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SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN MODERN SOCIETY

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Abstract
The article analyzes environmental risks and their social consequences in the context of the problems of a modern industrial city. Their specific features are analyzed, the typology and methodology of sociological research of the social consequences of environmental risks are substantiated. It is emphasized that environmental risks have a dual nature: on the one hand, they carry an objective component of danger, the probability of an undesirable outcome in the final field of variability of events, on the other hand, subjective assessments and perception of this probability, formed in the context of the existing spatial, infrastructural and socio-ecological conditions.

Keywords: Environmental risk; environmental threat; quality of life; social tension, social consequences

Introduction

On the threshold of the 21st century, humanity for the first time in its history faced a circumstance of an unprecedented nature and scale - the problem of survival in a transformed nature. The critical environmental situation, characterized by the unpredictability of its development results and entailing the emergence of risks, both in the process of making environmental decisions and in the implementation of the set goals, has formed as a result of the historically established paradigm that sets the guidelines for the dominance of the subject in the world. The topic of ecology, of course, affects all countries of the world community, regardless of religious beliefs, level of economic development and type of political system. Environmental problems are extremely relevant for modern Uzbekistan. Unfortunately, in practice, environmental issues are often perceived by the population as matters of far from primary importance. This is due to many factors, primarily psychological and social: the damage caused by such phenomena, as a rule, is relatively unnoticeable due to the duration in time and is practically not directly recorded by the senses.

Likewise, they do not affect everyday practices of social interaction until they begin to take on a catastrophic nature [3, p. 136]

An environmental threat in the form of gradual pollution of the environment does not disrupt the usual order of things for most models of significant social interactions. Risks have become organically integrated into the system of ideas of the urban citizen about the world, and have become institutionalized in all spheres of public life. Since risks are distributed unevenly in the social environment, they provoke the development of differentiated adaptation strategies that depend on experience, abilities and resources,

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social networks, in which individuals and social groups are included [5. P. 358-378]. As O.N. Yanitsky notes: "today the state of a critical, that is, emergency, situation is the norm, the routine state of the social organism" [7. P. 6].

Environmental risks are integrated into the structure of risks for the population, leading to specific social consequences. A feature of the current stage is that risks (regardless of their origin) are becoming ubiquitous, difficult to predict and chaotic, and also constantly lead to various conflict situations [7. P. 5-24].

Insufficient development of the risk management culture causes negative attitudes and the formation of ritualism in the behavior of individual services and committees, which, finding themselves in a situation of no demand, cease to perform critically important functions. The population of medium and small cities suffers especially strongly, experiencing a lack of influence of professional associations of environmental human rights defenders. Only the largest organizations of the international level survive, but they are also under threat and experience the risks of degradation of their own functionality and competitiveness.

Environmental risks are of particular importance for regions where the lack of coordination of centralized management, constant monitoring and control can significantly undermine the possibilities of sustainable development. Economic prosperity of the city as a basic strategy often sacrifices environmental protection, which in turn has a direct connection with public health and quality of life.

A significant permanent factor remains hidden social tension, which can develop into a conflict at any moment. Social diagnostics of such risks and their interpretations is today one of the most important management tasks for the harmonious and sustainable development of society. and ensuring the environmental well-being of man.

Literature Review

Conceptual discourses on the predictive foundations of socio-natural processes, their assessment and regulators have a long history. For the first time, the understanding of the value of harmonious relationships between man and nature is found in ancient philosophy. In the works of Anaximander, Anaximenes, Aristotle, Heraclitus, Hesiod, Democritus, Plato, Seneca, Thales, Epicurus, separate discourses on the nature of cause-and-effect relationships, the possibility of the occurrence of some event are found. During this historical period, in the contextual field of research, the concept of risk was replaced by the concepts of fate, destiny, fate, karma, fortune, divine providence, etc.

The key aspects of the formation of post-industrial society are presented in the works of D. Bell, who substantiated the legitimacy of considering scientific knowledge as a source of development of information technologies and social institutions. In his theory, turning to ecology is associated with understanding the results of applying theoretical knowledge in everyday activities. M. Castells, developing the theory of flexible mechanisms of network interaction, touches upon the topic of ecology in connection with the intensification of the activities of environmental movements. N. Luhmann abstracts society as a system of communications from the environment, therefore the

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problem is considered as an aspect of environmental communication. J. Habermas formulates the concept of communicative action, within the framework of which he proposes to consider the natural environment as a partner of a specific "subject" of communications. E. Toffler focuses on the leveling of the value of natural and material capital against the background of the increasing importance of the information resource that determines the configuration of interaction. G. Marcuse examines the phenomenon of multiplication of forms of consumption, stimulating competition in the production sphere. E. Giddens speaks of the increasing role of individuals monitoring information flows and making changes to the environment in accordance with existing knowledge. U. Beck considered environmental issues as a priority area of research. The author paid special attention to the risk factor that determines the transformation of the natural and social environment. In the context of the development of post-industrial theories, V. Inozemtsev emphasizes economic development, which implies the presence and growth of environmental problems. The above-mentioned authors considered environmental issues as an accompanying element of technical progress and economic development or a by-product of human activity. Environmental issues (in a broader sense, “subject matter”) as a factor of development in theories of post-industrial society are not sufficiently reflected. and the interests of future generations (G.Kh. Brundtland, A.V. Gerasimov, E.V. Girusov). A major contribution to risk theory was made by the British scientist F.R. [Farmer 6], whose works-initiated interest in assessing social risks

Materials and Methods

The theoretical and methodological basis of the study were the concepts of social risk and social change. The first was developed by such researchers as W. Beck, G. Bechmann, E. Giddens, O.N. Yanitsky and others. In the study of risk, two main branches can be traced, which can be conditionally divided into objectivist and subjectivist approaches. Within the first branch, risk is assessed as a phenomenon associated with probability and reflecting the presence of real danger. This group of theories was most developed in the works of W. Beck and E. Giddens.

Within the second branch, risk is understood as a subjective idea of the danger of individual groups of people, experts and communities, as a social construct or part of cultural attitudes. This direction includes the developments of P. Berger and T. Luckmann, M. Foucault, J. Best, I. Yasaveev, as well as M. Douglas, K. Dyck and A. Wildafsky. The concept of social change was created by P. Sztompka. Within the framework of this theory, it is assumed that the development of society consists of certain social changes, substantively presented as a change in the states, properties and connections of social systems. Each change can be realized as formation or as a trauma: have a constructive or destructive nature. The alternation of states has a systemic nature and concerns both institutions and formats of interactions, and behavioral structures.

In conducting the study, general scientific methods were used - analysis, synthesis, the method of induction and deduction, as well as special methods of empirical research: descriptive, comparative and correlation analysis of statistical data, secondary analysis

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of the results of special sociological studies, analysis of documents, analysis of media materials (Internet media and electronic versions of printed press publications).

Results and Discussion

Social consequences of environmental risks are a complex of social changes that functionally transform over time, responding to socio-cultural and economic changes in the country and the world.

Growing demands on the quality of life [2] inevitably increase public interest in relatively low risks, which are added to the list of already existing "classic" hazards. At home and at work, for example, such environmental problems as noise, insufficient lighting or vibration arise for a person. Vigilance and sensitivity grow in cases where the line between the norm and deviation is not entirely obvious. In practice, this is expressed in such a typical practice as tightening regulations, which is directly a peculiar tactic of growing existential needs for safety.

In modern conditions, the source of information on environmental risks for the majority is television, the Internet and the printed press, where the element of expertise may be absent or presented in a distorted form. The modern information society has turned the concept of perception upside down: an interpretation given through the right channel in an easy-to-read form is considered more real than one received from the senses or live communication.

Despite the striking differences in the environmental situation in the regions, which also affects the definitions in the mass consciousness, a number of typical social consequences of environmental risks have a tendentious and pronounced character, which is reflected both in the results of applied research and in the dynamics of social relations.

The first important point is the formation of a negative attitude. In the overwhelming majority of mass surveys, the environmental situation is assessed negatively.

The second trend is the risk of increasing migration potential (growing popularity of attitudes towards migration), at least in theory it is one of the significant and dangerous consequences of environmental risks. If in areas where man-made and climatic factors of the environment pose a real threat to life, this factor becomes decisive, then for calmer areas it is only an additional incentive. Traditionally, this effect is tied to major disasters, where we are talking about environmental refugees or internally displaced persons, who have a very special social portrait and legal status.

In a broad sense, ecology includes all environmental factors, so, for example, seismically active areas lose their attractiveness, and regions with good natural and climatic conditions enjoy advantages.

The third trend is awareness of the impact of hazardous environmental factors on health. One of the most serious problems in this category is air pollution. Most of the urban population of Uzbekistan lives in conditions of increased air pollution.

Air pollution belongs to the category of conditionally perceived risks, in contrast, for example, to background radiation. However, everything is not so simple here: the most

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harmful substances are often odorless and do not introduce smoke when their concentration already becomes dangerous. Therefore, by reducing the amount of hydrogen sulfide and iron scale impurities in the air, an enterprise can achieve a decrease in social tension, while formaldehyde and benzopriene will remain in the atmosphere. Many organic carcinogens are not detected by the senses, and their action is delayed and gradually accumulates. Therefore, such slow poisons have their consequences without affecting people's consciousness, which, of course, poses an additional threat. The socially stereotypical concept of "clean air" has little to do with truly safe air, with an atmosphere suitable for life. The average person's consciousness still associates the purity of the air with the number of green spaces and the presence of open spaces where it is "easier to breathe." It has been well known since the analysis of Jane Jacobs how far from reality the myth is that parks are the "lungs" of the city. [1. P.103].

From the point of view of the spatial aspect, the environmental risks most clearly perceived in the mass consciousness are produced within the urban environment, then industrial and natural. In urban conditions, the most noticeable factor is garbage collection. The problem of disposal of household waste is very typical for cities. Another product of the developed urban environment that invariably affects the environment is the increase in the number of cars, overloading of roads and bridges and, most importantly, traffic jams. Traffic jams are a fundamental environmental problem in the transport sector, since they simultaneously have a spatial dysfunctional effect and concentrate a huge number of exhaust gas sources in their epicenters. The problem of traffic jams is not only an infrastructural problem, but a consequence of the crisis of overproduction and overconsumption. Today, a car continues to perform the functions of a status attribute. In large cities, buying a car is.

The presence of a large amount of transport in a limited space always carries a physical and psychological burden for city dwellers. The risk is that travel time becomes unpredictable, which limits the freedom of the individual.

The physical consequences of environmental disasters inevitably affect social well-being and public health. This influence is indirect and distributed relatively locally. The conceptualization of these consequences is largely based on the characteristics of rehabilitation in each specific case. Research in this area suffers from a lack of specificity due to the difficulties in conducting expensive field work and the complexity of conducting an adequate examination directly at the scene of the events. According to the typology, natural environmental disasters are geological, hydrological, geophysical, biological and atmospheric. Man-made disasters, in turn, are physical, chemical, hydrodynamic, radiation and biological. This division is very arbitrary, since many disasters entail several consequences at once that provoke each other in a chain reaction. [4. C.3].

Environmental risk generates multiple adaptation strategies, which in modern conditions are transformed into strategies of problematization and deproblematization.

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The quality of these strategies is determined by the level and specificity of the environmental culture of various social groups and communities.

Conclusion

Analysis and forecasting of hazardous factors are necessary to assess the possibilities and prospects of urban development, which includes a single harmonious process of economic growth and improvement of social relations within the natural, industrial and urban (infrastructure) environments. Environmental risks, among other factors, occupy a special place in the formation of the image and status of the territory, affect the quality of life and public health, and determine the degree of attractiveness of the territory for living.

The social consequences of environmental risks are those socio-political, socio-practical, socio-cultural, socio-biological (physical), socio-demographic, socio-technical and other changes in systems that were caused by environmental risks. Management of such consequences can be carried out without changing the risk factors. The most significant social consequences of environmental risks are: decreased self-assessment of public health, deterioration in self-assessment of the quality of life, decreased attractiveness of the territory for living, deterioration of the territory's reputation, decreased trust in business, government and the media, increased protest sentiment, formation of negative attitudes and stereotypes, and the emergence of conflicts between different groups of the population.

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