

Socio-Economic History of Shargun City in 1970-1980

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ABSTRACT

The article covers the history of the coal industry in Shargun, as well as the socio-economic and cultural situation of the city in 1970-1980, based on archival sources and statistical materials. In addition, the socio-cultural changes in the city of Shargun in 1970-1980 and the lifestyle of the population are described.

KEYWORDS: *Saryasi region, Shargun, Tupalang, coal, miners, Shargunshakhtastroy, Shargunugol.*

Introduction.

Shargun (1952-1971 - Tokchien city) is a city in the Saryasi district of the Surkhandarya region (since 1973). Located on the slopes of the Gissar mountains, at an average altitude of 450 m, 193 km from the regional center (Termez), 8 km - to the regional center (Saryasiya). The Shargun River flows near the city. Population about 12,000 people (2005). City of republican subordination (2019).

The formation of the city of Shargun is associated with the development of the coal industry. Before that, the village of Tokchien was located here on the banks of the Shargun River. In ancient times, famous chasers lived in Tokchien. 19th century maps show the presence of copper deposits in the Tupalang River basin. If copper was mined here, then there must be coal. That is why the first searches began in the 30s of the last century, but they were able to find only one layer. Industrial coal was found only in 1939. It turns out that in terms of quality it is the best in Central Asia. In terms of calorific value, this coal is twice as high as Angren coal [1].

Results and its discussion.

During World War II, the Nazi occupation of the country's main coal base, Donbass, led to a shortage of coal. Large quantities of coal were needed to keep the large industrial enterprises and railways operating in Uzbekistan. Taking this into account, geological exploration work was carried out in the Saryasi and Baysun districts of the Surkhandarya region. As a result of these works, at the end of 1943, the Shargun coal mine was put into operation, which led to a significant increase in coal production in the republic. For example, in 1940 3.4 thousand tons of coal were mined in the Republic, and by 1945 this figure reached 103 thousand tons. Shargun became a city of miners [32].

Workers at the only coal mine in southern Uzbekistan began increasing coal production in the early 1970s. As a result, the miners fulfilled the coal production plan for 1971-1973 by more than 17%. Labor productivity in mines during this period increased by 13% [2].

To increase labor productivity, the sections and brigades were staffed with experienced highly qualified workers. As a result, plans for 1971-1975 were fulfilled ahead of schedule. Miners produced on average more than 10 thousand tons of coal per year [3]. Coal production in 1980 increased by 80,000 tons compared to 1971, from 165,000 to 170,000 tons, and in 1993 it reached 210,000 tons [4]. 90% of coal mined in Sharguni is briquetted. In 1981, a thermo-aerodynamic

classifier was tested - the only dryer for coal in Central Asia. Such a unique machine was created by Moscow engineers. As a result, the miners managed to save 150 tons of bitumen per year and improve the quality of briquettes [5].

During 1971-1985, gross industrial production in Sharguni increased almost 20 times [6], but wages also fell, as labor productivity fell by 4% [6]. However, an analysis of absolute figures showed that the real incomes of workers, employees, specialists employed in industry, transport, construction, communications, public education and health care in this city increased by 2.1 times. [6].

In Shargun, the wages of coal miners, miners and brick factory workers were higher than the wages and bonuses received by workers at the Boysun and Shurchi enterprises. For example, in 1971 the average monthly wages of coal miners in Sharguni were 215 rubles, for workers in a brick factory - 201.5 rubles [7], and in 1990 these indicators were 361.2, 372 and 360.6 rubles [8].

The coal mine has played a positive role in the economic development of Shargun. Due to the increase in coal production at the Shargun deposit in 1970-1980, as well as the creation of other enterprises and institutions in the city, the population increased 1.6 times, from 6.6 thousand in 1970 to 10.7 thousand in 1989. [9].

One of the reasons for the population growth was that in the 1970s-1980s, the population moved to the city mainly from nearby villages. Another reason is that with the increase in the number of industrial, construction, transport organizations, hospitals, schools, kindergartens and consumer services in Shargun, the number of workers and specialists working in them increased. This required providing them with housing. Taking this into account, the leadership of "Shargunshakhtastroy" tried to provide the families of miners with modern housing instead of the barracks-type houses built earlier. In 1973, a 26-apartment building for coal miners was built and commissioned. Along with this house, a large store was built [10].

Considering that the indigenous population in Shargun prefer to have their own courtyard, rather than multi-storey sectional buildings, in 1970-1980 "Shargunshakhtastroy" allocated 1.5 hectares of land for the construction of private houses for workers of a brick factory [11]. In addition, the administrations of many enterprises, trade unions, the city executive committee tried to help workers and specialists in allocating land for housing, providing building materials, funds were allocated from the local budget for housing construction. As a result, the state housing stock in Shargun in 1989 compared to 1985 increased from 88.8 thousand m² to 113 thousand m² [12]. That is why the housing issue in Sharguni was not as acute as in other cities until the end of the 1980s [13].

The rapid population growth prompted local authorities to take steps to improve public education. With this in mind, the government of Uzbekistan made many decisions in the 1970s and 1980s. For example, on June 29, 1972, the Government of Uzbekistan adopted a Resolution "On the completion of the transition of young people to general secondary education and the further development of secondary schools", which sets a number of long-term goals [25,28,30].

The Shargun-Ugol Trust, the Shakhtastroy administration and brick factories made a significant contribution to the construction and equipment of schools and kindergartens in the city. The coal company and the Shakhtastroy trust jointly built and equipped 2 secondary schools and 4 kindergartens for the children of their workers during 1970-1980 [14; 15].

During this period, coal enterprises covered all the costs of building an interschool educational and production complex and equipping it with the necessary equipment.

It should also be noted that in the city of Shargun, party, Soviet, economic bodies, trade unions were forced to pay more attention to the needs and requirements of workers, specialists and employees. Therefore, social and cultural issues played an important role in the annual collective agreements

between enterprises, organizations, administration and trade unions in Shargun. These agreements established obligations not only at the level of an enterprise or organization, but also for the development of the social and cultural sphere in the place of residence of workers, employees, specialists of enterprises and organizations. As a result of the fulfillment of these obligations and the implementation of the work planned by the city executive committee, the network of social and cultural institutions in Shargun expanded significantly during the 1970s and 1980s [23,27,29].

Over the years, the number of grocery stores in Shargun increased from 6 in 1970 to 11 in 1990, stores of industrial and household goods increased from 7 to 12, and the number of consumer service points increased from 8 to 17 [16].

In the city, where there used to be one coal club and a library, by the end of the 1980s there were 2 summer and 2 winter cinemas, 2 libraries, 2 baths and other institutions [17,31].

In Shargun there is a lot of evidence of the development of the socio-cultural sphere in the 1970s and 1980s. However, due to the neglect of national factors on the part of the city and regional authorities (for example, in 1989, 3,784 Uzbeks and 3,465 Tajiks lived in the city), there was no organization for the development of national culture [18]. In 1989-1990, 21 types of personal services operated in Shargun, including 7 sewing, 1 blue screen, 3 printing houses [19].

Conclusion

In conclusion, during the study period, as in other cities of Uzbekistan, the city of Shargun has undergone many positive changes in the socio-cultural sphere. Of course, in the city of Shargun in 1970-1980, there were also serious shortcomings and problems in the organization of housing construction and improvement [20]. The reason for these shortcomings was the social policy of local governments. The uneven distribution and attention to the entire territory of the region has led to the formation of more "developed" and less "developed" in the social sphere of the districts. So, in terms of the number of hospitals, clinics, doctors, schools, kindergartens, libraries per capita, the Saryasi district is in last place in the region. For example, in the Saryasi district in the 1990-1991 academic year, according to official data, 26.1% of schoolchildren studied in the second shift, in Shargun this figure was 32%, and 1 school in the city was in disrepair.

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