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THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRIAL HUBS IN AZERBAIJAN AND THEIR AND ECONOMIC-GEOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

Effective territorial organization of industry provides an opportunity to use the natural and economic potential of the regions, to ensure their socio-economic development, to increase their role in the development of the country. In the process of implementing economic reforms, the activities of the plethora of production facilities have been restored, and several new enterprises have been established. For this reason, there are bases for the allocation of new industrial hubs in the country. With this in mind, along with the existing industrial hubs, there are industrial cities that are being formed and have the potential for this. To ensure the formation of industrial hubs based on these cities, it is important to increase the number of light and food industry companies based on the processing of agricultural products.

Research sources and methods. Scientific-theoretical and methodological sources in the treatise of Azerbaijani and foreign scientists in the field of industrial studies were used for analysis in the research process. Recently, research at the regional level has been widely covered. During the research, statistical materials and sources collected by the author in this field are used.

The analysis in the article is carried out using historical-geographical study of areas, mathematical analysis, statistics, comparative methods.

Scientific innovations and personal recommendation of the author. For the first time, the article examines the economic and geographical problems of industrial hubs that existed during the years of independence, changes in their economic structure. The author has shown their importance in the development of the regions, defined the role of the implemented State Programs, prepared proposals and recommendations in the field of development prospects of industrial hubs.

Summary of the study. One of the directions of territorial organization of economic areas in the country is to ensure integrated development. For this, it is necessary to place the enterprises close to each other, which are connected on production-technological, use of labour resources and it is important to take the following factors as the basis for the separation of industrial hubs: 1) the presence of large-scale, regional and local production establishments engaged in the sequential processing of local and imported raw materials; 2) the existence of production infrastructure enterprises for the operation of production facilities in these enterprises; 3) the specialization of the products produced by the operating enterprises, the opportunities for its participation in inter-regional and international relations.

It is also substantial to establish labour relations in the process of separating industrial hubs. Baku-Sumgayit, Mingachevir-Yevlakh, Shirvan-Salyan, Nakhchivan, Lankaran and Khachmaz are industrial junctions, and the industrial hubs are being formed in Imishli, Shamkir, Agjabadi and Goychay. The complex development of the economy in these industrial hubs can be carried out in different directions.

Results. The formation of industrial hubs in the country is important for the efficient territorial organization of industry. This, in turn, is possible in the context of the implementation of important measures for the reconstruction of the economic structure in specific areas, leading to the creation of a full range of natural resources and processing of agricultural products. The development of cities that are in the processing of formation and have this potential is an important measure for the sustainable development of industry in the regions.

Keywords: industrial hubs, economic region, industrial cities, territorial organization of economy, Agrarian-Industrial Complex, production relations, light and food industry, agglomerations, infrastructure areas, economic reforms.

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ХОЗЯЙСТВЕННАЯ СТРУКТУРА И ПРОБЛЕМЫ ЭКОНОМИКО-ГЕОГРАФИЧЕСКОГО РАЗВИТИЯ ПРОМЫШЛЕННЫХ УЗЛОВ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНА

Эффективная территориальная организация промышленности позволяет использовать природно-экономический потенциал регионов, обеспечивать их социально-экономическое развитие, повышать их роль в развитии страны. В процессе проводимых экономических реформ была восстановлена деятельность значительной части производственных объектов, создано множество новых предприятий. Поэтому в стране есть основания для выделения новых промышленных узлов. Учитывая это, наряду с существующими промышленными узлами существуют промышленные города, которые формируются и имеют потенциал для этого. Для обеспечения формирования промышленных узлов на базе этих городов важно увеличить количество предприятий легкой и пищевой промышленности, обслуживающих эту отрасль, на основе переработки сельскохозяйственной продукции.

Источники и методы исследования. Для проведения анализа в процессе исследования были использованы научно-теоретические и методологические источники в области изучения промышленности, содержащиеся в трудах азербайджанских и зарубежных ученых. В последнее время также уделяется большое место исследованиям на региональном уровне. В ходе исследования используются статистические материалы, материалы, собранные автором в этой области.

В статье анализ проводится с использованием историко-географического изучения территорий, математического анализа, статистики, сравнительных методов.

Научные новизны и личный вклад автора. В статье впервые изучаются экономико-географические проблемы промышленных узлов, изменения их хозяйственной структуры в период независимости. Автор указал их значение в развитии регионов, определил роль реализуемых государственных программ, подготовил предложения и рекомендации в области перспектив развития промышленных узлов.

Обзор исследований. Одним из направлений территориальной организации хозяйственных объектов внутри страны является обеспечение их комплексного развития. Для этого требуется близкое размещение предприятий, имеющих связи по использованию производственно-технологического потенциала и трудовых ресурсов. Для выделения промышленных узлов важно принимать за основу следующие факторы: 1) наличие крупных производственных предприятий, объекты регионального и местного значения, осуществляющих последовательную переработку местного и привозного сырья; 2) наличие на этих предприятиях производственной инфраструктуры для функционирования производственных мощностей; 3) производимые предприятиями продукции должны быть отраслями специализации, возможности их участия в межрегиональных и международных экономических связях. В процессе выделения промышленных узлов важное значение имеет и установление трудовых отношений.

В республике выделяются Баку-Сумгаитский, Мингячевир-Евлахский, Ширван-Сальянский, Нахчыванский, Лянкяранский и Хачмазский промышленные узлы. В городах Имишли, Шямкир, Агджабеди, Гейчай формируются промышленные узлы. Комплексное развитие хозяйства на этих промышленных узлах может осуществляться в различных направлениях.

Выводы. Формирование промышленных узлов в стране важно для эффективной территориальной организации промышленности. Это становится возможным в условиях реализации важных мер по реструктуризации структуры хозяйства на конкретных территориях, что приводит к созданию полного комплекса природных ресурсов и переработки сельскохозяйственной продукции. Развитие городов, которые находятся на этапе формирования как промышленного узла и обладают этим потенциалом, являются важными факторами для устойчивого развития промышленности в регионах.

Ключевые слова: промышленные узлы, экономический район, промышленные города, территориальная организация хозяйства, аграрно-промышленный комплекс, производственные связи, легкая и пищевая промышленность, агломерации, сферы инфраструктуры, экономические реформы.

The actuality of the subject. Numerous natural-geographical and socio-economic factors are taken into account in the process of placement of economic objects. At present, the impact of economic, economic-geographical, technical and technological factors in the process of territorial organization of production and service facilities comes to the fore.

After Azerbaijan gained independence, along with economic reforms in the economic sphere, integration into the world economy was among the tasks ahead. It was demanded to establish a system of economy in accordance with market relations, to bring its management in line with modern requirements, to carry out privatization, to create enterprises based on private, foreign, joint ownership capable of participating in international markets and many of them have already been implemented. Currently, the industries of Azerbaijan as the yield of oil and gas, oil engineering, shipbuilding, passenger cars and commercial vehicle production, chemistry, metallurgy are already participating in international markets, interacting with the world's leading companies and industries.

At the same time, the protection of the country's the domestic market, the achievement of its effective territorial organization, the solution of the problem of employment, the use of local natural resources, the creation of processing and service facilities on their basis are also essential tasks. Their solution can ensure the socio-economic and demographic development of the regions.

One of the effective forms of territorial organization of the economy in the country is industrial hubs. Recently, there have been significant changes in the economic structure of existing industrial hubs. The study of their current state and development prospects is of great scientific, theoretical and practical importance.

The research object. The effective territorial organization ways of the economy in the state, the natural-geographical base of the formation of industrial hubs which a primary part of them, their primary directions, existing and forming industrial hubs and the fundamental ways of development is belonged to the research object of the article. The establishment of industrial hubs plays a pivotal role in the development of the regions. Along with the creation of processing industries, they allow the development

of inter-station relations, increase agricultural production and the use of labour resources and the article carry out the analyses in this direction.

Sources and methods of the research. In the research process, to carry out the analyses the scientific-theoretical and methodological sources were used which are quoted from the Azerbaijanian and foreign scientists' works and these quotes are based on the exploration of industry [1, 4, 8, 9, 12, 13, 27]. In these treatises, there are surveys which compromise the structure of the industry, territorial the organization, stages of formation and the usage of the natural-economical base.

Recently, research at the regional level has been widely covered. The analysis in this area shows the results of economic reforms and the importance of measures [9]. In this research paper, to carry out the study the theoretical-methodological provisions of State Programmes, decrees and legislation are used as an essential source [5-6, 19-21].

Statistical materials are used in the study [3, 24]. This is because they are important for studying the dynamics of industries in different periods. These materials allow us to determine the regional territorial division of the industry. Simultaneously, the materials collected by the author in this area are necessary.

In the article, the methods of historical and geographical study of areas, mathematical analysis, statistics, comparative analysis were utilized.

Scientific innovations and the author's recommendation. For the first time, the article examines the economic and geographical problems of industrial hubs that existed during the years of independence and the changes in their economic structure. The network of production and service facilities created in the regions allows the formation of new industrial hubs in the process of fulfilling economic reforms in the country. The author has indicated their importance in the development of the regions, defined the role of the implemented State Programs, prepared proposals and recommendations in the field of development prospects of industrial hubs.

Industrial hubs play an important role in the development of the regions, as they are one of the methods of efficient territorial organization of the economy. Using the existing opportunities, it is possible to improve the economic structure of cities and achieve this and studies in this direction are fulfilled in the research paper.

Study of the subject. Widespread investigations have been conducted in Azerbaijan in the field of industrial studies. They are devoted to the determination of the sectoral and territorial structure of the industry, the development of industry in the regions, their role in the development of cities and the development prospects. A.A. Nadirov [17, 18], S.K. Huseynov [12, 13], A.M. Hajzade [14], Z.A. Samadzade, F.A. Farajov [25], R.H. Mammadov [15], V.A. Afandiyev [11], Z.N. Eminov [4, 8-10,], N.H. Ayyubov, N.A. Pashayev [4] and others gave wide publicity to the inquiries in this field. The study of different branches of industry in Azerbaijan was carried out in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries by A.T. Khrushov [26], E.B. Alayev [1, 2], N.I. Alisov, B.S. Khorev [27] and others.

At the same time, during the years of independence, there have been significant changes in the structure of the industry in the country. As a result of the development of the oil and gas industry, this sector has a leading role and is concentrated in Absheron. This factor leads to a minimum share of the regions in the production of industrial products. To figure out the issue, one of the important tasks is to identify measures for the development of industry in the regions and to develop its scientific and theoretical basis.

Investigation results and explanation of the problem. One of the directions of the territorial organization of economies in the nation is to ensure complex enhancement. For this, it is essential to place the establishments close to each other, which are connected with each other on production-technological, use of labour resources. In the process of complex development of industry, mineral and raw material resources, agricultural raw materials are processed in a technologically sequential manner, raw materials are passed through all stages of processing in one complex and in several nearby enterprises [1, 12]. At the same time, the establishment of industrial complexes creates favourable conditions for the waste matter which is thrown aside in the production process, by-products, and the manufacturing and consumption of raw materials.

Taking into account the above, it can be said that although Azerbaijan has industrial facilities based on oil and gas reserves, iron ore, alunite reserves, construction materials, it is impossible to state that industrial complexes have been created yet. Only in Absheron, industrial complex which is not fully staggered operate by the output of oil, its manufacturing, and serving to this field and auxiliary areas [9]. With the construction of a "Karbamid" the factory in Sumgayit for the processing of natural gas, the establishment of an industrial complex has begun. However, it is important to take measures to establish complex processing centres.

Industrial complexes based on agriculture have been formed for many years in the process of establishment and operation of factories. The range of products produced in this type of enterprise is quite diverse, and in addition to the main products, sometimes there are conditions for the use of additional products [4]. They operate in Gabala, Bilasuvar and Agsu. The activity of HC (Housing Cooperatives) was restored in Lankaran, Khachmaz, Balakan [19-21]. Currently, "Agribusiness" associations which have been established in many regions of the country also play a key role in the formation of industrial complexes. In these economic subject, along with the cultivation of agricultural products, their transportation, storage and processing centres are organized. Their activity is based on the principles of formation of the AIC (Agro-Industrial Complex), and they not only in the villages but also in the cities can form the basis of the economic base [22].

The industry, service facilities and other establishments operating in two or three adjacent cities in one city sometimes need to share the infrastructure network. In most cases, industrial hubs based on the joint use of dense production-technological, labour resources, production infrastructure facilities are formed based on agglomerations [5, 13]. The combined use of transport and communication, water, energy, heating, hot water, steam, storage, electricity increases the efficiency of production, reduces the cost of production, and in many cases allows the efficient use of urban areas.

Central cities of agglomerations, the places where the population, industry, service facilities are concentrated, and in the surrounding areas, the additional and service or ancillary areas are operating. The reservoirs, thermal power plants or hydropower plants, hot water, vapour production, logistics and storage facilities are established around these large cities. Products which are manufactured at these companies are transported due to supply the operation of objects which is in business in central cities and some products of production infrastructure facilities are used to meet the utility needs of the population as well as the products of the surrounding areas in the industrial hubs are also used to provide the population with heat, hot water, drinking water and electricity.

One of the main features of the industrial hubs which are formed in the agglomerations is the relationship in the field of labour supply. To meet the needs of enterprises operating in the central cities for qualified personnel and labour force, the population living in the surrounding settlements come to the cities for work and return in the evening. This daily migration of the population (the commuters) from the surrounding areas to the central cities without changing their permanent place of residence plays a pivotal role in providing the production and service facilities with a labour force in here [11].

The separation of industrial hubs, the definition of their boundaries, the inclusion of settlements in one or another hub is an important issue in economic and economic-geographical analysis. Generally, agglomerations are formed as industrial hubs, and the cities and settlements included in them have close economic, production-technological, infrastructure facilities. Therefore, there is a consensus on the separation of agglomerations as industrial hubs, and the general results are inescapable in the research [1].

The formation of urban settlements as industrial hubs are affected by their EGP (economic-geographical position), the number of population and increase dynamics, economic structure and opportunities for its reconstruction soon, proximity to natural resources with great potential, access to them, infrastructure facilities serving the organization and development of the production process and their service potential, meeting the needs of the population and facilities, sending products to consumers, building relationships to provide socio-cultural services to the population living in the surrounding areas, the development of transport and communication network and meet modern requirements, etc.

Alayev E.B. considers that it is important to take into account the following features for the separation of industrial hubs: 1) the population of the central city should be more than 40-50 thousand people; 2) the number of industrial workers should be more than 4-5 thousand people; 3) the existence of at least 3 industries, including the operation of one of them as a specialized economic sector at the regional or national level, the activities of ancillary and service industries represented by large enterprises; 4) availability of opportunities to connect to a single energy network, to create an electric power base if necessary; 5) availability of a developed a road transport network and railway connections [2].

According to Huseynov S.K., it is substantial to consider the following factors as the basis for the separation of industrial hubs: 1) availability of favourable natural and economic opportunities, local natural resources, transport and geographical position developed production base; 2) participation in interregional and international economic relations; 3) to fulfil the socio-economic and demographic development centre function of the surrounding areas, to establish close ties with the settlements located here [12].

There is a network of cooperations for the processing of natural raw materials in the production structure of cities located in areas with developed economic development. In most cases, raw materials are processed in such firms to obtain the final product. Related to the peculiarities of historical and geographical

development, a network of auxiliary and service areas, as well as infrastructure facilities serving the activities of industrial complexes is created in such conditions. Therefore, such cities are defined as industrial hubs by merging with nearby areas with close production and technological ties, and in turn, this makes it easier to separate them in this form. This is because, in the formation and separation of industrial hubs, the presence of foundations engaged in the sequential processing and conversion of one or more raw materials into final products, the activities of enterprises serving them should be taken into consideration as a key factor.

Taking into account the analysis, it is essential to take the following factors as the basis for the separation of industrial hubs:

- Presence of large-scale production enterprises of regional and local significance, which consistently process local and imported raw materials;

- Existence of production infrastructure cooperations for the operation of production facilities in these enterprises;

- The products fabricated by the operating enterprises should be a field of specialization, its opportunities to participate in inter-regional and international relations;

- Differentiation of economic, socio-cultural the potential of the central city during the separation of industrial hubs, being close relations with the surrounding settlements on the use of production-technological, infrastructure facilities and labour resources;

- In many cases, it is possible to separate industrial hubs on the basis of one point, as well. The main condition for this should be the existence of establishments engaged in the processing of mineral raw materials or agricultural raw materials, the role of which should be clear in the socio-economic and demographic development of the surrounding areas;

- settling in the favourable EGP and transport-geographical position, do not have difficulties in electricity supply.

The number of cities included in each industrial hub and their boundaries should be determined [12]. Since production-technological relations are considered as the main principle and factor in the process of separation of industrial hubs, their scope should also be considered as the boundaries of industrial hubs. As for the formation of full-chain production areas in the system of incoming cities, the urban settlements where the production enterprises are located from the extraction of raw materials to the final product are included in the industrial hubs.

The establishment of labour relations also plays an active role in the process of separation of industrial hubs. In most cases, the population can come to the central cities in search of work from the points located at a distance of 50-60 km and having to travel directly for 1.0-1.5 hours. Travelling to work in central cities from stations within this radius can be considered fruitful in terms of a waste of time and health benefits [15].

Other socioeconomic and demographic factors also influence the demarcation line of industrial hubs. Among them are the number of enterprises operating in the central cities, the availability of organisations providing them with raw materials, semi-finished products and other ancillaries materials, the availability of labour-intensive farms in the central cities and the number of people required to provide them with manpower.

According to the analysis, the following industrial hubs can be distinguished in Azerbaijan. It is advisable to combine them into three groups:

- Baku-Sumgayit, Ganja-Dashkasan, Mingachevir-Yevlakh and Shirvan-Salyan belong to the industrial junctions that have already been formed, but not fully developed.

- The cities of Nakhchivan, Sheki, Lankaran and Khachmaz that they are consisting of separate cities as the emerging industrial hubs, which for the time being cover one or more stages of industrial complexes can be separated.

- Imishli, Shamkir, Agjabadi, Goychay and other cities can be included in areas with potential opportunities and socio-economic base as the industrial hubs.

The complex development of the economy in these industrial hubs can be carried out in different directions. Given the limited number of industrially important mineral deposits in the country, the lack of technical, technological, financial, qualified personnel, engineers and technologists for their exploitation, it is difficult to say that the potential for the formation of industrial hubs based on the use of natural resources is wide. For this reason, there is a great potential for the formation of industrial complexes based on the production and processing of agricultural products and the separation of industrial hubs on their basis [22].

In crop production, measures should be taken to increase the production of cotton, viticulture, fruit and vegetable growing, tobacco growing, tea production and the organization of processing enterprises. The production of their products is also an important measure to strengthen the economic base of cities. Light and food industry complexes are being established in the country based on the processing of livestock products, and this work must be continued.

In the conditions of Azerbaijan, Baku and Sumgayit have the potential to create industrial hubs with close production and technological ties. There are 11 cities in Azerbaijan with a population of more than 50,000 people. 4 of them function as administrative district centres (Lankaran, Shaki, Yevlakh, Khirdalan) [10, 24]. The population of Khirdalan alone is up to 100,000. Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Mingachevir, Yevlakh, Shaki, Lankaran, Nakhchivan, Shirvan cities together with the surrounding areas have the potential to create industrial hubs. In some of them, it can be said that industrial hubs have already been formed, while in others it has just entered its stage of development.

Most of the cooperations located in Baku operate in the oil and gas industry. Production of machinery and equipment for oil and natural gas production, the activity of Sumgayit Pipe-Rolling Plant, oil refining, petrochemical, chemical industry facilities, training of qualified staff serve the development of these areas. However, there are still no enterprises to purchase the final product from oil, and chemical processing of natural gas is not carried out.

There are close production ties between Baku and Sumgayit. They share the network of all infrastructure facilities located in Absheron. The high level of enhancement of the network of infrastructure facilities in the region creates conditions for the development of all areas of production, there are enough qualified workers, material and technical base and supply are at a high echelon. The effective territorial organization of the network of service facilities may be included in areas which are ensuring the development of Absheron.

The activity of light industry has constituted the basis of the formation of the Mingachevir-Yevlakh industrial junction. In recent times, measures have been taken to form the Mingachevir-Yevlakh industrial junction. Steps towards the development of cotton growing in the country, the establishment of primary wool processing centres, the establishment of an Industrial District for the production of light industry products in Mingachevir can give impetus to the reorganization of the industrial hub on the basis of two cities [9].

At the same time, large amounts of agricultural products are produced around the cities of Mingachevir and Shirvan. Based on their use, the organization of enterprises belonging to the agro-industrial complex (AIC) should be considered important steps. The measures taken are among the important steps for the reconstruction of the economic structure of cities. The formation of the Shirvan-Salyan industrial junction dates back to the 1960s when Shirvan was established as a fuel and energy centre.

During the years of independence, the reconstruction of the industry structure and ensuring the development of the industry as an industrial hub in the cities of Shirvan and Salyan can be implemented based on the creation of light industry complex and processing of fruit and vegetable processing enterprises [16]. In the economic region where cities are located, cotton growing and dry subtropical fruit growing are the primary areas of specialization, and there are potential opportunities for the creation of processing complexes for their products. So, the transformation of Shirvan into one of the light industry centres of the country should be identified as a perspective task [7].

The formation of industrial hubs in the cities of Nakhchivan, Lankaran and Khachmaz are based on the development of the processing of agricultural products, especially the canning of fruits and vegetables. The activity of processing establishments in Lankaran and Khachmaz cities have been restored and expanded. There is a potential economic and technical opportunity for the development of light industry, especially carpet weaving, strengthening the electricity base for the development of industry in cities [22]. It is important to organize AIC sites in the mentioned cities for the integrated development of industry and the formation of an industrial hub on its basis. Establishment of the raw material base of companies is a necessary factor for the sustainable development of enterprises included in the industrial hub.

During the years of independence, large production enterprises have been established in the country within the framework of State Programmes implemented to ensure the socio-economic development of the regions. However, the majority of them consist of separate facilities. Hence, in many cases, companies stop their activity after a short time and they face difficulties in resuming their operations. Restoration of the complexity of the created an industrial facility is an important factor for their sustainable operation and expansion. For example to this, although a sugar factory has been established in Imishli, there is no raw material base, and only a small part of it is produced in the country, moreover, there are periodic difficulties in the operation of machine-building enterprises established in Shamakhi, Ganja and Nakhchivan [19].

Taking into account all of these, it is possible to ensure the formation of industrial hubs based on the establishment of a sugar factory complex in Imishli, viticulture, fruit and vegetable production in Shamkir and Goychay, and processing of livestock products (meat, milk, wool, leather, etc.) in Agjabadi [6].

Results. The formation of industrial hubs in the country is essential for the efficient territorial organization of industry and has a special significance in this area, because industrial hubs are formed in the conditions of its complex development. This, in turn, is accomplishable in the context of the implementation of important measures for the reconstruction of the economic structure in specific areas, leading to the creation of a full range of natural resources and processing of agricultural products. The development of cities that are in the processing of formation and have this potential is an important measure for the sustainable development of industry in the regions.

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