

**SOCIO ECONOMICAL
ASPECTS OF CULTURAL
DIFFERENTIATIONS
OF POPULATION OF
ZHETISUW REGION****Introduction**

ZhetiSuw region is situated in South Eastern part of Kazakhstan and has wide border with China. Basically it is a fertile valley that borders with Balkhash lake in the west, with Dzungarian Alatau in the east and long to the Northern Tyan Shan in the south. Historically these valleys had been used earlier for cattle breeding by Kazakh nomads and as an agricultural land for Russian and Kossak peasant-migrants of Russian Empire on later stages. Especially meadows of Dzungarian Alatau were (and still) most favorable seasonal summer pastures for animal breeders for centuries. Historically this region was a matter of great bargain between Russian Empire and China for last couple of hundred years. It was economically attractive by trade relationships for both sides. The joining of the Senior Zhuz to Russian Empire at the beginning of 19th century caused lots of problems for local Kazakh pastoralists in understanding that borders with neighboring Chinese western province Xinjiang where they had their relatives became sharp and strict. For decades both Empires and later on socialist countries were trying to set this problem down properly. Finally in addition to First World War and a civil war Kazakh nomads were weakened by forced sedentarisation that caused rebelled migration basically to China, Mongolia and in to inner Central Asia.

Beginning of the Socialist era was a continuation of the starvation of local nomadic population due to new economical regime where all stock had to become from that time on owned by government a.k.a collective farms-*kolkhozes* and Soviet farms-*sovkhozes*. Nomads who were not allowed to breed their cattle on the pastures that have been taken away from them lost everything. In that tough situation they were pushed to adapt to new economic of collective socialist idea. After few decades almost two generations later there were another shock appeared the collapse of Soviet regime that caused again disfunction of the stabilized soviet way of farming. Stock, land and any other state belongings started to be distributed among those who had at least a little power or were able to find a way to get it. Beginning of new independent era of private ownership caused new shock in the minds of people—the old institutions were not functioning anymore and forced people to adapt to the unclear

situation and uncertainty. Economical crisis caused poverty and a lots of criminal. Cattle breeding and farming traditional style for this area were forgotten for a while people from the rural areas started to move towards cities seeking for job. For these first decade there were no thought about villages.

Population

According to the data that we have gained during the interviews we found out that during Soviet period 95% of the population of this area were basically Russians (or other Russian speaking groups of people from Russia like Kossaks, Ukrainians, etc.) and the rest 5 % were local Kazakhs. After Soviet Union's collapse and the system of kolkhozes and sovkhozes stopped functioning Russians peasants headed to migrate to Russia. Therefore many empty space remained that has been later occupied by Oralmans–Kazakh ethnic repatriates basically from China and Mongolia. So for today for three villages almost 95% of population are Oralmans and the rest of 5% now consists of locals few Kazakh families and some Russians who didn't go to Russia or came back again from there. Concerning to Whole Russian Census at 1897 [3, c.34] there were 987 863 people (529 215 men and 458 648 women), 62 974 people out of them lived in the cities. In 1905 there were 1 070 600 people in the region. But we have to be careful with these numbers because they were given for whole ZhetiSuw region that before Soviet Union had been much wider and included part of northern Kyrgyzstan.

First Russians immigrants

First Russian peasants were moved to ZhetiSuw region on the second half of 19th century. This migration flow followed the establishment of Kossaks host in Semirechhye (ZhetiSuw) with its heads in Verny fort (Almaty). The Kossaks were sent to the edges of Russian Empire in order to protect the external borders. ZhetiSuw was one of that border regions that has to be protected. After the Kossak military the Russian and Ukrainian peasants moved to the places. They were given suitable lands for agriculture and local nomads started to be oppressed to less fertile and more sandy places towards the mountains. From the beginning the annexation of lands the relationships with local nomad Kazakhs and the new settlers were tough enough and cause several fights that during exalted during the civil war.

Bad harvest, famine and constant wars in Russia pushed peasants to migrate towards Central Asia

seeking for agricultural land to start a new simple life. Slowly new cluster of Russians appeared in ZhetiSuw.

Soviet ethnicity

For the beginning of Soviet era Russians become a big part of the population in the ZhetiSuw region. More than a million Russian farms were started in Kazakhstan. By 1917 there were close to a million Russians in Kazakhstan, about 30% of the total population. Russian farmers together with local nomad Kazakhs of the region suffered heavily during the Russian Civil War and Collectivisation in the USSR and endured repeated famines and unrest. In 1918-1931 Basmachi Revolt affected areas of southern Kazakh SSR often taking a form of an ethnic conflict between Russian and Ukrainian farmers and local nomads. Many more Russians arrived in the years 1953–1965, during the so-called Virgin Lands Campaign of Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev. Still more settlers came in the late 1960s and 70s, when the government paid bonuses to workers participating in a program to relocate Soviet industry close to the extensive coal, gas, and oil deposits of Central Asia. By 1979 ethnic Russians in Kazakhstan numbered about 5,500,000, almost 40% of the total population [2, c. 137].



Migration flows in 90s

It was counted that around 5 million of Kazakh lived outside Kazakhstan in more than 40 countries. Around 1,5mln in Uzbekistan, 1,5 mln in China, 1 mln in Russia, 100 000 in Turkmenistan, 80 000 in Mongolia and 45 000 in Kyrgyzstan. Essential part of Kazakh diaspora live in Turkey, Afghanistan and Iran. The biggest amount of ethnic Kazakhs outside of Kazakhstan are the descendants of those who left the Soviet Union in 20-30 of 20th century because of repressions, political disorders, forced collectivization that brought troubles to major part of Kazakh population. 200 000 Kazakhs left Soviet Union to China, Mongolia, India, Afghanistan and Turkey. At the same time the number of Kazakhs in neighboring Soviet republics from 1926 -1930 grew 2,5 times become more than 794 000 people [4, c. 9]

With collapse of the Soviet Union Kazakhstan has lost essential part of the population connected to Russian and German emigration. In the period of 1991-2004 more than 3 158 400 people migrated from the country. According to census from 1989 till 1999 the population decreased from 16,5 million to 15 million people. The main premises for the repatriation program of ethnic Kazakhs in to Kazakhstan were unfavorable demographical situations in Kazakhstan after the collapse of the Soviet Union. This program was aimed to solve two problems 1) to assemble all people of Kazakh nationality and further ethnic consolidation and 2) fulfilling emigrational losses and ethno-demographical disproportions of Soviet and post-Soviet times [1, c. 23]. Before the independence Kazakhs in Kazakhstan according to census were converted in to minority in 1939-37,8%, 1959-30%, 1979-36,0%, 1989-39,7% in some places in 1989 there are 40,1%. In 1929 Kazakhs were 58,5% of the whole population. The expected results of the repatriation were expanding the number and natural growth of the population and treating the demographical situation in the country.

During the Soviet period many of Kazakh traditions got lost and forgotten and the language use became less and less. «In this case return of oralmen is key moment of state migrational policy that is directed to keep Kazakh culture» [4, c. 10]

Starting from 1993 the quotes immigration for oralmen-returnees were accepted for every year and amount of sum and families (or persons) were varied. In 1999 and 2000 it was 500 families per a year but in 1993 it was for 10 000 families. In 2002 with the beginning of economic boom the amount of quotes grew. In 2005-2008 it was for 15 000 families and 2009-2011 for 20 000 families per a year. [1, c. 235]

Kazakh diaspora in Mongolia and China

Kazakh diaspora in Mongolia was the first who started to move to Kazakh SSR and later to Republic of Kazakhstan. According to census of 1989 Kazakhs were second by number after Halka Mongolians. In 1989 Kazakhs were presented in each of 21 aimaks and in 181 populated localities including capital city. General number of Kazakhs were 120 506 people. The most concentrated by Kazakh population was Bayan Olgii. Before 1991 only 97 Kazakhs could move to Kazakhstan from Mongolia basically as a working migrants. Only from May of 1991 Kazakhs of Bayan Olgii became able to watch Kazakh television with national TV programs. When Soviet Kazakhstan processes of industrialization, collectivization, urbanization, distributing the knowledge, modern medicine were the factors of destroying of the traditional nomadic culture, in Mongolia Kazakhs had better conditions to keep the traditional way of householding due to similarity of climate and landscapes and possibility of following the traditional semi-nomadic way of organizing their lives. Starting from 1942 Kazakhstan supplied Kazakh schools in Bayan Olgii with Kazakh textbooks and school books, from 1950 they were able to listen to Kazakh radio programs that was working for external Kazakhs. But in 1978 Kazakh schools have been moved to mixed language education and lessons of Kazakh language and literature were cut for 50-60% in primary school and totally stopped in secondary school. Nevertheless the number of Kazakhs that lived in regions was essential in center of Hovdi there were 3 149 Kazakhs, in Buyanty- 1 498, Bukinge- 1790, Uyenche -590 Kazakhs but not any single Kazakh school or cultural center. The numbers of Kazakhs in Mongolia were also changed since last census. In 1956 Kazakhs were 36 700 people which is 4.34% of Mongolian population, in 1963 -47 700 people and 4.69 %, in 1969-62 800 people and 5.29%, in 1979-84 300 people and 5.48%, in 1989- 120 500 people and 6.06%, in 2000-103 000 people and 4.35%, in 2010-101 500 people and 3.86% of Mongolian population. Complex of social and economical reasons pushed Kazakhs to migrate to their historical homeland in 1990-1993 using the quote of the Government of Republic of Kazakhstan.

The first visit of Mongolian Kazaks from Ulan Bator was to Taldykorgan oblast (Almaty oblast today) that had successful conversation about employment of builders and animal breeders from Mongolia. According to this agreement first 70 labor migrants moved to Kazakhstan. Simultane-

ously Executive Committee of Semipalatinsk (later Semey oblast) oblast applied to the Cabinet of the Ministers of Kazakh SSR for invitation for permanent citizenship of the persons of Kazakh nationality of Mongolia. [1, c. 250]

According to official data of the Ministry of Labor of Kazakhs SSR for the 10th July of 1991 there were 893 Kazakh families came to Kazakhstan with labor contract, 572 of them moved to Taldykorgan oblast and 1 247 people were employed. Almost half amount of families were provided housing but still according to reports many of the families lived in yurts.

Kazakhs in China are mostly presented in Western part of country in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It is one of the biggest Kazakh congregation outside of the country. Chinese Kazakhs have high level of self-identification According to census in 1953 there were 509 375 Kazakhs in China, in 1964-491 637, in 1982-907 546, in 1990-1 110 758, in 2000- 1 250 458 and in 2010 1 462 588. In 2010 majority of Kazakhs live in XUAR representing 96,97% of all Kazakhs in China. Also Kazakhs are presented in other 22 provinces and 4 autonomous regions. Last Chinese census shows change of the marriage patterns of Kazakhs. In spite of marriages within the ethnic group itself are dominant 271 401 marriages out of 282 826 are made within Kazakhs this is 95,96% of all general number. Within the mixed marriages 57,9% is with Han Chinese and the rest are with other ethnic minorities. Nevertheless the number of female exogamy is less than male. But educated women in Kazakh families are more common that could explain necessity of men in the villages therefore number of Kazakh women in the cities is much bigger in China.

Therefore the development of Kazakh ethnic group is quite significant. Kazakhs have their own, cinema, philharmonic and about 30 music bands. The only institute of Aitys studies in the world is functioned in China. There is a Kazakh hospital that has its own research center. There are 5 TV channels that broadcasts Kazakh programs in China and two radio stations.[2, c. 345] There is number of publicities in Kazakh language 35 journals and 10 newspapers that is 23% of whole Chinese Media for six national minorities of the country.

Though after Soviet Union collapsed Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kirgizstan had got independence only Kazakhs are allowed to immigrate from the China. Starting from 1991 till 2013 250 803 families or 933 386 ethnic Kazakhs immigrated to Kazakhstan and got status of oralmans.

Laws and regulations of the procedure

As it could be seen that the very idea of bringing back all Kazakhs together in their homeland has historical reasons and has good intentions. Therefore when it comes to practical realization things are seem to be not so ideal despite of patriotic claims of both sides. One of the main stages of consolidation of economical basis provided by migration policy is Provision of State Immigrational Foundation of the Republic of Kazakhstan that is admitted by Decree of Ministry in 1992. In August of 1994 The Order of Creation of Immigration Land Foundation was accepted. According to this rule refugee-immigrants that have received the Kazakhs citizenship lands should be distributed for own usage with right to pass it for inheritants. For the refugees and migrants that have got residence and who are not citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan lands could be distributed for rent. The state control of migration in Kazakhstan is realized by law enforcement agencies-Committee of Migration Policy of Ministry of Internal of republic of Kazakhstan. Therefore other different structures are also responsible in organizing social-economical help for repatriates. Within that Ministry of external affairs of RK is responsible to provide the questions of passport and visa issues and carrying application forms for repatriation;

- Ministry of Internal of RK resolves the issues of assignment of the status of oralman, betraying residence permit and permanent residence;
- Migration Police of Ministry of Internal verifies and control on residing and moving of foreign citizens on the territory of the country, recording and registering for the permanent dwelling place of oralmans, issuing of residence permits and carrying the applications for citizenship of RK;
- Labor and Social Security of population of the RK Ministry is responsible for solving the problems of employment and issuing pensions;
- State Center of Pensions and benefits is responsible in solving the questions of formalization and issuing pensions and benefits;
- Ministry of Education and Science of RK regulates the questions of the arranging the entering to the secondary schools and higher educational organizations the children of oralmans. According to conditions of the ministry there is a quota for entering to the higher educational and professional educational organizations;
- Security Committee of RK coordinates the questions of border control and special checking while offering residence permit;
- Custom Control Committee of Finance

Ministry of RK regulates questions of custom control while passing the border control and transporting private luggage;

– Ministry of Defense offers delays or liberates from military service according to objective or legal reasons.

Migration office of Committee of Migration of Labor and Social Security of population of the RK Ministry is a territorial agency and it is responsible for provision of the main directions, conceptions and programs on migration of the population; receiving, registering, accounting and accommodating oralman in centers of temporary places; helping and cooperating in improvement in the new dwelling place; payment of pensions and benefits in appropriate time set order; consulting of immigrants on legal questions of RK.

Weak point of the Migration Office is bureaucratic issues in carrying the application for the citizenship of RK, inappropriate subtractions in getting the residence permits that don't make procedure of adaptation of oralman on new place easier [5, c. 82].

Even after getting citizenship oralman are in a marginal position due to complex of unsolved problems of socio-economic and cultural adaptation

Problems of cultural and socio-economical adaptation of oralman

Very often oralman feel great discomfort because of the deficit of objective information that pushes them to make spontaneous decisions which brings them to financial loss. Economical integration of oralman and the level of employment on the labor market are the key indicators of general integration into Kazakhstani society. One of the main problems that makes process of adaptation more complicated is language. Having had Russian language as main mean of communication during Soviet Union Kazakhs from the city struggle to communicate in their mother tongue. There were lack of schools in Kazakh language in the country and Kazakhs from the city preferred to go to Russian schools in order to get socialized better. State policy on the Kazakhs language was slowly established after Soviet Union collapse. Nevertheless all documentation was still written in Russian. Chinese Kazakh oralman use Arabic script. For them it is still problematic to learn Cyrillic script that modern Kazakh alphabet is based on. But for Mongolian Kazakhs it is not that difficult to learn Kazakhs alphabet because few decades ago modern Mongolian alphabet was moved into Cyrillic. Still communication is made mostly in Russian.

Therefore big number of unemployment of oralman is one of the problems that relates to language issues. Not being able to communicate in Russian oralman especially from China, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia struggle to find a job.

Another big problem is legal issue. The «Law of Migration of the Population» there is clear definition of oralman's status but there are no clear norms of rights that oralman obtains. The «Labor Legislation» only recognizes residents and non-residents and does not give special definition for oralman.

Difference in educational system and qualification is also make oralman's adaptation slower and more complicated. Specialist in engineering, medicals, economist, teachers and lawyers have difficulties due to difference in qualification systems. Migrating to the homeland specialists had to interrupt their carriers and had to lower their professional and social status.

Conclusion

ZhetiSuv is famous with unique climatic conditions and developed socio-economical structure. It also harbours Almaty city, which was the capital of Kazakhstan till 1997 and is still the largest, economically most developed, and culturally most diverse city in Kazakhstan. Located along the historical Silk Route, it is close to several Central Asian capitals, namely Bishkek and Tashkent, as well as to the Chinese border. Thus, it is also a magnet for people from other regions to come to Almaty for work. Among these are also many of the so-called oralman, Kazakhs originating from China, Mongolia and other places. In addition, sizeable numbers of Russians and Uygurs live in the Almaty region, also due to the closeness to China. These factors played essential role in historical times as well as in contemporain times.

According statistics from 1999 to 2009 139 425 Kazakhs moved to this region from former socialist countries. Due to deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Karakalpakstan 77 304 Kazakhs from Uzbekistan moved to this region. There were 51 644 and 9 584 oralman from China and Mongolia moved in 2014 to ZhetiSuv region.[6, c. 232]

Basically due to problems that oralman are facing to they are very enthusiastically moving towards historical homeland. In ZhetiSuv region oralman seems to find their economical niche coming back to cattle breeding and migrating to summer and winter pastures. Basically all animals that are sold in the markets are from oralman.

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