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QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE SECTOR IN THE TERRITORIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Abstract. The article identifies and compiles a ranking of the state of trade and public catering, education, and healthcare in the administrative units of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Keywords: public service, volume of paid services, number of public catering establishments, coverage of preschool education, number of secondary medical workers, school attendance, capacity of outpatient and polyclinic institutions

Introduction. The territorial organization of public service sectors and the expansion of their activities have become one of the most important problems of our time. To solve this problem, it is advisable to take into account certain laws and factors, to proceed from the territorial differences in the needs for household services and the level of demand for them, as well as from the natural, social, economic, and demographic conditions of the population.

One of the objectives of the research is to assess the level of development of the sectors of public service provision in the administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Such an assessment is a rather complex issue, since the level of development of the sector, the quality of the performance of its

enterprises, as a rule, cannot be assessed by quantitative indicators of a certain objective and formal nature.

Materials and methods. The qualitative aspects of service provision should be studied mainly through the subjective opinions of users and clients. Therefore, in the course of our research, it was found necessary to carry out work on assessing the state of public service provision in the regions of Karakalpakstan in two stages.

In the first, the position of each administrative unit in the region is determined based on a number of indicators provided in official statistical reports, the average value of the position indicators for all criteria is calculated, and based on this figure, a ranking sequence of administrative regions is compiled. Since the main attention in the research process was paid to trade and catering, education and healthcare, the following indicators were taken as evaluation criteria:

- 1) volume of paid services per capita, in thousand sums;
- 2) retail trade turnover per capita, in thousand sums;
- 3) number of trade enterprises, per 1000 population;
- 4) catering establishments, per 1000 population;
- 5) coverage rate of children aged 3-6 with preschool education, in %;
- 6) share of single-stage general education schools in the total number of general education schools, in %;
- 7) average capacity coefficient of general education institutions;
- 8) share of higher and first category teachers in the total number of teachers in general education institutions, in %;
- 9) number of students studying in vocational education institutions, per 10,000 population;
- 10) number of hospital beds per 10,000 population;
- 11) capacity of outpatient clinics per 10,000 population;
- 12) availability of doctors per 10,000 population;
- 13) availability of paramedical staff per 10,000 population;

The values of these indicators for the city of Nukus and 16 rural districts were obtained based on official data from the Ministry of Preschool and School Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and the Department of Statistics of the Republic of Karakalpakstan for the end of the year 2023. The results of the rating assessment are presented in Table 1.

Results. The analysis shows that the highest-ranking place belongs to the capital of Karakalpakstan, the city of Nukus. In particular, in terms of indicators related to retail trade and public catering, as well as the healthcare system, Nukus is in a better position compared to rural districts. Among the indicators with lower results, it is worth highlighting the capacity coefficient of secondary education institutions, school attendance, the quality of school teachers, and the capacity of outpatient clinics.

In addition to the city of Nukus, the top five included Kungrad (2nd place), Nukus (2nd place), Kanlikul (3rd place), Muynak (4th place) and Khodjeyli (5th place) districts. Kungrad district's ranking positions are the highest (2nd place) in terms of indicators such as the volume of paid services per capita, the number of public catering establishments, the coverage of preschool education, the number of secondary medical personnel, and the lowest in terms of school attendance (15th place) and the capacity of outpatient clinics (13th place). Nukus district attracts attention with relatively good (2nd-3rd) positions in the region in terms of indicators related to the medical sector. Currently, the district's ranking in the field of professional education is quite low (15th place), and in terms of retail trade indicators, the district ranks 8th-9th in the region.

The Kanlikul district, while occupying the leading (1st–3rd) places in the republic in terms of the quality of school teachers, the contingent of professional educational institutions (relative to the number of population) and the provision of public catering establishments, is in much lower (11th–12th) places in terms of the

number of school turns, the provision of hospital beds and the volume of paid services per capita. It was found that the Muynak district, while entering the top three in the region in terms of the volume of paid services per capita, the provision of enterprises in the trade and public catering sectors, the capacity coefficient of schools, and the provision of doctors, is in the last (16th–17th) positions in the

Table 1. Rating assessment of the state of service provision to the population in the administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Karakalpakstan (based on indicators for the year 2023)

Regions	Volume of paid, services per capita, thousand sums	place	Retail trade turnover per capita, thousand sums	place	number of commercial enterprises, per 1000 population	place	number of public catering establishments, per 1000 population	place	Preschool education coverage rate for children aged 3-6, %	place	Share of single-shift schools, %	place	average capacity factor of secondary education institutions	place
city of Nukus	16 214,7	1	9 088,1	1	6,3	1	1,0	1	85,2	3	4,7	16	1,4	8
<i>districts:</i>														
Amudarya	3 136,7	16	3 646,1	15	3,1	8	0,7	2	73,3	10	19,8	7	1,2	6
Beruni	3 140,2	15	4 454,4	9	3,5	4	0,5	4	96	1	19,4	8	1,2	6
Bozatau	3 721,2	10	2 010,2	17	2,7	11	0,5	4	61	17	33,3	1	0,7	2
Ellikkala	3 163,2	14	4 103,5	11	3,2	7	0,6	3	69,5	14	8,0	14	1,3	7
Kegeyli	3 217,4	13	3 710,8	13	2,7	11	0,6	3	78,4	7	25,6	3	1	4
Muynak	7 026,0	3	3 234,5	16	4,8	2	0,7	2	83,9	4	22,2	6	0,8	3
Nukus	4 960,8	4	4 508,8	8	3,0	9	0,2	7	82,9	5	18,2	9	1	4
Kanlikul	3 576,3	11	5 262,8	7	3,4	5	0,6	3	76,3	9	12,5	12	1	4
Karauzek	4 082,0	8	5 979,7	5	2,9	10	0,5	4	73,1	11	24,5	4	0,8	3
Kungrad	12 789,6	2	5 731,1	6	3,0	9	0,7	2	87	2	6,0	15	1,1	5
Takhiatash	4 072,2	9	3 666,2	14	3,2	7	0,3	6	67,1	15	8,7	13	1,1	5
Takhtakopir	4 939,5	5	7 092,7	3	2,6	12	0,4	5	78,2	8	4,2	17	0,6	1
Turtkul	4 254,5	7	6 959,6	4	3,9	3	0,6	3	62,3	16	15,9	10	1,4	8
Khodjeyli	4 583,3	6	8 165,9	2	3,2	7	0,5	4	72,1	12	15,6	11	1,1	5
Shumanay	3 026,4	17	3 873,0	12	3,5	4	0,4	5	80	6	27,3	2	0,8	3
Chimbay	3 335,5	12	4 415,3	10	3,3	6	0,4	5	71,5	13	22,4	5	1	4

Regions	the share of higher and 1st category teachers in the total number of teachers in general education institutions, %	place	number of students in vocational education institutions, per 10,000 population	place	hospital beds per 10,000 population	place	capacity of outpatient clinics per 10,000 population	place	availability of doctors per 10,000 population	place	provision of secondary medical personnel per 10,000 population	place	average rank index	rating position
city of Nukus	31,1	7	210,2	2	103,2	1	96,5	11	96,0	1	200,4	1	4,2	1
<i>districts:</i>														
Amudaryya	25,9	14	60,8	13	19,7	17	69,2	16	14,7	14	68,9	14	11,7	16
Beruni	22,6	15	125,6	7	23,2	14	71,1	15	14,3	15	84,2	11	9,5	12
Bozatau	22,5	16	130,8	6	20,6	16	192,1	2	17,4	12	109,3	4	9,1	11
Ellikkala	27,5	13	94,3	11	32,6	6	82,5	14	12,0	16	69,5	13	11,0	15
Kegeyli	30,3	8	101,6	9	30,2	9	139,2	4	19,1	8	70,9	12	8,0	9
Muynak	27,9	11	46,5	17	31,3	8	138,9	5	25,0	2	97,5	7	6,6	4
Nukus	31,6	5	56,4	15	58,4	2	162	3	23,6	3	97,6	6	6,2	2
Kanlikul	38,9	1	212,2	1	25,4	12	108,5	9	20,0	6	107,0	5	6,5	3
Karauzek	37,6	2	95,7	10	24,0	13	99,2	10	17,5	11	90,3	9	7,7	8
Kungrad	31,5	6	167,4	5	34,0	5	90,6	13	18,9	9	111,0	2	6,2	2
Takhiatash	28,0	10	174,8	3	49,0	3	56,2	17	16,6	13	61,7	15	10,0	13
Takhtakopir	30,0	9	49,3	16	31,6	7	255,7	1	20,8	5	110,0	3	7,1	6
Turtkul	27,6	12	122,9	8	20,8	15	96,2	12	11,4	17	58,2	16	10,1	14
Khodjeyli	33,5	5	169,0	4	27,3	10	121,6	8	21,5	4	90,2	10	6,8	5
Shumanay	34,3	3	59,0	14	25,9	11	131,4	6	19,2	7	91,1	8	7,5	7
Chimbay	33,9	4	88,5	12	37,4	4	123,5	7	18,4	10	68,9	14	8,2	10

The table was compiled by the author based on official statistical data from relevant organizations

republic in terms of indicators such as retail turnover per capita and the contingent of professional educational institutions (relative to the number of population). Khodjeyli district ranks 2nd–4th in the republic in terms of retail turnover per capita, professional education system contingent, provision of doctors, and number of public catering establishments (per 1,000 population), while it ranks 10th–12th in terms of preschool education coverage, school attendance, hospital beds, and provision of secondary medical personnel. From this, you can see which districts have a good level of provision of social infrastructure facilities or relevant specialists relative to the population, and which ones are relatively low.

At the same time, the lowest (last five) positions in the current ranking of the regions of the Republic of Karakalpakstan were found to be occupied by the southern districts of the republic and the Takhiatash district. Beruni district is in 12th place, Takhiatash - 13th, Turtkul - 14th, Ellikkala - 15th, and Amudarya district - 16th. Interestingly, the southern districts have significantly higher indicators in terms of population size and density, the level of development of the population settlement system and the network of service centers, and absolute indicators of social sectors compared to the northern districts of the republic, but when many indicators are taken in relation to the population, it is clear that their situation is lower than that of the northern districts. This means that the levels of infrastructure and personnel provision in the trade, education, and medical sectors of these districts are not commensurate with their demographic potential. This, of course, should be taken into account in the process of developing and implementing regional socio-economic policy measures.

Conclusions. In particular, Beruni district ranks 1st in the region in terms of preschool education coverage and 4th in terms of the number of trade and catering enterprises per 1,000 population, but ranks much lower (14th-15th) in terms of the volume of paid services per capita, the quality of school teachers, hospital beds, provision of doctors, and the capacity of outpatient and polyclinic institutions. The positions of Turtkul district are 3rd-4th in terms of the provision of trade and

catering enterprises and retail turnover per capita, and 15th-17th in terms of preschool education coverage, hospital beds, provision of doctors and paramedical staff. The positions of the Amudarya and Ellikkala districts among the districts of the republic are relatively good only in terms of provision with public catering establishments (2nd and 3rd places, respectively), while in most other indicators these districts are at the bottom of the rating. In Takhiatash district, the best indicators (compared to other districts) are the contingent of professional educational institutions and the provision of hospital beds, while in many other indicators (for example, coverage of preschool education, capacity of outpatient and polyclinic institutions, etc.) its situation occupies the weakest positions among the regions of the republic.

In other districts (Takhtakopir, Shumanay, Karauzek, Kegeyli, Chimbay, and Bozatau), the state of public service networks can be assessed as average in relation to the population. The relatively well-developed and relatively poorly developed areas of each can be directly seen in Table 1.

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