

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

THE ROLE OF "STATE PROGRAMS FOR SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS" IN THE TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE FARM IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN (IN THE REPRESENTATION OF GUBA-KHACMAZ ECONOMIC-GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRICT)

Profession: 5401.01 – Economic Geography

Science: Geography

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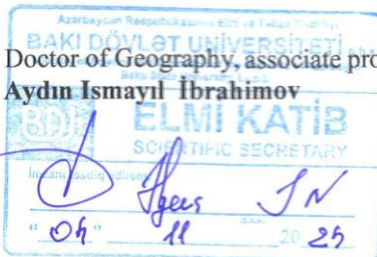
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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

Relevance of the topic and degree of elaboration. It is important to preserve the proportionality in its area and territorial structure, to use the opportunities of local natural resources and natural conditions, and to ensure the mutual relations of cities and villages in the settlement of the population in order to achieve an efficient territorial organization of the economy. At this time, the role of the regions in the socio-economic and demographic development of the country is increasing, conditions are created for the production and processing of agricultural products, and the socio-cultural services provided to the population are increasing.

However, as a result of the regional policy conducted in Azerbaijan, there have been sharp inconsistencies between the socio-economic potential and level of development of its capital and other economic regions for many years. Such a situation arose as a result of the oil and gas production and processing industry taking a leading position in the economic structure of the country and its enterprises being concentrated mainly in Absheron. Small-scale light and food industry facilities have been operating in the regions, with agricultural areas occupying the main place in the field structure of the farm, as well as processing its products. The small volume of production in these areas had a weak effect on meeting the current demand, there were problems in providing jobs, and the income of the population was at a low level. Such a situation was dominated by foreign migrations, which led to continuous migrations because cities and towns could not accept them. Therefore, the weak socio-economic base did not allow the growth of the demographic potential.

The difficulties of the transitional period have caused considerable problems in the regions of the country since the end of the 20th century. First of all, the disruption of economic relations resulted in the cessation of activity of most industrial facilities and the closing of workplaces. State and collective farms were abolished in agriculture. The small peasant-farms that appeared in their place caused a fundamental change in the structure of this area. The production of strategic products has completely decreased. Such a

situation resulted in the shutdown of light and food industry enterprises.

The economic reforms started at the end of the 20th century began to bear their results in a short time. First of all, a legislative framework was created for this. State programs were adopted for the purpose of socio-economic development of regions, provision and regulation of development of separate economic fields, and provision of state support to these works.

At the same time, as in previous years, the outstanding development of the oil and gas industry, the investment of large-scale local and foreign investments in these areas strengthened the inconsistency in the field structure and distribution of the economy in the country. That's why it is necessary to continuously conduct research works to develop the scientific-theoretical and practical foundations of the economic reforms carried out in the country, to prepare proposals and recommendations in the direction of efficient territorial organization of the economy in the regions, and to determine the directions of settlement regulation.

Purpose and objectives of the research. The **purpose** of conducting the research is to determine the problems that arose in the territorial organization of the economy and population settlement in the economic region during the years of independence, to determine the ways to eliminate them, to develop the necessary measures for this, and to study the role of State Programs in this process.

The following **objectives** have been set to achieve these goals:

- Eliminating the difficulties of the transition period, substantiating the necessity of economic reforms to achieve efficient territorial organization of the economy, determining the main directions of the implemented measures;

- Studying the changes that occurred in the field and territorial structure of the economy of the economic region during the years of independence, studying their main results, determining ways to increase the share of the region in the socio-economic development of the country;

- Determination of ways to use natural-geographical conditions and natural resources for the development of economic areas and

settlements of the economic district, research of ways to increase the role of the socio-economic and cultural base;

- Analyzing the main results of the implemented State Programs, determining their importance in the socio-economic development of the region, and showing the importance of considering existing problems and shortcomings in future programs;

- Researching the main trends of the dynamics in the population settlement system, developing ways to increase the role of cities in settlement;

- Preparation of proposals and recommendations for the implementation of measures for the near and mid-term prospective period aimed at sustainable socio-economic and demographic development of the economic region. Determining the main directions of the state's financial and technical support in this field.

Research methods. Statistics, comparative analysis, systematic approach, regional analysis, historical-geographical approach, modeling, mapping, field research, and other methods were used in the analyzes of the dissertation.

Main provisions of the defense:

1. Determining the influence of natural-geographical conditions and socio-economic base on the efficient territorial organization of the farm and population settlement in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region, and the ways of their effective use.

2. The main results obtained by the implementation of the State Programs adopted to overcome the difficulties of the transition period, and their importance in the socio-economic and demographic development of the economic region.

3. Directions for improvement of socio-cultural services provided to the population, increase of provision of jobs, justification of necessary measures for this.

4. Modern tendencies of the demographic development of the region and the main ways of settlement regulation.

5. Determining the main directions of perspective development of the economic region. Ways to increase the share of the region in the socio-economic development of the country, to use the local natural-economic base in the process of implementing measures in this area.

Scientific novelty of the research:

- In the years of independence, the need to improve the structure of the economy in the economic region was shown. This is because the structure of the economy of cities and the structure of employment of the population in rural areas, which have been formed over many years, do not ensure the sustainable development of the region.

- The importance of taking into account the local characteristics of the regions and allocating financial and technical resources to the fulfillment of specific tasks was determined in the adopted State Programs for carrying out economic reforms. In the research process, ways of using the natural and economic potential of the places, development of industry, agriculture and tourism-recreational economy based on them have been determined.

- It was determined that the weak socio-economic base of the cities in the economic region, the modern structure of agriculture and the low share of this sector in the population's income are the main factors that create conditions for migration. The directions of increasing the role of cities in the development of settlement have been analyzed.

- Based on the analysis of the activity of socio-cultural service facilities, it was determined that the indicators of medical services per 10,000 people in the economic district, paid services per person, including household services, are several times lower than in Absheron, much lower than the average indicators for the country. Ways to eliminate them have been developed in the dissertation.

- It was determined that the implementation of State Programs for the development of regions, measures for the development of industry, agriculture, and infrastructure sectors had a significant impact on the socio-economic and demographic development of the economic region. Economic-geographical analysis of changes in the directions of education, healthcare, socio-cultural services, tourism, reconstruction of the transport-communication network was carried out.

The database of socio-economic and demographic development of the region was prepared for the first time. They are very important

for determining the current state of sustainable development and future development directions.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The results obtained during the research can be used to implement measures to ensure the sustainable development of the economic region. The results of the analyzes are an important source for territorial organization and reconstruction of industrial, agricultural, and infrastructure areas in the region. Suggestions and recommendations are useful for the development of agricultural areas and the regulation of population settlement.

The results of the analyzes conducted in the dissertation are suitable for use in educational institutions conducted in higher and secondary educational institutions.

Approbation of the work. The provisions reflecting the main content of the dissertation work and the obtained results were presented at conferences and seminars held in the republic and abroad. These include:

- Scientific-practical conference on "Demographic development in the Republic of Azerbaijan: perspectives of population settlement and regional problems" (Baku, 2016),
- International scientific-practical conference on "Actual issues of labor, employment, and social protection" (Baku, 2017),
- Materials of the international scientific and practical conference "Modernization of natural science education in conditions of updated content" (Almaty, 2017),
- XXI Republican Scientific Conference of PhD Students and Young Researchers (Baku, 2017),
- Scientific-practical conference dedicated to the 110th anniversary of academician H.A. Aliyev on "Human and environmental relations" (Baku, 2017),
- Modern problems of Geography: Integration of Science and Education, International scientific-practical conference (Baku, 2022),
- Modern problems of Geography: Integration of Science and Education, II international scientific-practical conference

dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the national leader H. Aliyev (Baku, 2023)

9 scientific articles and theses were published on the topic of the research work.

Application. The results of the research can be used in the development of the economy in the administrative regions, in the works of settlement management, and in the studies of the population and the economy in similar regions that determine the socio-economic development.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work was carried out. The dissertation work was carried out in the "Geography of Azerbaijan and Geography Teaching Technology" department of the "Geography" faculty of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University.

Volume, structure and main content of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction - 6 pages, 4 chapters, including chapter I - 25 pages, chapter II - 26 pages, chapter III - 50 pages, chapter IV - 32 pages, conclusion - 2 pages, 151 titles from the list of references, 14 tables, 1 graphic, 4 maps-schemes. The dissertation work is 153 computer pages and consists of 239 535 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE STUDY

The **introduction** defines the relevance of the topic, research methods, goals, and tasks, provides information about the scientific novelty of the work, defended provisions, and practical importance.

In the first chapter of the dissertation, "**The role of the economic reforms implemented in the years of independence and the theoretical-methodical basis of the study of the economy**" is studied. It is of particular importance to carry out economic reforms in the effective territorial organization of the economy in the country. The modern structure of the economy in the regions of the country does not fully ensure their socio-economic and demographic development. There are certain problems in the direction of expanding the activity of economic facilities formed over many years, creating a network of new facilities.

Industrial potential in the Guba-Khachmaz economic district has been created for many years. Although the natural conditions and natural resources of the region, and the processing of agricultural products allow the creation of special enterprises in cities and most settlements, their production capacity is small and does not play a significant role in the employment of the population. At the same time, the low level of activity of the processing enterprises has the opportunity to accept a small part of the cultivated products.

In the current situation, there is a great discrepancy in the production of industrial products in the Guba-Khachmaz economic district. This situation has been going on for many years. The production of industrial products in separate administrative regions is determined by one, sometimes several large-scale industrial facilities. Therefore, serious disproportions are formed in the economic structure created in administrative regions.

Since the end of the 90s of the 20th century, State Programs have been adopted to regulate the economic reforms implemented in the country, to determine the financial basis, and to create a legislative framework. They also served as a basis for allocating financial resources for the work carried out within the framework of the economic reforms and making structural changes in the economy.

Although the legal base of the economic reforms implemented in the country covers general economic fields in most cases, large-scale measures have been implemented for the socio-economic, cultural, and demographic development of the regions.

In this direction, the "State Programs for Socio-Economic Development of the Regions" adopted for the regulation of the events played a special role.

The first "State Program" (2004-2008) was aimed at helping the development of entrepreneurship in the regions, finding financial sources for their activities, using natural conditions and natural resources effectively, increasing the level of employment, and helping to reduce poverty.

It was of particular importance to take measures to reduce the economy's dependence on oil, develop areas related to the non-oil sector, and increase their share in the economic structure. To fulfill the

tasks in this direction, there is a need to adopt the next "State Program for Socio-Economic Development of Regions". Therefore, in 2009-2013, the second stage of the "State Program for the Socio-Economic Economic Development of Regions" was implemented.

The purpose of the adoption of the "State Program for the Development of Industry in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2015-2020" is the technical-technological reconstruction of industrial facilities, the improvement of the field and territorial structure, the provision of financial and technical assistance by the state, the development of the non-oil sector, in the regions to increase the role of this field in the development of industry, to develop science-intensive, low raw material and energy-consuming fields, to create conditions for the use of highly qualified personnel, and so on.

The continuous increase in population increases the demand for food products. However, the modern situation in the production of agricultural products does not fully allow for solving the tasks ahead in this field. Therefore, in August 2008, the "State Programme On Reliable Food Supply Of Population In The Azerbaijan Republic in 2008-2015" was adopted to solve the tasks in this field.

It is necessary to adopt new legislative acts to determine the main directions of socio-economic and cultural development in Azerbaijan, to develop the non-oil sector, to provide the population with jobs, and to raise the standard of living. Here, the main goals are to determine the priorities of the prospective development of the country for the next few years. These tasks are defined in the "Azerbaijan 2020: Vision of the Future" Development Concept approved in 2012.

The newly adopted Strategic Road Maps determine future development directions in Azerbaijan. State programs on agriculture, tourism, heavy industry, machine building, development of small and medium entrepreneurship, and development of communal economy are of great importance in the Strategic Road Map.

Simultaneously with economic reforms in the country, there is a need to take measures in the field of regulating the demographic situation. On December 9, 1999, the "Concept of Demographic Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan" was adopted. The concept states that demographic policy consists of a system of

economic, social, and legal measures aimed at ensuring the consistent implementation of the normal reproduction of generations.

Demographic processes are an integral part of the socio-economic and cultural development of the country. The "State Program in the Field of Development of Demography and Population in the Republic of Azerbaijan" was adopted as the basis for the implementation of the demographic policy in Azerbaijan. The State Program adopted in November 2004 should ensure the growth of the population, maintain the age-sex composition at an optimal level by regulating birth and migration, create conditions for their compliance with the country's socio-economic development interests, and serve to create conditions for the balanced settlement of the population in the country by regions.

The "State Program for the Implementation of the Employment Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan" (2007-2010) was adopted in May 2007. In this program, to provide the population with jobs and organize efficient employment, the development of the non-oil sector, the creation of conditions for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, measures to be taken to participate more actively in the international division of labor, and the use of natural conditions and natural resources based on new economic facilities its creation has stood out as an important task.

It is known that migrations can be due to various socio-economic, socio-political, and demographic reasons. Due to the difficulties of the transitional period in the country, the lowering of the standard of living, and the problems in the provision of jobs have led to the intensive nature of internal and external migrations. For this reason, the "State Migration Program of the Republic of Azerbaijan" (2006-2008) was adopted in August 2006.

Large-scale studies have been conducted in this direction, taking into account the importance of studying the economy and the population in the country's economy. In Azerbaijan, the issues of theoretical and methodological bases of studying the economy and population have been studied since the beginning of the 19th century. In the 19th and 20th centuries, great work was done in the field of population and economic studies in Azerbaijan. Although work was started in the field of studying the natural conditions and natural

resources of the region at the initial stage, large-scale studies were carried out in the 20th century. The basic principles of the territorial organization of Azerbaijan's natural conditions, natural resources, population, and economy have been studied since the first years of the 20th century. In the analysis of the republic, in addition to general issues, researches were also conducted on regional aspects of this field

Extensive information about the country's population and economy is reflected in the book "Azerbaijan" by M.Baharly. In addition, the studies of Sh.Y. Goychaily, A.M. Hajizade, E.G.Mehraliyev, N.A.Babakhanov, A.A.Nadirov, N.N.Allahverdiyev, M.M.Allahverdiyev, S.K.Huseynov, V.A.Efendiyev, Sh.G. Demirgayayev are of special importance in terms of studying the population and economy of the country.

After gaining independence, research works related to the territorial organization of the economy and population issues of the country, including its separate regions, were carried out by T.G. Hasanov, N.H. Ayyubov, Z.N. Eminov, Z.T. Imrani, N.A. Pashayev, V.N. Javadov¹.

The second chapter of the dissertation is dedicated to the "**natural-economic basis of the territorial organization of the economy and population in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region**". The *relief* conditions of the territory are taken into account for the establishment of settlements, agricultural works, creation and operation of economic facilities covering large areas.

The Guba-Khachmaz economic district occupies the territory from the shores of the Caspian Sea to the watershed of the Main Caucasus Range. The absolute height in this direction varies from -26 m to 4466 m, which is the level of the sea. The main orographic units in the indicated areas are the Samur-Devachi lowland, the Gusar sloping plain, the Main Caucasus, and the Lateral Ranges. A large number of tributaries depart from the main Caucasus range, where peaks rise above 3000-4000 m.²

¹ Institute of Geography - 70. Baku, 2015. 356 p.

² Museyibov, M.A. Physical geography of Azerbaijan / M.A. Museyibov. - Baku: Maarif, - 1998. - 400 p.

Although there are very inhospitable areas for settlement in the highlands, there are rural settlements in these areas in the Guba and Gusar administrative districts. The absolute height in these areas is above 2000 m, in some areas, it reaches 2500 m.

In contrast to mountainous areas, the population is mainly located in plains, on the coasts of seas and rivers, in foothills, and in intermountain depressions. Favorable areas for agricultural activities are concentrated here.

However, taking into account the dominance of mountainous and foothill zones in the research region, the majority of the population is concentrated in these areas.

Natural resources have a significant impact on the location of the population and the territorial organization of farm areas. Their industrially efficient ones play the role of a natural economic base in the creation of separate economic fields.

Although the Guba-Khachmaz economic region is not classified as an area rich in minerals, there are enough resources of local importance. Among them, oil, natural gas, and sand-gravel resources are of greater economic importance.

In the future, the potential for exploitation of oil and gas resources accumulated in Mesozoic rocks is greater. In the region, oil deposits are collected in large areas, the deposits are located very far from each other. Such a situation creates considerable difficulties in organizing the infrastructure network for production. Therefore, it is required to apply more advanced methods and technology in the production of oil and natural gas.

The region is one of the areas of the country rich in mineral springs. Here, mineral springs come to the surface from cold and hot sources. Khaltan, Khashi, and Cimi are hot mineral springs, the waters are rich in sulfur. Water temperature is above 60°C. Xaltan water contains a hydrogen-sulfide mixture.

The climatic conditions and agro-climatic resources in the Guba-Khachmaz economic district, located in the north of the country, are favorable for land acquisition and economic activities.

One of the most important indicators that determine the climatic conditions in the economic region is solar radiation and the amount of sunny hours.

This factor is important for determining the planting areas of heat-loving plants and for determining the duration of work in many areas.

High amounts of solar radiation are one of the important alternative energy sources. Therefore, these resources have a decisive role in the construction of HelioES and the production of electricity. Measures in this direction are already being implemented in the region and facilities for electricity production have been built.

In addition to being one of the main climate indicators, air temperature affects the formation of other indicators as well. The change of individual temperature indicators depends on the seasons of the year and the increase in absolute height.

The development of crop fields, and territorial organization depends primarily on the thermal regime. A high thermal regime is one of the important indicators for the cultivation of heat-loving grapes, grain crops, melons, and vegetables.

In addition, there are favorable conditions for the creation of winter tourism centers in low-temperature conditions. In high mountain areas, winter tourism bases are organized near the peaks. Such a center already operates in the region near the peak of Shahdag.

Atmospheric precipitation is one of the most important climate indicators. Precipitation in the warm season of the year is of particular importance for agricultural work. The presence of precipitation during this period reduces the need for irrigation and there is little need to take additional measures.

Snow cover is a factor that determines the degree of humidity of the areas, the feeding of rivers and the period of abundance, the formation of glaciers in the mountains, the wintering of plants, and the accumulation of moisture reserves in the soil.

The formation of soil cover is influenced by the topography of the area, the change in its absolute height, the distribution of atmospheric precipitation and temperature changes, and the vegetation that changes depending on them.

To the south, gray, gray-meadow soils are formed in arid climatic conditions, and gray-brown soils are formed in lower areas. Chestnut and meadow-chestnut soils are found in small areas. In coastal areas, dunes are spread in the form of a narrow strip.

Vegetables, fruits, and grapes are grown under irrigation conditions in the lands formed in the plains. Reclamation measures are required to increase productivity. At this time, it is important to lower the level of underground water and use mineral fertilizers.

Brown mountain-forest soils are formed as you go up from the lowlands to the middle highlands. Sparse arid forests are formed on them. In many places, forests have been cut down and appropriated. Vegetable growing and fruit growing fields are developing in these areas, cereals and grapes are planted, and the population is engaged in animal husbandry.

The decrease in temperature causes thinning of the vegetation and changes in the soil cover as the absolute height increases in the mountains.

Vegetation on the lands is weak, summer pastures and meadows are of great importance. That's why animal husbandry is developing. It is important to strengthen grazing control in them.

The third chapter of the dissertation talks about the "**territorial organization of the farm in the economic district and the modern state of settlement**". Industry, which is the leading sector of the economy, has a significant impact on the development of other sectors, especially transport, agriculture, its distribution on the territory, and the formation of its structure.

In the industrial areas of the Guba-Khachmaz economic district, fruit and vegetable preserves, and meat processing products are produced, and oil, natural gas, mineral, and construction raw materials are produced. Several Modular TPPs have been built in the region in recent years (Figure 1).

At the same time, only 0.7% of the country's total industrial products are produced in the economic region, and this area is monostructural (2020). Therefore, it is important to take additional measures for the development of the areas included here, especially the food and construction materials industry.

The region has a favorable natural-geographical and economic basis for the development of industry. 91 industrial enterprises operate in the territory of the economic district. Their number is constantly increasing.

The main areas of industry in the Guba-Khachmaz economic district include the production of fuel and energy, fruit and vegetable preserves, beverages, and construction materials. Electroenergetics refers to newly created fields in the economic region. Modular TPP was built in the Khachmaz and Guba regions to improve the supply of electricity to the population and economy of the region.

The processing industry occupies an important place in the economic structure of the economic region. Production of food products occupies an important place in the processing industry and has a share of 23.8%. Khachmaz and Shabran regions also have a high share in this area.

Areas related to the construction industry stand out among the recently produced products in the economic district. The construction materials industry has a share of 0.9%, plastic door-window production 1.2%, and forestry and wood processing (wooden door-window) 0.1%.

In addition to providing the population with food products in *agricultural areas*, raw materials are also produced for many areas of industry, mainly the light and food industries. This field occupies an important place in the employment of the rural population, it ensures the use of local natural resources and opportunities of natural conditions.

Cereal and *cereal-legume crops* occupy a leading place in the field structure of crops in the economic district. According to the size of cultivated areas, *potatoes*, *vegetables*, and *melons* occupy the second place in the economic region. *Fruit-growing* and *vegetable-growing* are the areas of specialization of the economic region.

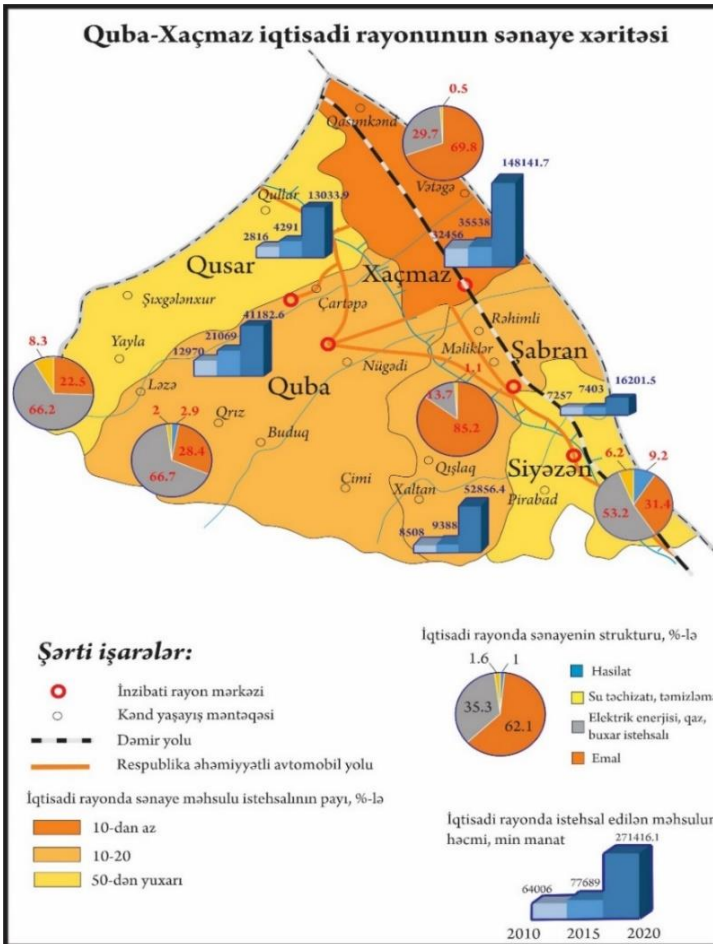


Figure. Structure of industry in Guba-Khachmaz economic district (in %)

In the economic region, there are few planting areas for other crops. This field primarily concerns the cultivation of *technical plants*. Technical crops are grown on a total of 297 ha in the economic region.

As in all regions of the country, it is necessary to develop *animal husbandry* in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region.

Buffalo breeding is of special importance in the structure of livestock farms. Due to the difficult conditions for the development of buffalo breeding, a serious decline is observed in this field.

Sheep breeding is a special field of animal husbandry and is an important component. The juxtaposition of mountainous and plain areas in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region, summer grasses in the Greater Caucasus, winter pastures in the Caspian coastal areas, and the labor experience of the population in the area for long historical periods are factors that create conditions for the development of sheep farming.

Poultry meets the urban population's demand for meat and eggs. In the Guba-Khachmaz economic district, certain declines are taking place in the field of poultry farming, and the number of kept birds is decreasing.

The production of livestock products plays an important role in providing the population with food products and organizing food safety conditions. The increase in the population, and the creation of new food industry facilities constantly increase the demand for these products.

Service areas are important not only for the settlement of the population, provision of socio-cultural and household services, and raising the standard of living, but also for the regulation of demographic development.

The modern state of the settlement depends on the activity of the housing and communal economy, which is a part of the socio-cultural base, provision of apartments, and construction of new ones.

6.2% of the total housing stock of 168.9 mln. m² across the Republic falls on the share of the economic district. Housing construction by the state is carried out at a slow pace, its guarantee is non-existent.

Education plays an important role in the development, training, and education of the young generation, and in the preparation of qualified personnel. The number of pre-school educational institutions in the administrative regions also lags far behind the current demand. Over time, the provision of kindergartens, institutions operating in this field, and the number of children educated in them are decreasing. Despite the recent construction of a large number of new schools in the region, the number of secondary schools is decreasing.

Due to the lack of financial resources in the field of *healthcare*, ambulatory polyclinic institutions operating in villages are closed and merged, as a result, the number of healthcare facilities and the number of beds in them decreases over time. Funds allocated for the social protection of doctors are small, and their salaries are low. Therefore, there are problems in providing doctors for different specialties. The number of specialized hospitals in the region is small, the population has to go to the capital for treatment.

Guba-Khachmaz economic district is one of the economic districts with relatively small population and low level of urbanization. At the beginning of 2022, 561.8 thousand people lived in the economic region, 184.8 thousand people or 32.9% of them lived in cities, 377.0 thousand people or 67.1% lived in villages³. They make up 3.4% of the country's urban population and 7.9% of the rural population, respectively. The population in the economic district is growing at a slow pace. Therefore, the region's share among the country's population is decreasing (Table). During the last ten years, the creation of new settlements in the economic district has allowed the increase of the share of the urban population and the rise of their special weight among the country's population.

The analysis of the demographic situation in the Guba-Khachmaz economic district shows that for many years the predominance of the rural population in the region and the low level of urbanization allowed the population to increase due to natural growth. However, there are problems in providing jobs, migration due to the difficulties of the transition period, the region's economic potential does not allow it to fully regulate the demographic development.

One of the important factors to consider when studying the population in the region is the *employment structure* of the population. In the Guba-Khachmaz economic district, service areas occupy an important place in the employment of the population. The number of employees is greater in the educational, healthcare, and commercial establishments included here.

³ Population of Azerbaijan 2021. Baku, SSC, 2022. 138 p.

Table**Number of population (thousands of people) and growth (%) in the economic region**

Administrative regions	Years						Growth rate, %				
	1979	1989	1999	2009	2019	2022	1979-89	1989-1999	1999-2009	2009-2019	2019-2022
Khachmaz	105,3	115,9	144,4	159,2	178,1	182,2	110,1	124,6	110,2	111,9	102,3
Guba	108,0	114,9	136,9	152,5	171,7	175,8	106,4	119,1	111,4	112,6	102,4
Gusar	67,5	67,0	80,8	87,9	98,1	100,2	99,3	120,6	108,8	111,6	102,1
Siyazan	-	28,7	33,5	37,7	42,2	43,1	-	-	112,5	111,9	102,1
Shabran	58,8	38,9	46,0	51,5	59,3	60,5	113,9	119,8	112,0	115,1	102,0
Economic region	339,6	364,9	441,6	488,8	549,4	561,8	109,1	131,4	110,7	112,4	102,3
Country	6026,5	7021,2	7953,4	8922,4	9981,5	10156,4	116,5	113,3	112,2	111,9	101,8

Source: Demographic indicators of Azerbaijan - 2015, Baku: 2016, 471 p.; Population of Azerbaijan - 2018, Baku: 2019, 134 p.; Population of Azerbaijan-2021, Baku: 2022, 138 p.

The fourth chapter of the dissertation is dedicated to "**Priority directions of the development of the economic region and the influence of state programs**".

In the process of determining the directions of socio-economic and demographic development of the regions, first of all, the elimination of inconsistencies between the separate fields of the economy and ensuring the increase of the volume of the produced products and services are important tasks.

Guba-Khachmaz economic region is among such regions. There are serious inconsistencies in the territorial organization of farms in the economic region and their area ratio.

The share of the region in the volume of industrial products of the country (0.4%) has remained stable for many years. This shows that more serious measures are required to increase the production of industrial products in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region and increase the share of the region in the industrial potential of the country.

The structure of the industry in the economic district is determined by several operating facilities. Recently, the Modular TPPs built-in Khachmaz and Guba provide half of the production of industrial products. Increasing the share of these areas is very important for increasing the employment of the population, increasing their income, and meeting the population's demand for food products.

Providing the population with jobs is one of the tasks that is important to solve in the economic district and has a significant impact on socio-economic and demographic development. In the first and second stages of the State Programs of socio-economic development of regions, a large number of jobs were opened in the Guba-Khachmaz economic district. In its first phase covering the years 2004-2008, 24,000 permanent jobs were opened in the economic district.

During the implementation of the second stage of the "**Regional Socio-Economic Development State Program**", there was considerable inconsistency in the creation of new jobs in the region. During this period, 14.1 thousand new jobs were created in the economic region have a share of 3.9% in the country. 11.2 thousand

of them (79.6%) were opened by individuals. Therefore, several hundred new jobs were opened in different fields during the 5 years.

Improving the services provided to the population in the economic district is an important task. In addition to raising the standard of living of the population, this area also allows the quality of living to increase and incomes to increase. However, the share of regions in the structure of paid services provided to the population, household services, which occupy an important place among them, is much lower, and the main part of them falls on the share of Baku city.

Reconstruction of healthcare facilities and improvement of medical services provided to the population are among the important tasks during the regulation of the socio-economic development of the regions.

As can be seen from the conducted analyses, the indicators of medical institutions located in the economic district and the beds in them are very low, and the provision of personnel lags far behind. Poor organization of social protection of doctors and medical workers, and low salaries create difficulties in their work in the regions. Here, special concessions should be applied to increase the supply of medical personnel. At the same time, it is important to create regional specialized hospitals and rebuild their material and technical base.

In the Guba-Khachmaz economic district, it is important to establish children's educational institutions within the framework of reforms in the field of education. For now, the level of providing children with this type of institution in the country is low. Its quantity in the country is 14%, including 6.8% in villages. Therefore, attention should be paid to the establishment of special enterprises in this field in the regions.

In addition to state funds, it is necessary to ensure the participation of private business entities in the creation of children's educational institutions in the regions. The organization of this type of enterprise will allow to protect children's health and increase the level of coverage in rural areas.

To achieve this, since the first years of independence, "State Programs for the Socio-Economic Development of Regions" have been of special importance within the framework of economic

reforms. The three-stage State Programs have already expired (2004-2008, 2009-2013, and 2014-2018).

668 of the 714 measures included in the implementation of the first "Regional Socio-Economic Development State Program" covering the years 2004-2008 fell to the share of the regions, including 81 to the share of the Guba-Khachmaz economic district.

During the implementation of the First State Program, important results were achieved in the fields of industry, agriculture, transport, and socio-cultural services, in the direction of raising the standard of living of the population. In this period, the Guba-Khachmaz economic district, located on the northern borders of the country, organized economic, and socio-cultural services, and took measures that had a significant impact on demographic development.

Reconstruction of the *road transport infrastructure* in the regions is an important task and a lot of work has been done in this field. Reconstruction of the Baku-Khudat-Russian border highway was carried out. The Gendob-Khachmaz-Yalama-Russian Federation highway has been reconstructed, and a concrete-covered road has been built.

Measures have been taken to supply the residential areas of the economic district with *electricity* and *natural gas*, electric transmission lines have been laid, transformers have been built, and the population has been provided with meters. To improve gas supply, local and main pipelines were built, and meters were installed.

Projects are being implemented in the direction of creating an infrastructure network for the development of tourism, loans have been allocated for these works by the National Entrepreneurship Assistance Fund. Areas with tourism potential have been studied in the Mugtadir (Istisu)-Valvelachay area of the Khachmaz region.

In the Guba district, there are recreation centers that meet modern requirements, such as OIK, Jannat Bagi, Guba, Minare, Aynur, and Avand. Avand, Aynur, and Gachresh recreation areas are built to modern requirements. In these centers, there are Recovery SPA Center, 40 rooms for 2 people, 10 cottages, and gyms. There are 10 cottages for 4 people each and game halls in the AHU recreation area.

"Agroleasing" OJSC provides services for providing farmers with machinery and equipment for the cultivation of agricultural products. After 2004, branches of "Agroleasing" OJSC were established in each administrative region, they were provided with machines and equipment, agricultural machinery. Khachmaz Regional Agro service and Supply base is provided with mineral fertilizers and chemical medicines.

Important results were achieved during the implementation of the second stage of the State Program on the socio-economic development of regions (2009-2013). At this time, large-scale measures were also implemented in the Guba-Khachmaz economic district. To increase production in the areas of fruit growing, and animal husbandry, including poultry in the economic region, loans have been allocated through the State Agency for Agricultural Credits under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Work has been carried out on the development of tourism, the allocation of favorable places for the development of tourism in the Guba and Gusar regions, and the creation of new centers in coastal areas.

A new action plan has been developed for the continuation of the socio-economic development of the regions. Its next stage covers the years **2014-2018**. A part of the planned measures in this period covers the Guba-Khachmaz economic region. Nationally important inter-regional highways have been overhauled and reconstructed. Gendob-Russian Federation road and border-crossing point, bridges over rivers have been rebuilt.

Measures have been taken to use Alternative Renewable Energy Sources and create new centers. It is planned to build a 2 MW Bioenergy TPP in Siyazan.

The Samur-Absheron irrigation system reconstruction project was implemented at the expense of the State Oil Fund. At this time, irrigation facilities were rebuilt in Gusar, Gudyal, and Jachajug rivers.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the analysis of the field and territory formation and development of the economy, the following conclusions and proposals were put forward in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region:

1. The country's economic reforms made it possible to privatise enterprises, restore their activities, and rebuild the infrastructure network. As a result, the field and territorial structure of the farm improved, new jobs were opened, the population's income increased, and the standard of living rose. However, the share of regions in the distribution of the country's economic potential is still low. Therefore, it is necessary to continue the reforms.

2. The climate, water and soil resources in the economic region are sufficient for the settlement of the population, efficient territorial organization and development of the economy. Based on the use of the resources of the plains, the population density in the coastal areas has reached a high level, and the land around the settlements has been completely used. 50% of the cultivated areas and perennial plantings (garden areas) in the region are in the plains (areas up to 200 m. altitude), as well as 201-500 m. 30% of crops and 37% of perennial crops are located in the foothill areas.

3. Although the specific weight of the economic region in the country's economic structure has decreased from 2.5% to 1.7% in recent years (2008-2022), the value of its volume in the total product production has increased by 2.2 times, especially the role of agriculture has increased. During this period, the production of industrial products increased by 4.4 times, which led to a 2-fold increase in the regional share indicator of that field to 14%. To ensure sustainable socio-economic development in the region, the development of the industry, especially the opening of a large number of processing enterprises and the creation of new economic facilities based on the efficient use of their resources, should be a priority direction.

4. Khachmaz took the leading place in the organization of the territorial structure of the industry of the economic region during the research period due to the special weight of the industrial product

production value indicator among the regions, its share increased by 1.5 times to more than 54%, and the share indicator in the processing industry partially increased to 62%. The food industry played a decisive role in the formation of the field structure of the region's industry, during the research period, the share of product production in the processing industry increased from 80% to 95%. Thus, it is clear that more investments were made in Khachmaz region in the organization of the territorial structure of the industry in the implementation of the State programs and the food industry in the territorial structure of the industry. However, in the future, the directions of diversification of the single-centered (Khachmaz) and single-sector (food) economy should be fundamentally studied to solve the problems of specialization of economic fields and territorial organization.

5. The value of agricultural production of the region increased 2.9 times during 2008-2022, but as such growth was lagging behind the national indicator, its share in the country's agricultural structure decreased from 11.7% to 10.2%. In the economic structure of the region, the indicators of the share of animal husbandry and crop production have become equal. In the territorial organization of crop production, grain and vegetable planting areas have decreased significantly, and fruit and berry garden areas have increased. For this reason, the production of fruits and berries has increased significantly, but by such an increase, the non-opening of enterprises that process these products has created great problems. To increase the role of this field, it is important to continue the measures, to fulfill the duties stipulated in the State Programs. The rapid increase of livestock products in the region and the creation of a new network of facilities for their processing are of great importance.

6. Many types of services provided to the population in the economic district are at a low level, mainly healthcare, household and paid services are weak. To increase the role of large settlements in the development of the surrounding areas, it is necessary to ensure their socio-cultural development, provide the population with jobs, and raise the level of the provided services.

The following scientific works have been published according to the topic of the dissertation:

1. Huseynova, E.H. Development problems of socio-cultural service areas in Guba-Khachmaz economic district and ways to solve them // Scientific-practical conference on "Demographic development in the Republic of Azerbaijan: Perspectives of population settlement and regional problems", – Baku, – 2016. – p. 406-414.

2. Huseynova, E.H. Problems of territorial organization of industry in Guba-Khachmaz economic region // Baku: News of Baku University, Natural sciences series, – 2016. No. 2, – p. 144-151.

3. Huseynova, E.H. Development of animal husbandry in Guba-Khachmaz economic region // Baku: News of Baku University, Natural sciences series, – 2017. No. 1, – p. 176-185.

4. Huseynova, E.H. The main directions and problems of the regulation of migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan // International scientific-practical conference on "Actual issues of labor, employment, and social protection", – Baku, – 2017. – p. 226-229 (with Eminov Z.N., Mammadov I.B., Aliyeva L.I.).

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6. Huseynova, E.H. Employment of the population in economic fields in Guba-Khachmaz economic district // XXI Republican Scientific Conference of PhD Students and Young Researchers, – Baku, – 2017. – p. 92-93.

7. Huseynova, E.H. Demographic development trends and settlement regulation in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region // Scientific-practical conference on "Human and environmental relations" dedicated to the 110th anniversary of Academician H.A. Aliyev, – Baku, – 2017. – p. 475-478 (with Amanov R.R.).

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// Geospatial studies of public and natural systems: theory and practice, – Cheboksary: – 2019, – p. 59-65.

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10. Huseynova, E.H. Urbanization processes and demographic development problems in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region // Modern problems of geography: integration of science and education, international scientific-practical conference, – Baku, – 2022. – p. 154-160 (with S. Nagiyev)

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12. Huseynova, E.G. Creation of a regional cluster of socio-economic development in the Guba-Khachmaz economic region of Azerbaijan // – Makhachkala: News of the Dagestan State Pedagogical University, – 2024, Vol.8, No. 1, – pp. 29-39



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