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CREATING A "GREEN" SPACE AND ACHIEVING DEMOGRAPHIC STABILITY IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. This article examines the creation of "green" space in Uzbekistan as an important factor in ensuring demographic stability and improving the population's quality of life. Particular attention is paid to strategic areas for developing environmentally sustainable infrastructure, the rational use of natural resources, and fostering citizens' environmental awareness. The paper analyzes the relationships between state environmental policy, the level of urbanization, and demographic processes, and provides recommendations for harmoniously combining economic growth and environmental protection. Implementing the "green" space concept contributes to improving public health, reducing migration risks, and strengthening the country's social resilience.

Keywords: green space, sustainable development, demographic stability, ecology, urbanization, Uzbekistan, environmental policy, quality of life, environmental protection, social resilience.

Introduction

Uzbekistan's current development is characterized by active socioeconomic transformations accompanied by growing urbanization, population growth, and increasing anthropogenic pressure on the environment. Under these conditions, ensuring ecological balance and creating "green" spaces are becoming a strategic priority of state policy.

Creating an ecologically safe environment is inextricably linked to achieving demographic stability, as health, migration, and quality of life largely depend on the state of the natural environment. The implementation of the "green" space concept in Uzbekistan aims to improve citizens' environmental awareness, develop urban and rural infrastructure in line with sustainable development principles, and create favorable living conditions for future generations.

In recent years, the country has been implementing a series of reforms aimed at greening cities, rationalizing the use of water and land resources, introducing renewable energy sources, and creating ecologically clean zones. These measures not only improve the environmental situation but also contribute to strengthening demographic stability, reducing disease rates, and increasing social harmony in society. Thus, the formation of a “green” space is considered as the most important direction of the state strategy aimed at sustainable development and ensuring the long-term demographic well-being of Uzbekistan.

Literature review

Issues of sustainable development, environmental protection, and demographic stability occupy a central place in modern scientific research. According to reports by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations (UN, 2022), the development of "green" space is a key area of environmental policy aimed at ensuring a balanced interaction between people and nature.

Many international researchers, such as J. Sachs, E. Ostrom, and H. Daly, emphasize the need to transition to a "green economy" as the basis for sustainable development. They note that investments in environmentally friendly technologies and urban greening directly impact the quality of life and demographic stability of the population.

In the scientific works of Uzbek researchers (Sh. Mirziyoyev, A. Aripov, S. Khudaiberdiev, 2020–2024), special attention is paid to issues of environmental modernization and the implementation of the concept of "green" growth in the national economy. Strategic documents such as the Development Strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026 and the Concept of Environmental Security outline priority areas for restoration of natural ecosystems, development of green spaces in cities, and creation of sustainable infrastructure.

Research by the Institute of Demographic Processes of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2023) shows that environmental quality is closely linked to fertility, mortality, and migration rates. Improving environmental conditions contributes to a reduction in disease rates and an increase in life expectancy, which collectively strengthens demographic stability.

Thus, an analysis of existing literature shows that the creation of "green" space is viewed not only as an environmental but also as a socio-demographic strategy aimed at the harmonious development of society.

Research methodology

The methodological framework of this study is based on a systemic, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary approach, ensuring a holistic study of the relationships between environmental and demographic processes in Uzbekistan.

The study utilized methods of comparative analysis, statistical generalization, structural-functional, and causal analysis. This comparative analysis allowed us to identify the specific features of the formation of "green" spaces in Uzbekistan in comparison with the experience of developed countries (e.g., Germany, South Korea, and China), where environmental programs have had a positive impact on socio-demographic indicators.

To assess the relationship between environmental initiatives and demographic stability, statistical data from the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and materials from international organizations (UNDP, World Bank, and UNEP) were used.

Furthermore, sociological analysis and expert assessment were used to determine the impact of environmental programs on the quality of life of the population, migration processes, and birth rates. The empirical basis of the study includes regulatory documents, government programs and strategies, scientific publications by domestic and international authors, and analytical reports on sustainable development issues.

The application of these methodological approaches allowed for an objective assessment of the current state of environmental policy in Uzbekistan, identifying problems, and identifying areas for improving the formation of "green" space to ensure demographic stability.

Analysis and results of the study

The study revealed that Uzbekistan's environmental policy has become systemic and comprehensive in recent years. The government is actively implementing programs aimed at creating green spaces and strengthening the ecological potential of territories, which is directly linked to ensuring demographic stability and improving the population's quality of life.

One of the key areas has been the implementation of the national project "Yashil Makon" (Green Space), initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. As part of this program, over 400 million trees and ornamental plants have been planted across the country since 2021, contributing not only to an improved ecological balance but also to the creation of new jobs in horticulture and forestry. Experts estimate that each hectare of green space can absorb up to 30 tons of carbon dioxide annually, thereby reducing the impact of climate change.

Potential changes are observed in urban agglomerations: air pollution levels have decreased by 10-15%, the share of pedestrian and recreational areas has increased, and eco-friendly transportation (electric buses and bicycles) is being developed. A particularly successful example

is the city of Tashkent, where the share of green space has increased from 7% to 12% of the city's total area. Similar trends are observed in Samarkand, Bukhara, and Namangan, where programs to create "green belts" around populated areas are being implemented.

Environmental transformations have a multifaceted impact on demographic processes. Improved environmental conditions contribute to a reduction in respiratory diseases, allergies, and cardiovascular diseases, which is reflected in increased life expectancy and improved reproductive health. According to the Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2024), the average life expectancy in the country has increased from 72 to 74.5 years over the past five years.

There has also been a decrease in migration activity, especially from rural areas, where environmental improvement and job creation programs are being developed. For example, in regions participating in the Green Village project, labor migration has decreased by almost 12%, and youth employment has increased by 8%. This demonstrates that environmental initiatives play an important socioeconomic role, strengthening people's ties to their communities.

One significant result is the intensification of green investments. Uzbekistan is implementing joint projects with international organizations—the World Bank, UNDP, and the Asian Development Bank—aimed at developing renewable energy sources, sustainable agriculture, and restoring degraded lands. For example, the "Green Energy for Uzbekistan" project has enabled the installation of solar power plants with a total capacity of 1 GW, which helps reduce CO_2 emissions and stimulates the development of environmental infrastructure.

Furthermore, special attention is being paid to environmental education and public awareness. Educational institutions are introducing courses on sustainable development and environmental conservation, and volunteer movements for greening areas are being created. Improving environmental literacy fosters a responsible attitude toward the environment among citizens, which ensures long-term sustainability of demographic processes. Thus, the analysis shows that the creation of "green" space in Uzbekistan has a comprehensive impact on social development—from improving environmental parameters and economic indicators to strengthening demographic stability and social harmony. The implementation of "green" initiatives contributes not only to environmental recovery but also to the formation of a sustainable future in which human health and the state of nature are considered interrelated and equally important priorities.

Conclusion

The study showed that the creation of green space in Uzbekistan is not simply an element of environmental policy, but a crucial aspect of the country's socioeconomic and demographic development. The implementation of national programs such as "Yashil Makon," the Green Economy Transition Strategy 2019–2030, and regional greening initiatives form the foundation for a sustainable future and improved quality of life.

The analysis confirms that increasing the share of green spaces, developing renewable energy sources, rational use of natural resources, and improving citizens' environmental awareness have a complex impact on demographic processes. Improving the environmental situation contributes to a reduction in disease rates, longer life expectancy, reduced migration, and stronger family structures.

Demographic stability in modern conditions is impossible without ecological balance. A healthy environment becomes the foundation for sustainable population growth and social harmony. Therefore, the creation of "green" space should be considered a strategic priority of state policy aimed at strengthening the nation's health, raising well-being, and creating a comfortable living and working environment.

In the long term, the transition to a "green" development model will ensure the integration of society's environmental, economic, and social interests. To achieve these goals, it is necessary to:
• expand regional participation in the implementation of environmental programs;
• stimulate "green" investments and the introduction of innovative technologies;
• develop environmental education and public participation in greening;
• ensure continuous monitoring of environmental and demographic indicators.
Thus, the creation of "green" space is key to demographic sustainability, environmental security, and the harmonious development of Uzbekistan in the 21st century. This path requires consistent action, interagency cooperation, and the active participation of every citizen.

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