

Regional Multicultural Community: Problems of Life Quality Estimation

Panasyuk M.

Pudovik E.

Malganova I., Butov G.

Kazan Federal University, Russia

Doi:10.5901/mjss.2014.v5n18p323

Abstract

The paper proposes the approach of estimation of historical factors impact on life quality and socio-economic development of a multicultural territory. The complex of methods substantiates the predictive assessment of the prospects of socio-economic development of a region according to the analysis of its historical retrospective. It is based on the analysis of the category of life quality and represents the combination of logical modeling methods (including the construction of forecast scenarios), mathematical-statistical and expert assessments. The paper presents analytical procedure of assessment which includes sequence of 10 steps. Two types of dynamics indices of life quality were used for analyses - an integral and threshold one. The Republic of Tatarstan, being one of the most dynamic multicultural regions of the Russia with rich historical and cultural heritage, was selected as a base region. The research results indicate that historical factors have major positive influence on the development of those territories where the Tatar ethnicity currently dominates. Prospects of development of municipal entities reveal decrease in the differentiation of territories in terms of the influence of historical factors.

Keywords: regional system, multicultural society, index method, regional development estimation

1. Introduction

Historical factors generate not only cultural, but also social and economic potential of regional development, which is capitalized by unique labor skills, the results of the territorial division of labor and activity of sectors of the regional economic base. Its influence can be traced in analysis of all major aspects of regional enterprises and in many ways provides the parameters of its stability and economic stability.

Uniqueness and position of historical heritage of the Tatarstan Republic region are largely determined by the peculiarities of its geopolitical and geographic location [3]. These include favorable geopolitical location – nearly in the center of the economically developed Volga region, between industrial regions of the Central and Urals federal districts. Republic is favorably located with respect to important raw materials and agricultural regions of Russia, being at the intersection of airlines, rail, road, and river strategic transport routes. Geopolitical situation in the region had been considerably changing over the thousand-year history of the city, but its main feature is always a borderline position of the city between the areas of European and Asian cultures and civilizations. The Republic of Tatarstan has been always acting as a kind of interaction center, the bridge between eastern and western cultures.

The territory of the Republic of Tatarstan includes a significant number of cultural property sites, more than 7 thousand monuments of history and culture are revealed, and 1635 from which is protected by state. People live in the republic with different historical and cultural traditions. The combination of four basic types of cultural interferences - Turkic, Finno-Ugric, Slavic- Russian, and European, and two major religions - Muslim and Christian determine the originality of cultural and historical values of the region. [4]

The action of the phenomenon of territorial historical memory, imposing its mark on formation of the frame of regional development (core of which is its system of large settlements), led to the emergence of a combination of unique socio-economic particularities of territories with qualitative characteristics of their potential and directions of development.

2. Analysis of the Ethnic Composition of the Republic of Tatarstan Municipalities

Analysis of historical factors impact of the socio-economic situation in the municipalities of the region shows that its differentiation is largely determined by the composition of ethnic and cultural groups of municipalities.

Over 53 percent of the region's populations are Tatars (including Kryashens, Astrakhan, and Siberian Tatars) and almost 40 percent - Russian. Moreover, since 2002 the share of both increased by about the same. In the third place in number - Chuvash, the fourth - Udmurt, the fifth - Mordovians, the sixth - Mari. Seventh and eighth places belong to the Ukrainians and Bashkirs.

Most settlements of the Republic of Tatarstan differ by complex of ethnic and cultural composition of their population. Using this parameter one can select the following main groups of settlements, as Tatar, Russian settlements, settlements with ethnically mixed population, where Chuvash, Udmurt, Mari and Mordovia ethnicities may prevail. In the Republic of Tatarstan dominate Tatar settlements -1670 settlements (54 % of total settlements) with a population of 579,812 people. Russian settlements in 2.5 times less (606 localities), and are home to 108,016 people. More than half of the population (79.9%) is concentrated in settlements with ethnically mixed population. In addition, the country has Chuvash settlements - 180 (5.9%), with a population of 57,422 people, Udmurt villages - 53 (1.7%) settlements , with a population of 11,734 people, Mari settlements - 25 (0.8%) , where 6,178 Mordovia people live, and Mari settlements - 23 (0.7 %) , with a population of 5031 people. Settlement of the Chuvash, Udmurt, Mari, Mordovians are mainly located on the border of the Republic of Tatarstan. A considerable part of the Tatar settlements are located in the northern regions of the Republic, in the pre-Volga and the pre-Kama region. As for the Russian settlements there are no any peculiarities of localization, but it should be noted that they are more close to the cities. Settlements with ethnically mixed population are located throughout Tatarstan.

Considering the ethnic composition of municipalities' population, it should be pointed that nine of them (21% of total amount) have a higher proportion of the Russian population. Approximately equally Tatars and Russian live in two municipalities. Tatar population predominates in the other municipalities (54 % of total amount). In 10 municipalities (23 % of total) number of Tatars exceeds 80-90 % of total population. In some areas much of other nationalities population except Russian and Tatar lives. Thus, in Aksubayevsky municipality the Chuvash make up the majority - 44.0% (38.5% Tatars, 16.8% Russian) , in Drozhzhanovsky area - 41.1% Chuvash, in Nurlat - 25.3% , in Cheremshansky area - 22 , 8 % etc. (Fig. 1).

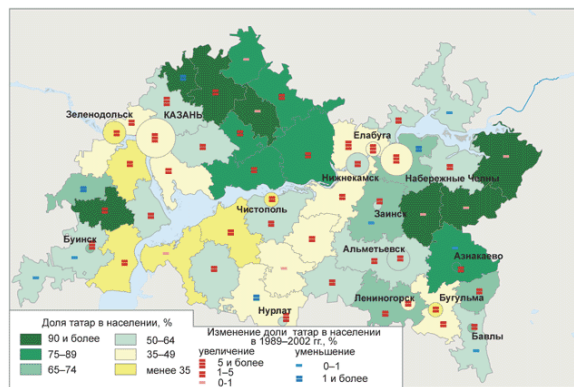


Fig.1. Ethnic composition of Municipalities of the Republic of Tatarstan

The authors suggest that, based on the experience of formulation of the main objectives of plans of regional development strategy, and, in particular, those defined in the Government of Tatarstan adopted strategic plan for development of the region [5], parameters and quality of life in the region should play a decisive role level in the context of this article.

3. Methodology

Authors proposed an analytical approach and methods based on a combination of logical modeling (including construction forecast scenarios) [2], mathematical-statistical and expert [1, 2] estimates. They allow forecasting the quality of life in certain municipalities. Obtained results, considering the ethno-cultural structure of municipality, allow us to give a qualitative assessment of the influence of historical parameters on prospects of the regional development.

The analysis procedure includes the following sequence of steps:

- I. Preparatory stage:

- 1) Elaboration of a comprehensive system of evaluation of life quality of the population of a region: selection of priorities and constructing a hierarchical system characteristics and performance;
- 2) Retrospective analysis of life quality of the region on the basis of analysis of the territorial development processes.
- II. Formation of prediction system:
 - 1) Establishing a set of "significant" events in the medium term (2006-2010);
 - 2) Preparation of baseline scenarios of the region development.
- III. Formation of a predictive model of life quality of the region:
 - 1) Development of system of dynamics indices of life quality with the proposed scenarios of development;
 - 2) Evaluation of impact of characteristics of each of the development scenarios on the life quality of population;
 - 3) Formation of a predictive model of life quality and its territorial differentiation based on the dynamics of indicators and development options.
- IV. Analysis of forecast scenarios:
 - 1) Evaluation of results;
 - 2) Description and analysis of predictive scenarios of region development from the standpoint of territorial differentiation of life quality;
 - 3) Comparative estimation of scenarios and selection of the most probable one.

In the analysis of the life quality indices two types of indexes - an integral and threshold one were used. Threshold quality of life index aggregates the indicators reflecting the health status parameters, data ware, economic welfare, infrastructure, state of the ecosystem. Integrated quality of life index combines features of social subsystem of region (health, social security, education, etc.), economic subsystem (economic welfare, employment, and consumption of goods and services, health care, housing, etc.), environmental subsystem.

Analysis of dynamics of changes in the quality of life of the population of the Tatarstan municipalities revealed that the major part of them has average levels of evaluation, including the threshold and integral indexes.

4. Conclusions

Analysis of the dynamics of change in the life quality of municipalities' population of the Republic of Tatarstan has revealed that most of them have average level of judgment, including threshold and integral indices. However, there is significant difference in evaluation values between "leaders" and "outsiders" groups. They are especially great for integral life quality index and less significant using a threshold index. Analysis of the two decades dynamics shows the stable group of municipalities - the leaders in assessing the quality of life, which includes Kazan municipality, Sarmanovskiy , Baltasinsky , Bugulminsky , Muslyumovsky municipal districts. Outsiders are Bavlinsky, Aznakaevsky , Aksubayevsky Spassky , Nurlatsky municipalities.

Forecast of indices of life quality shows that stabilization of the achieved life quality should be expected for municipalities of the North-West, pre-Volga, pre-Kama and Zakamye regions of the Republic of Tatarstan, improvement - for the North-East and worsening for the Southeast region. The dominating trend is the gradual transition of the majority of municipalities in the group with medium and comparatively high integral index. The overall dynamics of the index clearly reveals the consequences of default in 1998, after which in 1999 the vast majority of municipalities has significantly decreased the quality of life index. However, since 2000, the situation began to improve, albeit slowly. In the 2010s indices of life quality improved significantly.

The reported results indicate that historical factors have major positive influence on the development of those territories where the Tatar ethnicity currently dominates. Prospects of development of municipal entities reveal decrease in the differentiation of territories in terms of the influence of historical factors.

References

- Parr J.B. (2012) Spatial-structure differences between urban and regional systems. *Annals of Regional Science*, 49 (2), 293- 303.
- Bartlett W., Cipusheva Hr., Nikolov M. and Shukarov M. (2010). The quality of life and regional development in FYR Macedonia. *Croatian Economic Survey*, 12 (1), 121-162.
- Panasjuk M.V. (2004) Region as a territorial formation: a new approach to the study. *High Tech*, 5(4), 6 - 12.
- Draft Strategy to preserve historical and cultural heritage of the Republic of Tatarstan*. Discussed and approved at the meeting of the Public Chamber of the Republic of Tatarstan 24.04.2012. - <http://www.pandia.ru/>

"Development and distribution of the productive forces of the Republic of Tatarstan on the basis of the cluster approach to 2020 and for the period up to 2030" Program. Approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Tatarstan Republic 21.02.2011, # 134.