role of urbanization stems out from its origin of occurrence of urban environment. Social-economic, cultural and demographic settling expands its positions on the historical stages of evolution processes and is developed qualitatively and quantitatively. Integration and planning, town studies from the urbanization viewpoint is a subject of inquiry by different sciences - economy, economic-social geography as well as urban planners. Within the circle of their attraction power and surrounded by unitary areas the towns cause the occurrence of tight reciprocal relationships, integration processes and promotes the vanish of insulation, isolation typical for the past. Nowadays, the increase of city agglomerations and transport-economic relationships, disappearance of major differences between towns and villages promotes economic-social housing in the territorial and regional system as well as migration relationships. Historically, Baku city was placed in area of oil-and-gas fields and has been surrounded with areas of their operation. Now because of an arrangement of Baku city and adjoining regions, oil fields, and also more than 50 densely populated settlements of city type and the working settlements located in an environment of crossed roads, are present very much limited opportunities for its horizontal extensive growth. Such situation in the certain district limits free ground territories for seaside recreational zones and developments of the agricultural industry in the area of city councils of Baku and Sumgait, especially in districts with dense built-on and compactness of communication lines. The mentioned process is conducted outside of intensively-urbanized Baku and Sumgait and has no opportunity for using recreational zones and the ground areas. The primary purpose in this work is conducting a research of activity and interrelation of development of cities, urbanization and the migratory processes connected to it in a certain territorial system from the position of the interconnected and functional system of social and economic, economically - geographical, ecological, housing aspects. The given work which for the first time is devoted to geographical problems of development of the urbanization of cities of Azerbaijan Republic, does not reflect completely multilateral and volumetric problems in the given area.

Index Terms –Settlement; Urbanization; Economic

I. INTRODUCTION

In modern researches the urbanization process must be studied first of all in respect of “urbanized environment”, possessing diversified essence,

Revised Version Manuscript Received on January 21, 2016.

Mr. Vusat Afandiyev, Dr. Prof. Heworks at Baku State University. scientific journals of Azerbaijan and foreign countries. Baki, Azerbaijan.

Mrs. Firangiz Gasimova, Doctor of Philosophy in Geography. Senior lecturer at Baku State University. Baki, Azerbaijan.

functional features and being in close relationship with a town. “Urbanized environment” is considered to be a special environment having close relationships with human life, the activity and existence of industrial enterprises and mutual ties nature-society.

In modern urbanization studies a special attention is paid to the reasons and system creating the town urbanization. One can come from it to a conclusion, that the history of housing is an objective process stemmed out of urban life mode, productive relations of population, industrial and transport activity. In a wider sense the urban relationships developing in a peculiar social and economic way constitute the substance of urbanization.

The urbanization process in not universal but limited historical phenomenon. The occurrence of the process is tightly connected with concentration of all new structures originated from the process of turning of the town to the object of international relations that coincided with the formation of capitalist relations - the core of industrial production.

Urbanization is formed in the stages of cultural, social-economic development as a transitional, peculiar and necessary element as well as an independent process. In this quality the urbanization is a moving process bearing a special importance in civilization processes and formation of urban environment and acts in tight coordination with civilization.

From all the mentioned earlier one might come to a conclusion that in modern period one of the most important duties standing before mankind is restriction of concentration of urbanization, industry, transport, engineering- technical means in large and super cities, and ensuring of optimal development of “satellite”, suburban zones.

The appropriateness of urbanization is defined finally by the founding-etymological feature of the development and from this viewpoint the progressive factors introducing innovations don't take place everywhere but appear in the favorable urban environment, industrial centers.

The last stage of the progressive development process conduct the activity of the society for recycling capacity and reciprocal activity in the different area conditions within potential move of environment. The peculiar characteristics of urbanization as a function doesn't keep the past development activity typical for civilized countries, but changes periodically.

II. THEORETICAL VIEW

2.1. City planning

In the course of development and improvement of production relations and scientific-technical progress as integrative start action, as a result of the change of its parameter and scale the problems appropriate to this process take place and it change in form and substance.

Problems of Urbanization of Azerbaijan

In the conditions of modern production relations, forms of property, information and development (reciprocal movement) the urbanization acting within this system maintaining its peculiar relationships enlarges and become more complicated in accordance with progressive concentration and formation of the territory.

Along with the regulation of economic, social and natural events occurring in the nature the carrying out of a number of measures in cityplanning processes is a serious requirement to be achieved in accordance with demand of the contemporary period. The process itself is aimed at the achievement of resolution of problems related with protection of environment and some other economic, technical, ecological, demographic problems of the regions depending on their geographic environment and natural conditions [1].

There is quite a long period that in the general town-planning the improvement of population's living conditions, concentration of production, their administration via population urbanization and development of industrial production were positioned at the utmost stage. The involvement of the population of suburban areas to the urban environment, increase of social and economic relationships with other regions and cities and maintenance of balance among them is achieved quite hardly nowadays. It creates discrepancy and difficulties while satisfaction of population with food-stuff pieces and provision of industry with raw materials.

Designing of urban settlements, production modeling and industrialization and their arrangement is quite difficult process, their development is dependent on progress of productive, social and demographic processes. Sometimes in the development of the cities some problems occur and development processes envisaged in a plan or project have to be changed or improved. It is caused by such unforeseen events like excessive migration flow, tension coming from economic and ecological problems, and even water scarcity, excessive concentration, etc.

The public and economic relations based on the division principles mentioned earlier regulate the right of independent development in the society, intellectual creativity of people, cultural and scientific-technical progress of people in accordance with demands of our times, reciprocal relationships of positive and negative events occurring within the frames of time and space and defines the progressive routes at the given spheres and function of cities. The urbanization upon its level of activity and development stands as a public category distinctive from other settlements by the concentration of economic, social-demographic systems and population housing within urban - territorial area. In these conditions, the cities having created as a special social, economic organism and in the stages of their development within some territory a dense infrastructure form the "cradle" of urbanized civilization.

The main goal of city-planning and development is to adapt the people to the urban environment, selection of territories suitable for the development of units of industrial production structure and developing of new territories, taking into consideration economic and geographic positions. As it was proposed by some specialists in this respect, the main condition to be fulfilled is to undertake the

measures on creation of favorable conditions for the development of urban economy in territorial environment and economic relationships with other regions, as well as some preventing measures against unexpected natural calamities. Accretion of the population demand for manufactured goods, foodstuff, cultural and welfare goods arises from their urban life-mode, it keeps the people in an isolated state forming some kind of closed, private life-mode. In this condition the megalopolis - an urbanized structure of integrative form concentrated with industry and transport means appears. Hence in the urban architecture the implementation of such advantageous projects is required that would provide not temporary but permanent living comfort and satisfy material and moral demands.

2.1. Economic and social factors of urbanization

The administration in the cities is observed under formation of urban environment and concentration of urbanization and industry. Everybody tries to choose such a place for the life-mode that meet economic-ecological, recreation and development needs. Thus, the urban population achieves "natural areas" and advantageous "social-economic environment" that promotes the peculiar activity of "social, economic, ecological" rules in restricted territorial area.

Tendencies of economic and social progress, technical progress and development of science, enlightenment and culture resulted from the expansion of urbanization and population cause the occurrence of appropriate professions, specialties, habits and traditions. Meantime, peculiarities, types and intensity of town urbanization depending on territorial migration and population level creates now diversification, complexity, inequity, multi-vectored economic- social relationships in production and service industries in town development and expands the progressive, new integrative activity.

Cities are system of activity inside a local territory with enormous progressive potential and possessing to the big force of attraction. Regulation of cities and process of urbanization accompanying them is possible under condition of the account and judgment of objective rules, and also scientific - practical and economically - social aspects of their development.

Development ground takes place defining general bias of the peculiar to dynamic activity of social-economic and scientific-technical progress as well as urbanization process. Thus the study of structure-creating components of urbanization emerging in urban environment, and finding out of substances which would allow the scientific approach to the substantive reasons of this process further is stipulated by the major goal of our research.

Urbanization process takes part in the process of transition of society to the social environment, the area of dense population in this system, the new public development having modern substance. Here the urbanization participates in population housing at the historic period, and fulfilling of creative function in transition of urban environment to the modern development mode that is subject of production concentration.

Economic and social progress, technical progress and development of science, enlightenment and culture resulted from the expansion of urbanization and population cause the occurrence of appropriate professions, specialties, habits and traditions. Meantime, peculiarities, types and intensity of town urbanization depending on territorial migration and population level creates now diversification, complexity, inequity, multi-vectored economic-social relationships in production and service industries in town development and expands the progressive, new integrative activity.

The appropriateness of urbanization is defined finally by the founding- etymological feature of the development and from this viewpoint the progressive factors introducing innovations don't take place everywhere but appear in the favorable urban environment, industrial centers.

The last stage of the progressive development process conduct the activity of the society for recycling capacity and reciprocal activity in the different area conditions within potential move of environment. The peculiar characteristics of urbanization as a function doesn't keep the past development activity typical for civilized countries, but changes periodically [2].

In the course of development and improvement of production relations and scientific-technical progress as integrative start action, as a result of the change of its parameter and scale the problems appropriate to this process take place and it change in form and substance. In the conditions of modern production relations, forms of property, information and development (reciprocal movement) the urbanization acting within this system maintaining its peculiar relationships enlarges and become more complicated in accordance with progressive concentration and formation of the territory.

Economic and social progress, technical progress and development of science, enlightenment and culture resulted from the expansion of urbanization and population cause the occurrence of appropriate professions, specialties, habits and traditions.. Here the urbanization participates in population housing at the historic period, and fulfilling of creative function in transition of urban environment to the modern development mode that is subject of production concentration. There are tens of cities the number of population of which exceeds 10 million. Now nobody is surprised that the number of urban and rural population will equal shortly. In its turn that will create a number of problems that can be caused by hyper-urbanization in economic and social-demographic spheres. Urbanization process takes part in the process of transition of society to the social environment, the area of dense population in this system, the new public development having modern substance.

Peculiarities, types and intensity of town urbanization depending on territorial migration and population level creates now diversification, complexity, inequity, multi-vectored economic-social relationships in production and service industries in town development and expands the progressive, new integrative activity.

Territorial aspect of urbanization is expressed not with division of a region and zones influenced by this process (not only zones, area and districts) and urbanized territories and distinction of urban settlements, but intensity of

housing. Urbanization in urban environment is manifestation of dense population. In developed countries the urbanized urban environment creates suburbanization at the centers of dense placement of industrial, transport, commercial, and cultural spheres.

Depending of the situation, the urbanization changes its movement position within certain environment, gets its shape, take part in improvement of social-cultural environment. The urbanization that receives in this connection a new substance changes its local-space, quantitative and substantive activity. In this sense the urbanization stands in the position of not only the indicator of urban environment and result of activity process but also the mobile distinguishing changer, integral part of social system emerging in urban environment, the product of economic-social development within time and space.

Development ground takes place defining general bias of the peculiar to dynamic activity of social-economic and scientific-technical progress as well as urbanization process. Thus the study of structure-creating components of urbanization emerging in urban environment, and finding out of substances which would allow the scientific approach to the substantive reasons of this process further is stipulated by the major goal of our research.

Cities are system of activity inside a local territory with enormous progressive potential and possessing to the big force of attraction. Regulation of cities and process of urbanization accompanying them is possible under condition of the account and judgment of objective rules, and also scientific - practical and economically - social aspects of their development

The urbanization process takes part in the process of transition of society to the social environment, the area of dense population in this system, the new' public development having modern substance. Here the urbanization participates in population housing at the historic period, and fulfilling of creative function in transition of urban environment to the modern development mode that is subject of production concentration.

Urbanization is formed in the stages of cultural, social-economic development as a transitional, peculiar and necessary element as well as an independent process. In this quality the urbanization is a moving process bearing a special "importance" in civilization processes and formation of urban environment and acts in tight coordination with civilization.

It is commonplace that a special development ground takes place defining general bias of the peculiar to dynamic activity of social-economic and scientific-technical progress as well as urbanization process. Thus the study of structure-creating components of urbanization emerging in urban environment, and finding out of substances which would allow the scientific approach to the substantive reasons of this process further is stipulated by the major goal of our research.

It worth to note that in this respect the civilization emerging from the substance of fundamental changes in the society renovates itself in the course of historical process periodically,

Problems of Urbanization of Azerbaijan

experiences qualitative and quantitative changes depending on the functions of the city and stands as an outstanding evolution process in economic, cultural and social domains.

Discoursing upon the civilization that takes place in urban environment we imply a notion creating new social-economic society on the basis of labor division. Furthermore, the deepening of economy, especially ever-moving industrial production processes and migration of population is implied.

From this viewpoint the civilization which is the center of urbanization and industrial concentration appears as industrial division, labor division and territorial division of people.

In its private uniformity, reciprocal action and interdependence they create a favorable ground for emergence of new events - "social effects", functional substance, civilization of towns and related with this labor activity. In its turn the intensity of urbanization processes in large and big cities as well as suburban areas is increased, causes the qualitative and quantitative changes in social evolution. From this viewpoint the development of cities appears to be the historical process introducing novelty into their cultural evolution development.

Such a historical situation typical for civilization takes place within the division of public labor, production, individual property differentiated production, functional activity of the spheres of social and cultural service.

The public and economic relations based on the division principles mentioned earlier regulate the right of independent development in the society, intellectual creativity of people, cultural and scientific-technical progress of people in accordance with demands of our times, reciprocal relationships of positive and negative events occurring within the frames of time and space and defines the progressive routes at the given spheres and function of cities. The urbanization upon its level of activity and development stands as a public category distinctive from other settlements by the concentration of economic, social-demographic systems and population housing within urban - territorial area. In these conditions, the cities having created as a special social, economic organism and in the stages of their development within some territory a dense infrastructure form the "cradle" of urbanized civilization.

The changing-and-improving activity of modern urbanization is evaluated as a result of development status, the position held in territorial- production system, moving activity and concentration of production. On the one hand the urbanization appears as a development of creative forces of the society and expression of correlation of concentrating production areas with forming intellectual power. On the other hand, it is a public-social process providing the implementation of relations of progressive, creative factors in the development of the society, people and remote regions.

Economic and social progress, technical progress and development of science, enlightenment and culture resulted from the expansion of urbanization and population cause the occurrence of appropriate professions, specialties, habits and traditions.. Here the urbanization participates in population housing at the historic period, and fulfilling of creative

function in transition of urban environment to the modern development mode that is subject of production concentration. There are tens of cities the number of population of which exceeds 10 million. Now nobody is surprised that the number of urban and rural population will equal shortly. In its turn that will create a number of problems that can be caused by hyper-urbanization in economic and social- demographic spheres. Urbanization process takes part in the process of transition of society to the social environment, the area of dense population in this system, the new public development having modern substance[3,4].

The appropriateness of urbanization is defined finally by the founding- etymological feature of the development and from this viewpoint the progressive factors introducing innovations don't take place everywhere but appear in the favorable urban environment, industrial centers.

The last stage of the progressive development process conduct the activity of the society for recycling capacity and reciprocal activity in the different area conditions within potential move of environment. The peculiar characteristics of urbanization as a function does not keep the past development activity typical for civilized countries, but it changes periodically.

In the course of development and improvement of production relations and scientific-technical progress as integrative start action, as a result of the change of its parameter and scale the problems appropriate to this process take place and it change in form and substance. In the conditions of modern production relations, forms of property, information and development (reciprocal movement) the urbanization acting within this system maintaining its peculiar relationships enlarges and become more complicated in accordance with progressive concentration and formation of the territory.

New tendencies of economic and social progress, technical progress and development of science, enlightenment and culture resulted from the expansion of urbanization and population cause the occurrence of appropriate professions, specialties, habits and traditions. Meantime, peculiarities, types and intensity of town urbanization depending on territorial migration and population level creates now diversification, complexity, inequity, multi-vectored economic- social relationships in production and service industries in town development and expands the progressive, new integrative activity.

Integration and planning, town studies from the urbanization viewpoint is a subject of inquiry by different sciences - economy, economic-social geography as well as urban planners. Within the circle of their attraction power and surrounded by unitary areas the towns cause the occurrence of tight reciprocal relationships, integration processes and promotes the vanish of insulation, isolation typical for the past.

Towns and urbanization that is their satellite is determined by mutual relations of concentration of production and non-production branches, dynamic activity, changes within frameworks of time and space, and the use of natural, economic-geographic, economic and demographic resources.

The natural, economic, technical, labor potential, geographical location form the relations of mutual influence in uniform system created of the elements created by such factors like towns and urbanization. The common and separate activities of economic, natural and population potentials, their use, development of production create possibility and favorable conditions for population housing in towns and perspective bias for the utmost stage of this process - the urbanization.

III. REGIONAL APPROACH

The town and housing system of Azerbaijan Republic is structured of 1 capital, 3 large, 24 medium, 44 small towns and 261 settlements. From the viewpoint of economic-geographic position and urbanization development the typological classification of towns presents a special form of different groups separation of them upon their importance. A considerable need is felt nowadays for type differentiation of Azerbaijani towns upon their functional bias and economic-geographic positions [4].

Firstly, because economic-geographic position of towns, production development, sphere of service for population, demographic indicators, classification upon urbanization and concentration are of great importance for use of natural, economic, scientific-technical potential and labor reserves.

Secondly, in the modern conditions of economic, scientific and technical, civil development the problem of conduct of typological classification of town of Azerbaijan Republic, possessing intellectual power and scientific potential must be resolved as an important problem. In the result of scientific research works in the field of town and urbanism we come to conclusion that the classification of towns in Azerbaijan might be conducted on the following factors:

- a) concentration of branches (productive and non-productive) of national economy, population employment and structure;
- b) demographic (number, density, age structure of population);
- c) dimensions and district-forming importance of towns;
- d) position in common-territorial division and economic relations;
- e) ethnic and national features;
- f) economic and geographic position.

For realization of aforementioned classification one must consider the towns along with its industrial, transport, urbanization and concentration objectives as a territory where are located different organizational, administrative, commercial-distributing, cultural and social, public health and social security objects.

The urban settlements of Azerbaijan develop in mutual relation with hierarchical system as its towns do [5]. We consider it purposeful to form the system-creating factors of Azerbaijan towns in functional structure and within the gravity zone on the level of urbanization in the following way:

1. The towns located in a purely industrial production zone, having the intensive concentration and urbanization level, developing the rural industry branches in surrounding areas (Baku, Sumgayit);

2. The towns representing the development base of industry, forming fuel and power, water power, metallurgy welfare, having the food and light industry enterprises working on the production of agriculture (Ganja, Shirvan, Mingachevir, Nakhchivan);

3. The towns with poor level of urbanization, specializing on the refinement of the agricultural products and the essential part of population of which is employed in the rural industry sphere (a number of medium towns are relevant to this category);

4. The small towns, processing local agricultural products, having the enterprises of food and light industry and low-density population, the major part of population of which is employed in non-productive spheres, administration and governance services (district administration centers, etc.)

5. The urban settlements having branches of local industry, nonmanufacturing business and low-density population [6].

IV. CONCLUSION

In the result of the research conducted we consider it reasonable to distinct the following groups of Azerbaijan towns diversified upon the level of population:

1. Big Baku having a more than 2,8 million population - capital city;
2. Ganja and Sumgait cities, the population of which is up to 300 thousands;
3. Medium towns (24) the population of which varies from 20 to 100 thousands;
4. Small towns (44) the population ranges up to 20 thousand;
5. Urban settlements (261) the population of which varies from 1 to 8 thousands [7].

We think that the research of urbanization must be conducted respecting some hierarchical sequence and in relation with formation of items of taxonomic units in the housing bias, implementing necessarily the system method of study; the housing must be treated like a spatial skeleton in the territorial and industrial system of economic, social and service spheres.

As a matter of fact, the useless lands surrounding common and private objects of living of all towns (Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Nakhchivan, Shirvan, Mingachevir, Davachi, etc) occupy large territories.

In the terms of increase of urban population's demand for agricultural products the resoil of useless suburban lands, not depending of their form of property, land ownership and investment must be solved with state support and within the frames of its economic policy.

Urbanized, concentrated Baku-Sumgayit agglomeration, Shirvan, Mingachevir, Ganja, Siyazan, as well as a number of urban settlements located in Absheron develop in the conditions of reduced natural resources and polluted environment that violates the ecological balance and restricts the normal economic, social and ecological conditions of urban settlements.

Problems of Urbanization of Azerbaijan

The residents of towns the air, soil and growth of which suffered from anthropogenic and man-caused influences feel sharp need in natural landscapes, recreation and resort zones. In this respect, the expansion of suburban parks and restructuring of recreation and resort zones located around such large cities like Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Shirvan, Mingachevir must be considered as a necessary condition.

REFERENCES

1. G.M.Lappo. Urban geography (ЛанпоГ.М. География городов). Moscow, Publishing House of 'Vladost'.
2. A.A.Nadirov. Stages of economic development in Azerbaijan Republic (Azərbaycan Respublikasının iqtisadi inkişaf mərhələləri). Baku: Elm. 2002.
3. V.A.Afandiyev V.A. Sh.G.Damirgayayev. Geographical problems of development of cities in Azerbaijan Republic. (V.A.Əfəndiyev,Ş.Q.Dəmirqayayev. Azərbaycan Respublikası şəhərlərinin inkişafının coğrafi məsələləri). Baku: Nijat. 1995.
4. V.A.Afandiyev. Characteristic features of the urbanization of Azerbaijan in the modern stage. Journal of the Black Sea Universities Network, V.1. Constanta, Romania. 2002.
5. V.A.Afandiyev. Urbanization and urban settlements of Azerbaijan. (Əfəndiyev V.A. Urbanizasiya və Azərbaycanın şəhər yaşayış məskənləri). Baku. 2002.
6. V.A.Afandiyev, F.E.Gasimova. Urban settlement in Azerbaijan. (V.Ə.Əfəndiyev, F.E.Qasimova. Azərbaycanda qəsəbə). Baku. 2013.

Mr. Vusat Afandiyev is Dr. Prof. He works at Baku State University. He is author of tens of monographies, textbooks and papers published in scientific journals of Azerbaijan and foreign countries. His main research interests are population geography, urban geography and city planning.

Mrs. Firangiz Gasimova is doctor of philosophy in geography. She works as senior lecturer at Baku State University. Her research area is geography of cities. Her works are devoted to urbanization and development of urban settlements.