

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN CRIME IN FERGANA REGION

Mukhitdinov Ilhomjon Ikhtiyorjon og'li,

Basic doctoral student at Fergana State University

Annotatsiya: This article analyzes the regional differences in crime in the Fergana region and its differences across districts. Based on international and local experiences, regional factors affecting crime - population density, level of urbanization, economic situation, etc. - were considered. The structure of crime types reveals the predominance of property and economic crimes. At the end of the article, recommendations are given on crime prevention measures, taking into account regional characteristics.

Key words: crime, criminogenic factors, regional differences, Fergana region, crime rate, socio-demographic factors, transition zones.

РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЕ РАЗЛИЧИЯ ПРЕСТУПНОСТИ В ФЕРГАНСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ

Мухитдинов Илхомджон Ихтиёржон ўғли,

**Базовый докторант Ферганского
государственного университета**

Аннотация: В статье анализируются региональные различия преступности в Ферганской области и её различия по районам. На основе международного и местного опыта рассмотрены региональные факторы, влияющие на преступность: плотность населения, уровень урбанизации, экономическое положение и др. Структура видов преступлений выявляет преобладание имущественных и экономических преступлений. В конце статьи даны рекомендации по мерам профилактики преступности с учётом региональных особенностей.

Ключевые слова: преступность, криминогенные факторы, региональные различия, Ферганская область, уровень преступности, социально-демографические факторы, транзитные зоны.

Crime is one of the most pressing social problems in the world today, and its negative impact is felt in all aspects of society. Despite the changing dynamics and manifestations of crime, the criminogenic situation in many countries remains serious. In order to develop effective measures to combat crime, it is necessary to thoroughly study all aspects of this phenomenon, especially its territorial characteristics. In recent years, the study of geography has increasingly focused on the regional analysis of crime, and a field called "geography of crime" has emerged. Foreign studies show that the specific social structure of the urban environment plays an important role in the location and spread of crime. For example, sociologists from the Chicago School have found that crime rates are consistently high in the so-called "transition zones" of the central part of the city (areas inhabited by migrants and the poor). This is attributed to factors such as the instability of the social environment in these areas and the lack of control.

Since the Fergana region is one of the most densely populated and economically active regions of Uzbekistan, it is important to analyze the criminogenic situation there. The region has a population of over 4 million and has one of the highest population densities in the republic (600 people per km²). There are 15 districts and 4 large cities (Fergana, Kokand, Margilan, Kuvasoy) within the region, which differ in the level of socio-economic system, demographic composition and location. Therefore, it is necessary to study the territorial factors that contribute to the crime rate in Fergana region and how they affect it. The purpose of this study is to analyze the level and differences in crime by region (districts and cities) in the Fergana region, identify the factors affecting them, and determine measures appropriate to regional characteristics.

Literature review and methodology

International experiences. The first scientific studies on the geography of crime appeared in Europe in the 19th century, aimed at mapping crime statistics and linking them to social factors. For example, the French scientist A. Quetelet showed a connection between crime rates and illiteracy and poverty. During the

20th century, many studies on urban crime were conducted in the USA and Europe. The aforementioned representatives of the Chicago School (E. Burgess, C. Shaw, H. McKay, etc.) proposed the idea of dividing cities into criminogenic zones. According to their theory of social disorganization, crime is higher in poorer areas near the city center due to the social disorganization.

In recent decades, the practice of analyzing crime using interactive maps and geographic information systems (GIS) has been widely used around the world. Through an approach known as “hot spot” analysis, areas where crimes are most common are identified and police resources are focused on these points. For example, the CompStat system, introduced in New York City, USA, analyzes the crime map every week, shows which districts have increased crime, and takes prompt measures on this basis. As a result, the effectiveness of the fight against crime increases thanks to scientifically based information.

Local studies. Although research has been conducted on some aspects of crime in Central Asia and Uzbekistan, there are very few studies that specialize in regional and geographical analysis. In recent years, there has been a growing need for a territorial approach in criminology in our country. Some scientific studies have begun to classify factors affecting crime and analyze regional differences. For example, A. Kayumov and others systematized factors affecting crime and divided them into demographic (age structure, gender), social (unemployment, education level), economic (income, migration), and territorial (location, infrastructure) groups of factors. There are also researchers who have directly addressed the issue of regional crime in the case of Fergana region. In particular, N.K. Komilova and B.Kh. Makhmudov (2020), who studied the types and territorial differences of crimes in Fergana region, analyzed the differences in crime rates in the region by district [3]. Their research noted that the majority of crimes are property crimes, and that crime is high in the city of Fergana and industrialized districts. Also, B.Kh. Makhmudov (2023) conducted a special study on the territorial study of the criminogenic situation in the city of Kokand, identifying neighborhoods of the city

where crime is most common [4]. These neighborhoods were declared “red zones” and additional preventive measures were taken in them, which showed the practical effectiveness of this approach.

Methodology. This study used statistical, comparative, and cartographic methods to study the territorial distribution of crime in the Fergana region. Initially, a dynamic analysis of crimes in the region in recent years was carried out. For this, official data from the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Prosecutor General's Office systems for 2018–2022 were obtained. Annual growth/decline indicators of the number of crimes and the crime rate per 100 thousand population were calculated. Crime indicators (absolute number and per 100 thousand population) for each district and city of Fergana region were analyzed and compared. In this process, the number of crimes in each region of the region, their composition (predominance of which types of crimes) and growth rates were considered comparatively.

To gain a deeper understanding of regional differences, GIS technologies and cartographic methods were used. An electronic map of the region was created based on crime statistics, and the crime rate of each area was visualized using a color gradient (high - red, medium - yellow, low - green, etc.). Thematic maps were also created on factors affecting crime - population density, level of urbanization, unemployment, etc. By comparing these maps, the relationship between crime and socio-demographic factors was analyzed regionally. For example, comparing the crime rate map with the population density map confirmed that high crime rates are observed mainly in densely populated areas.

In addition, the study used a typological approach to classify districts and cities of Fergana region into groups based on criminogenic characteristics. To do this, demographic (population size and density), socio-economic (level of urbanization, employment), and territorial (geographical location, border situation) indicators of each region were aggregated and analyzed. Based on the degree of similarity of these indicators, three main clusters (groups) were distinguished: 1)

highly urbanized urban areas; 2) moderately urbanized mixed economy districts; 3) low-urbanized agricultural areas. The specific aspects of crime (the most common types of crime, risk factors) in the areas included in each cluster were analyzed separately. This approach allows us to categorize areas according to crime risk and determine appropriate measures for them.

Results and discussion

The distribution of crimes among the districts and cities of Fergana region is uneven. Large cities - Fergana, Kokand, Margilan - occupy the leading positions in terms of the number of crimes. For example, in 2019, Fergana city accounted for about 31% of all crimes recorded in the region, while Kokand city accounted for 25%. Within districts, crime rates are higher in densely populated and partially urbanized districts. For example, in 2021, densely populated districts such as Bagdod, Oltiariq, and Qoshtepa recorded 700-900 crimes per year, while Sokh district, one of the most remote and small districts, recorded only 100 crimes. This means that there are large differences in the number of crimes within the region: while thousands of crimes occur in some cities per year, some remote rural districts record only a few cases.

Level of urbanization and population density. The significant difference in crime rates between urban and rural areas is a phenomenon documented in scientific literature. The example of Fergana region also confirmed that crime rates are higher in highly urbanized areas. The largest cities of the region - Fergana, Kokand, Margilan - are the most densely populated areas, with thousands of people per km² in these cities, and in Fergana city - 2,126 people/km². Dense and large population, on the one hand, means a high level of urbanization, and on the other hand, it leads to a weakening of social control and anonymization of the environment. The results of the study showed that in the Fergana region, the most densely populated urban areas also have the highest crime rates. These areas have more opportunities to commit crimes: the crowding of people facilitates crimes such as theft and pickpocketing, and since property wealth is more concentrated in

cities, crimes such as robbery are committed in the hope of "big booty". On the contrary, in rural areas, due to the sparse population and stronger social control, crimes are less common.

Socioeconomic factors. One of the important factors affecting crime is employment and income levels. Among the studied regions, although the population of industrialized and service-oriented cities (Fergana, Kokand) has a high employment rate, it is precisely these cities that receive a large number of people from other regions looking for work. Unemployment and labor migration can increase the tendency to commit crime, since some individuals left without income are likely to resort to crimes such as theft or fraud. In terms of regional districts, crime rates in industrial and mixed economy districts are average, neither the highest nor the lowest. For example, the population of Bagdad district is partly employed in industry and partly in agriculture, and the urbanization level is 51%. The crime rate in this district is average, with some property crimes and domestic violence.

An analysis of the types of crimes committed in Fergana region shows the predominance of property crimes (theft, robbery, fraud, etc.). According to the average indicators of recent years, about 60% of the crimes detected in the region fall under property and economic crimes. The share of crimes involving the use of force (murder, assault, causing bodily harm) is 15%, and the share of drug-related crimes is -8%. The rest is other types of crimes (for example, corruption, crimes related to vehicles, environmental crimes, etc.). This structure is close to the average for the republic, and in Uzbekistan more than half of the crimes are property crimes.

From a territorial perspective, property crimes occupy a larger share in urban areas. In the case of the cities of Fergana and Kokand, theft and robbery constitute the main part of all crimes in these cities. The cities of Margilan and Kuvasai are also in the lead in terms of house and property thefts, as well as fraud crimes. In the districts, the share of property crimes is slightly lower, and in some rural

districts a significant part of the crimes committed are offenses against the person arising from family disputes.

The above analysis shows that crime in Fergana region is manifested with significant regional differences. The high crime rate in densely populated and urban areas is not only a local observation, but also a trend observed throughout the world. It is emphasized in scientific literature that factors such as unemployment, migration, and alienation among young people in cities create an environment “inciting” to crime. Similarly, although crime is curbed in remote villages due to strong social control, weak economic development and isolation can sometimes lead to serious conflicts. Therefore, constant monitoring of the regional criminogenic situation and identification of “red” and “green” zones are important.

Conclusion. A study conducted in the Fergana region confirmed that the territorial distribution of crime rates is extremely uneven. The number and indicators of crimes are high in the region's large cities, and the "center of gravity" of crime is mainly in urban agglomerations. It was found that property crimes, youth offenses, and drug-related crimes are more common in densely populated, urbanized areas.

To reduce regional disparities in crime, it is necessary to implement comprehensive preventive and socio-economic measures, taking into account the specific problems of each region. This will help ensure stability in Uzbek society and curb crime.

References:

1. Rost24 axborot sayti. “Qaysi hududlar O‘zbekistonning ‘jinoyat markazlari’ hisoblanadi?” 2023-yil 17-may.
2. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi hukumat portali (old.gov.uz). “Farg‘onada xotin-qizlar va yoshlar o‘rtasidagi jinoyatlarga mutasaddilar befarq bo‘lmoqda”. 2021-yil 24-iyul.

3. Komilova N.K., Maxmudov B.X. “Farg‘ona viloyatida jinoyatchilik turlari va hududiy tafovutlari”. *Geografiya: tabi‘at va jamiyat* ilmiy jurnali, 2020-yil, №4, 38-43-betlar.
5. UNAFEI (United Nations Asia and Far East Institute). “Crime and Society: Population Density and Crime Rates” (veb-maqola).
6. Statistika ma’lumotlari. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Statistika agentligi va Bosh prokuratura tizimi hisobotlari (2018–2023 yillar).