

# Socially-functional Researches in Town-Planning (on the Example of Northern Kazakhstan Cities)

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At different stages of town-planning development the socially-functional aspects of settlements formation were considered by various experts: Z.N. Jargina [1], L. Kogan [2], E.E. Gorjachenko, T.I. Zaslavska [3], etc. However, there are no complex scientific researches now which would disclose features of the settlements development of the various ranks in the XXI-st century.

Social and economic changes and also administrative transformations exercised a significant influence on moving and development of the cities in the end of XX — the beginning of XXI-st century in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Nowadays questions of cities formation in connection with socially-functional researches are rather urgent.

In the process of the development of socially-functional researches in the town-planning it appears more and more obvious, that playing very important positive role in expansion of sights at a city as a social phenomenon, giving understanding of the urbanization process, sociology as the scientific discipline simultaneously turns more and more to the town-planning science its methodical procedural part [2].

The urban space, its basic elements and parts can be formed effectively only in case that the major, objectively existing regularities of functioning and development of a socially-space city organism have been considered when they are designed. This implies the conclusion, that the space environment of the city settlements should be considered as result more the general and wide development of the cities, but not only their designing and building process. The designing appreciably loses the effectiveness by insufficient level of examination and, consequently, the account of these objective regularities of cities functioning. It is necessary to underline, that exactly the representations about regularities of the cities development are formed in the surrounding social

environment which are shown then in concepts, theoretical approaches, projects etc. In this process the city reality is the important source which is formed representations about the ways of the city development. At the present stage deepening of the urbanization influence on the most various aspects of life leads to necessity of constant realization and understanding, in the process of city structures, real tendencies and regularities formation. Therefore among various aspects of examination of the city functioning the important place occupies research not only real communications of the population and the valid behaviour, but also which could not prove out. This implies necessity of studying of the social and cultural aims of inhabitants, their relations to those or other parts of its life, perception inhabitants of the important elements of urban space, their wishes, requirements etc. it is necessary studying not only behaviour in a city, but also urban consciousness of all inhabitants.

For studying of the setting questions some kinds of questionnaires were developed for public inquiry. During the research it was questioned more than 1500 inhabitants of Northern Kazakhstan cities — Astana, Kokshetau, Pavlodar, Kostanay, Petropavlovsk. The range of problems and the general orientation of the researches are defined as a whole by necessity of the studying how city relations prove out itself in new socially-economical conditions in the area considered by us.

Development of the socially-functional researches expands sphere of public influence of the town-planning. Studying how the socially-space organism of a city functions, various sorts of the population investigation with necessity assume also involved inhabitants in difficult process of realization of themselves in the city environment. During the investigations, answers to

questions of questionnaires each of responded inhabitants comprehends the behaviour in a city.

Structures of socially-functional research includes a number of stages which are defined by setting problems. At the first stage the choice of an interesting problem from the complex of town-planning problems is carried out; the urgency is proved; scientific-theoretical value of the problem and its space-planning content are revealed.

The second stage — working out of a hypothesis of the research which is accompanied by a choice of the research object and the research example. In this case as the objects and examples are concrete areas of the listed cities of Northern Kazakhstan.

Their choice was carried out so that researching process was shown most full and boldly. So, in Astana as objects of research were defined: in the old city — the public centre and adjoining area, street Bejbitshilik, Zhenis avenue, area of railway station and opera theatre, in the new city (a left-bank part of the river Esil) — the new centre, 13 highway, adjoining areas of entertaining complexes “Mega”, “Sary-Arka”, «Asia park», and also street Sary-Arka which passes both on old, and on new parts of Astana. It is necessary to underline, that the capital Astana was found more suitable example for studying of variety problems, than other cities of Northern Kazakhstan.

The third stage — natural investigation. The investigation makes rather essential and specific stage of socially-functional research in town-planning. Its purpose consists in reception of empirical data, confirming or correcting one or another positions of the hypothesis.

The fourth stage — material processing. During processing of questionnaires the main attention was turned on the qualitative part of the information receiving in investigation, on the analysis of tendencies,

rather general, large, visible characteristics of social and space factors interaction.

The fifth stage — formation of regularities of functional-space development of city structure and its elements. The important problem in this part of research is town-planning, space interpretation of the received results of investigation, their transformation in respect of the studied town-planning problem [4].

Socially-functional researches in town-planning can have some levels which differ from each other by correlation of more theoretical and more applied elements.

## Summary

Social and economic changes and also administrative transformations exercised a significant influence on moving and development of the cities in the end of XX — the beginning of XXI-st century in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Thereby socially-functional researches in town-planning are rather urgent at the present stage. The structure of socially-functional researches includes several stages and it is defined by setting problems.

## References

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