

**SOCIAL, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STATE OF UKRAINE'S
POPULATION. SETTLEMENT DIFFERENTIATION**

Considering urban society as a special sphere of human activity has become characteristic of socio-cultural paradigm in urban sociological research. The common feature of such research is the phenomenon of such mode of life, which reflects society pattern in terms of labour division and differentiation of economic roles when high level of production technologies, high social mobility, interdependence of social actors in exercising economic functions lead to depersonalisation and individualisation of social relations.

Keywords: urbanisation, sub-urbanisation, big city, trust, comfort.

Розгляд міського соціуму як особливого ареалу діяльності людства став характерним для соціокультурної парадигми соціологічних досліджень міста. Спільною рисою цих теорій є розгляд феномену урбаністичного способу життя, який відображає організацію суспільства з точки зору комплексу розподілу праці та диференціації економічних ролей, коли високий рівень технологізації виробництва, висока соціальна мобільність, взаємозалежність соціальних суб'єктів у здійсненні економічних функцій призводять до знеособлення та індивідуалізації у соціальних відносинах.

Ключові слова: урбанізація, субурбанізація, велике місто, довіра, комфорт.

Рассмотрение городского социума как особого ареала деятельности человечества стало характерным для социокультурной парадигмы в социологических исследованиях города. Общей чертой этих теорий является рассмотрение феномена урбанистического образа жизни, который отражает организацию общества с точки зрения комплекса разделения труда и дифференциации экономических ролей, когда высокий уровень технологизации производства, высокая социальная мобильность, взаимозависимость социальных субъектов в осуществлении экономических функций приводят к обезличиванию и индивидуализации в социальных отношениях.

Ключевые слова: урбанизация, субурбанизация, большой город, доверие, комфорт.

After the 1-st industrial revolution fast growth of population in big cities of western society had a certain impact on people's mode of communication and life.

This phenomenon is referred to as urbanism, a term that was used by L. Virt to show specific features of urban social life [1]. It is the problem of influence of urban factors on man's mental world that is a topical subject of investigation in the field of sociology and social psychology.

Consideration of urban society as specific sphere of human activity has become characteristic of social cultural paradigm in urban sociological research. The common feature of such research is the phenomenon of urbanism as a mode of life which reflects society pattern in terms of job division and differentiation of economic roles when high level of production technologies, high social mobility, interdependence of social actors in pursuing economic functions lead to individualization in social relations. According to Giddens as far back as at the end of 20-th century the population growth resulted in the growth of big cities and farmers migration from villages and small towns [2, C. 557]. Rural residents were moving to big cities as well as they are migrating now. Big cities looked very attractive and had great advantages – job, welfare, wide range of goods and services. Moreover, big cities were becoming the centers of financial and industrial power. Sometimes new city districts were constructed on bare ground, especially in the United States. For example, the territory of today's Chicago was rather uninhabited but by 1900, its population was 2 million. With great urban agglomerations appearing in the 18th century opinions about the cities influence on human thinking behavior stereotypes have differed and nothing has changed ever since. By the end of 19-th century with big cities growing, life conditions of poor people were horrible. We know many examples in fiction literature which describe the life in poor districts in London East-End or in Chicago of 1870's. All these facts supported the theory of those who believed that big city is the "Hell" full of crowds of suspicious and aggressive people.

The gap between rich and poor districts was so huge that it caused scientists to investigate these contradictions. Thus, a push was given to extensive sociological research devoted to the life in modern big cities. The first research was carried out in Chicago, the city of fast economic growth and the most dramatic contrasts. (Chicago school of Urbanism) [3, C. 9].

Life in a big city is accompanied with a lot of noise, pollution, transport, haste which results not only in physical exhaustion but also in mental stress of an individual.

Here we would like to trace the differences between residents of big cities and small towns in their expectations, aspirations, fears and will try to compare their physical and mental health.

We consider the results of “Social Monitoring 2016” (Ukraine), distribution is made according to settlement type, where big cities have the population more than 250.00, small city up to 250,00 and villages.

Let consider people’s fears illustrated in the *table 1*.

Table 1

What are people most afraid of? By type of settlement (%)

	<i>Big cities</i>	<i>Small cities</i>	<i>Villages</i>
Crime rising	59,8	49,7	47,4
The influx of refugees, displaced people	25,3	19,0	17,9
Hunger	43,4	37,2	39,9
Cold in the apartment	35,4	28,6	24,8
Infections dangerous to life	22,8	20,3	28,0
Afraid of nothing	0,5	0,9	1,9

Here we see the situation, where population of big cities feel more scared. Indexes of fear of crime growth are the highest in big cities (59,8%). But we should remember that crime level was one of the factors leading to suburbanization which started in the U.S. and Western Europe in 60-s- — 70-s. Of 20-th century. In big cities people are more afraid of hunger (43,4%) and cold (35,4%) while infections seem to be more critical for rural dwellers (28,0%) than for city residents (22,8%). It may result from lack of information and low level of health care. As to the problem of refugees and resettlers which is one of the most urgent problems in Europe and in the World, rural residents feel less worries of it (17,9%) than big city residents (25,3%).

It is also interesting to see to what extent people trust each other, for example their neighbors (*see table 2*).

Here we conclude that peopleless trust their neighbors in small towns (11,3%), and villages (11,0%), than in big cities (9,4%). This may be explained by the fact that in big cities people don’t know their neighbors well enough therefore the degree of their trust (Mostly trust) is less (47,7%) than that of rural residents (51,5%) because on to trust is easier than to trust somebody whom you know not well. But both settlements

Table 2

To what extent do you trust your neighbors? (%)

	Big cities	Small cities	Villages
Do not trust	2,3	5,0	3,7
Mostly do not trust	9,4	11,3	11,0
Hard to say	28,8	27,2	23,1
Mostly trust	47,7	48,1	51,5
Completely trust	11,9	8,4	10,8

show considerable distrust in people on the whole. These conclusions are supported by figures from another distribution of answers to the question: "The feeling when you almost always can not trust most of people". Big cities (10,8%), small cities (9,4%), villages (8,0%).

When emotional state of city or rural dwellers is concerned it is worth noting the German sociologist Georg Simmel who was one of the first to describe what he called the "blasñ" attitude of the city-dweller – a kind of psychological indifference that was necessary if a person's nerves were to copewith the end lessnoise and stimulation of city life. He believed that high irritability (nervousness) of life is typical of big cities which results from fast and lasting change of internaland external impressions. City residents are permanently affected by factors irritating nervous system such as various noises, lights, whistles etc. – all common to city life – that make person respond quickly.

Urban resident according to Simmel, creates a kind of personal defense against dangerous tendencies and contradictions of a big city environment. On the other hand, due to cosmopolitanism existingin a big city an individual received more freedom. Meanwhile in a big city society primary social relations are being ruined and people are standing more and more alone and living a sheltered life. Thus, big cities compared to small towns are characterized by more signs of noninvolvement, latent alienation mental disorder, suicides and more homeless people. That is the cost of personal freedom in a big city. But the other side of the coin is the quantity, density and diversity of population. In fact, the increase of each member's importance and therefore, to segmentation and formalization of human relations.

As far as emotional state of Ukrainians is concerned, let us look at the data of monitoring research 2016 dealing with

each kind of emotional state (moods and aspirations) in different settlements (*table 3*).

In this case we can note that rural people express the highest level of optimism (33,7%), while urban residents are more pessimistic (8,4%). This can be explained by several reasons: Rural residents are not so deeply interested in such things as politics and economics; in more calm rural conditions people feel less stress or irritation and are more inclined to optimism. Such situation may be connected, according to Simmel, with the fact that intellectual and rational type of the world of spirit prevails in big cities while in small towns and villages spiritual life is based mainly on emotional state. The similar situation is with “anxiety” factor, it is much lower in rural area (28,1%) than in big cities (34,7%). “The interest” is higher in cities (16,0%) than in rural area (14,1%). While “Satisfaction” is practically the same in all areas: rural (3,5%), big cities (3,9%), but in small towns a little bit lower (2,8%). As far as “Hope” is concerned, all types of dwellers see their future practically in the same way.

When considering the factor “State of health” (*see table 4*) in villages it is thought to be “Bad” by (17,0%) of people, in big cities – by (14,8%) and in small towns by (19,5%). The situation can be explained by the fact that medical care in small cities is worse and is less available compared with a big city. While in villages, people are used to pay less attention to their

Table 3

What do you feel when thinking about your future? %

	Big cities	Small cities	Villages
Optimism	24,0	28,0	33,7
Indifference	0,7	3,6	1,2
Gladness	6,4	3,7	5,1
Desperation	10,5	9,7	8,2
Confidence	11,4	7,9	12,2
Perplexity	18,5	21,0	16,2
Satisfaction	3,9	2,8	3,5
Pessimism	8,4	6,0	6,6
Hope	45,2	47,8	45,9
Anxiety	34,7	34,8	28,1
The interest	16,0	14,2	14,1
Fear	21,2	15,6	15,7
Other	0,2	0,3	0,2
Hard to say	2,5	4,9	7,9

Table 4**How do you evaluate state of your health?**

	Big cities	Small cities	Villages
Very bad	3,4	4,0	3,8
Bad	14,8	19,5	17,4
Satisfied	55,3	48,1	54,6
Good	24,0	24,8	21,6
Very good	2,5	3,6	2,6

health because they might feel healthier since birth and often doctor themselves.

People in cities and in villages have similar ratings in estimating their health as Satisfactory, which could be explained by the fact that in big cities people have more opportunity to take care about their health while in villages people take less care of their health due to the above reasons.

It is due to the changes in social relations that formalization of personal relations has extended. Differentiation of economic sources of earning in urban society gave an impulse to creative activity. Various kinds of creative activities are reflecting peculiarities of a big city where satisfying primary and material requirements contributed to self – actualization of the individual's cultural needs which demonstrate specific conditions of people's living comfort. Thus, it is interesting to consider answers to the question about: "The importance of the following things for you personally" : widening your personal horizons, involvement in cultural sphere (through arts, artistic activity, hobbies etc.) (*see table 5*).

As to "involvement in cultural sphere", this indicator is higher in big cities (44,7%) than small cities and villages. While "widening cultural horizons" is more important for small city dwellers (30,9%) than for big city residents (29,7%). Difference is small but it still exists. For example, in small towns people read more (19,9%) than in big cities (14,8%) and villages (12,5%). More people visit theaters, museums, concerts, exhibitions in big cities (6,8%) than in small towns (3,7%) or villages (3,5%). But more people in villages usually go to restaurants and night clubs (8,2%) than in small cities (5,7%) and big cities (8,2%). Naturally, there are much more theatres and museums in big cities but even such percentage (6,8%) is very small for big cities (compared with those in European

Table 5

**To what extent is it important for you personally:
widening your personal horizons, involvement in cultural
sphere (through arts, artistic activity, hobbies etc.)?**

	Big cities	Small cities	Villages
Not important	1,1	2,0	1,7
Rather not important	7,5	7,3	5,6
Hard to say	16,9	17,0	22,6
Rather important	44,7	42,8	42,9
Very important	29,7	30,9	27,3

countries.) Which means that culture is declining. Currently in Kiev Opera House we can meet mainly tourists or foreigners.

Recently according to UN data estimations since 1965 the rate of population growth has dropped but the number of people in cities continues to grow.

The result of population density increase is the increase of various (both positive and negative) effects, because violent struggle for space is under way and the common tendency of utilising certain lands with the greatest possible profit is quite obvious. For example, the place of work is becoming less connected with the place of residence because the vicinity of industrial and commercial facilities makes such territory unsuitable for living (in social and economic aspects).

Differences in providing various groups of people with housing, utilities, transport, medical service and entertainment significantly affects the life satisfaction feeling. Of people in Ukraine people from villages move to big cities to get job. In rural area the situation with medical care, education, employment is the worst. Thus, overall it must be noted that according to the results of settlement differentiation of social-mental state of Ukrainian population the state of megapolices residents is much better than that of rural residents.

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