THE SECTION 2

PROSPECTS OF (SUB)URBANIZATION AND SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUSSIAN CITIES

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DOI 10.31554/978-5-7925-0571-1-2019-2-171-177

SUBURBS OF LARGE RUSSIAN FAR EASTERN CITIES: TERRITORIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT (CASE OF VLADIVOSTOK)*

The research studies the problems of territorial and demographic development of suburbs of large Russian cities of the Far East. As the main object of research we selected Vladivostok city district and its suburban island territories, specifically-Russian island. The analysis of the studied problem was carried out on the basis of official statistics and sociological methods (questionnaire survey, narrative interview). The state and contradictions of modernization of Vladivostok island suburbs are considered in the context of the specifics of the geographical location, demographic, social and cultural aspects of people's life permanently living on Russian

* The study was carried out with the financial support of the RFBR within the framework of the scientific project No. 19-011-00768 «Life on the frontier: migration and mobility in the frontier».

island. Territorial development of island suburban territories should be built not only on the basis of attracting attention to the Far East as a strategic and priority object for the development of socio-economic and socio – political relations, but also taking into account the "living" problems of the Far East residents - "islanders", whose range is quite wide and diverse.

Keywords: regional and territorial development; demographic processes; Far East; Vladivostok city district; island territories; suburbs.

Vladivostok is one of the main participants in the new regional policy of Russia, which is associated with the general goal of developing the Far East, set by President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin: "Today we see the future of the Far East as one of the key centers of socio-economic development of the country, which should be effectively integrated into the rapidly developing Asia-Pacific region as a whole" [*Actualization of the strategy...* 2017].

In recent years the capital of Primorye has become a real testing ground for working out new ideas for the development of the economy, social sphere and management, implemented in the pilot version in the Far East [see for details: *Federal law No. 119-FZ "On the Far Eastern hectare"; Federal law No. 212-FZ "On the free port of Vladivostok"; Federal law No. 473-FZ "On the territories of advanced socio-economic development in the Russian Federation"*]. At the same time, we should not forget that when planning and conducting urban economy, industrial and civil construction, it is important to take into account the presence of a large number of transport and industrial enterprises, the peninsular geographical position of the city, the mountainous terrain. Vladivostok city district occupies the territory of Muravyov-Amur Peninsula, Peninsula Peschany and about 50 islands of Peter the Great Bay. In addition to Vladivostok, it is composed of the following settlements: the village Beregovoye, the village Popov, settlement Reyneke, settlement Russky, the village Trudovoye. Three out of five mentioned suburban areas are island areas.

Due to the shortage of land on the mainland of Vladivostok the authorities, developers, home buyers, ordinary citizens are increasingly paying attention to the island territories, among which the island Russky is the most attractive. The road bridge over the Eastern Bosphorus Strait, built in 2012, provides land communication with the Russky, while the Islands of Popov and Reineke are connected to the mainland only by ferry. At the same time, the status of the island Russky is ambiguous. It is defined as "a point of

growth for the entire Far Eastern region, a major center of international cooperation with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region", as a "satellite city", as a "territory of advanced development", etc. [see for details: *Boikov* 2014; *Krupnov* 2014; *Tretyak* 2015]. In all the above definitions, the current position of the island is fixed as much as its prospective state.

Prospects of territorial development are presented in detail in the "Concept of development of the island Russky» [see for details: *Order Of the government of the Russian Federation of May 30, 2017 No. 1134-R*], the implementation of which is planned in two stages: stage I-2017-2022; stage II-2023-2027. The first stage involves the construction of the Vladivostok ring road infrastructure (the bridge Vladivostok – Elena island, the bridge Elena island – Saperny Peninsula) and a road bridge over Novik Bay with a trunk road providing access to infrastructure facilities located on the main part of the island Russky. The planned facilities of the first stage are: the international cooperation center, diamond center, nuclear medicine center, tourist and recreation facilities (natural complex of island Russky, the Patriot Park, a multipurpose family center with a water park and tourist complex "Vladivostok fortress"), shopping areas, innovation and cultural center.

Thus, the territorial development of Russky as an island suburb of Vladivostok provides for the establishment of the international scientific-educational and production cluster with the implementation of auxiliary functions (residential, shopping, hotel, office, recreational, social), linking them together and development of the city as a whole.

However, according to experts, only about 30 % of the island's area is actively used today, mainly the territory of the Saperny Peninsula [*Shatina* 2017]. An even more pressing issue that prevents the development of Russky is that the entire territory of the island is in the forbidden zone of a military facility – the Vladivostok forestry of the Ministry of defense. In addition, part of the island belongs to the protected areas of natural monuments of regional importance-geological faults Tobizinsky, Anisiysky, Chernyshevsky, where it is prohibited to conduct economic activities.

There are also many social problems faced by the "islanders". At present, the population of the island Russky has increased significantly. If in 2010 it was 4703 people. [*The population of Russia ...* 2010], by now it reaches about 15 000 people. This rapid growth was due to the construction and putting residential areas of the campus of the Far Eastern Federal

University into service. Today, the campus is home to about 10,500 permanent residents, the vast majority of who are students [*Figures and facts* 2019].

The student population living on Russky island is of particular interest, as this social group can be defined as educational migrants. And educational migration is one of the most desirable migration channels for Primorsky Krai, thus, economic, geopolitical and socio-demographic effects are ensured. The latter include an increase in youth groups in the age structure of the population, the replenishment of labor resources, also including highly qualified specialists.

That is why we found it expedient to conduct a study identifying how comfortable is living on the campus of FEFU for students. The study was exploratory conducted in March-April 2019.

The main method of collecting information is a questionnaire. The sample population is quota. We selected gender and region of origin of students as the quota characteristics. The total volume of the sample was 225 people.

Let us move on to the description of the main results of the study. When choosing an educational institution, students are often guided by quite pragmatic motives. In particular, they note comfortable living conditions (60.7 % of respondents). But at the same time they demonstrate a desire to combine comfort with other characteristics, in particular with high quality education. We can say that the motives of students associated with the choice of university are not purely pragmatic, focused only on convenience and comfort, they take into account the content and conditions of the educational process.

Almost all nonresident students (95 %) live in hostels on Russky island. But 24.6 % of students who took part in our study indicated the presence of housing problems: the complexity of the procedure for obtaining a place in the hostel; the need to vacate the room for the summer holidays; domestic difficulties (interruptions in hot water, elevators, etc.). 18.9 % noted the inability to access health services.

Also, the employees of the university who do not have permanent registration on the territory of Vladivostok urban district can get a place in the hostel. At the present, the FEFU campus is home to about 300 teachers, representatives of administrative and managerial staff [The city on the island 2016]. We supplemented the results of the questionnaire survey of students with narrative interviews with research and teaching staff living in campus dormitories. As informants, 18 people from among the teaching staff agreed

to participate in the study, as the main quota feature we relied on the following socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents: family status (married) and the presence of children.

For all the variety of topics described by the interviewees in their narratives the most recurring was the story that the residential environment of the campus did not meet the needs of families with children at all. All informants note the almost complete lack of access to the services of pre-school and general education institutions (or its significant restriction). There is neither kindergarten nor school on campus. Informants have a lot of complaints to the organization of everyday life of families with children living on campus as well. Almost all of them pointed out that the living areas function on the principle of hotels, there are often no conditions to meet basic needs (cooking, washing, etc.). Here are some quotes illustrating the situation : *«... of course, there are many pluses , two steps to work ... But life kills everything... There is no washing machine in our room, you need to go to the Laundry, which is located in the next building...»* (I1, a woman, married, 29 years old); *«... we have a baby... the range of baby food in stores on campus leaves much to be desired... And the room does not even provide the opportunity to warm up the food properly , get out as we can...»* (I14, a man, 36 years old). Other difficulties are also noted: restriction of access to medical care, problems in the sphere of transport accessibility, etc. Thus, according to the opinion of students and university staff residing there, it can be stated that the attractiveness of the Russky Island as territory for life is not at the desired level.

In general, it can be concluded that the territorial development of island suburban territories should be built not only on the basis of attracting attention to the Far East as a strategic and priority object for the development of socio-economic and socio-political relations, but also taking into account the "living" problems of the Far East residents - "islanders", whose range is quite wide and diverse.

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