

Social Consequences of Environmental Risks in Modern Society

Kim Larisa Antonovna

Senior lecturer of the department "Social and humanitarian disciplines" of the Almalyk branch Tashkent Technical University, Republic of Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT The article analyzes environmental risks and their social consequences in the context of the problems of a modern industrial city. Their specific features are analyzed, the typology and methodology of sociological research of the social consequences of environmental risks are substantiated. It is emphasized that environmental risks are twofold: on the one hand, they carry an objective component of danger, the probability of an undesirable outcome in the final field of variability of the development of events, on the other hand, subjective assessments and perception of this probability, formed in the context of the existing spatial, infrastructural and socio-ecological conditions.

KEYWORDS: environmental risk, environmental threat, social tension, social consequences, quality of life

Introductory part. Environmental problems are extremely relevant for modern Uzbekistan. In practice, issues of the state of the environment are often perceived by the population as far from being of the first importance. This is due to many factors, primarily of a psychological and social nature: the damage caused by such phenomena, as a rule, is relatively invisible due to the length in time and is practically not directly recorded by the senses in any way.

In the same way, they are not reflected in the everyday practices of social interaction until they begin to take on a catastrophic nature [3, P.136]

The environmental threat in the form of gradual pollution of the environment does not violate the usual order of things for most models of significant social interactions. Risks were organically integrated into the system of ideas of the urban man in the street about the world, and were institutionalized in all spheres of public life. Since the risks in the social environment are unevenly distributed, they provoke the development of differentiated adaptation strategies, depending on experience, abilities and resources, social networks, which include individuals and social groups [5. S. 358-378]. As noted by O.N. Yanitskiy: "today the state of a critical, that is, emergency, situation is the norm, routine of the state of a social organism" [6, p. 6].

Environmental risks are built into the structure of risks for the population, leading to specific social consequences. A feature of the modern stage is that risks (regardless of their origin) become ubiquitous, hardly predictable and chaotic, and also constantly lead to a variety of conflict situations [7. S. 5-24].

Insufficient development of the culture of risk management causes negative sentiments and the formation of ritualism in the behavior of individual services and committees, which, finding themselves in a situation of lack of demand, cease to perform critical functions. The population of medium and small towns suffers especially badly, as they lack the influence of professional associations of environmental human rights defenders. Only the largest organizations of the international level survive, but they also find themselves under threat and face the risks of degradation of their own functionality and competitiveness.

Environmental risks are of particular importance for regions where inconsistency of centralized management, constant monitoring and control can significantly undermine the possibilities of sustainable development. The economic prosperity of the region, as a basic strategy, often sacrifices environmental protection, which in turn has a direct relationship to public health and quality of life.

Latent social tension, which can escalate into conflict at any moment, remains a significant permanent factor. Social diagnostics of such risks and their interpretations is today one of the most important management tasks for the harmonious and sustainable development of society.

Methodology and research methods. The theoretical and methodological basis of the study was the concept of social risk and social change. The first was developed by such researchers as W. Beck, G. Behmann, E. Giddens, O.N. Yanitsky and others. In the study of risk, two main branches are traced, which

can be conditionally divided into objectivist and subjectivist approaches. Within the framework of the first branch, risk is assessed as a phenomenon associated with probability and reflecting the presence of a real danger. This group of theories received the greatest development in the works of W. Beck and E. Giddens.

Within the framework of the second branch, risk is understood as a subjective idea of the danger of certain groups of people, experts and communities, as a social construct or as part of cultural attitudes. This area includes the development of P. Berger and T. Luckmann, M. Foucault, J. Best, I. Yasaveev, as well as M. Douglas, K. Dyck and A. Wildafsky. The concept of social change was created by P. Štompka. Within the framework of this theory, it is assumed that the development of society consists of certain social changes, meaningfully presented as a change in the states, properties and connections of social systems. Each change can be realized as a becoming or as a trauma: it can be of a constructive or destructive nature. The alternation of states is of a systemic nature and concerns both institutions and formats of interactions, and behavioral structures.

During the study, general scientific methods were used - analysis, synthesis, the method of induction and deduction, as well as special methods of empirical research: descriptive, comparative and correlation analysis of statistical data, secondary analysis of the results of special sociological studies, case studies, document analysis, analysis of materials mass media (online media and electronic versions of print media).

Research results and discussion. The social consequences of environmental risks are a complex of social changes that functionally transforms over time in response to socio-cultural and economic changes in the country and the world.

Growing requirements for the quality of life [2]. inevitably increases public interest in relatively low risks, which are added to the list of already existing "classic" dangers. At home and in the workplace, for example, environmental problems such as noise, low light or vibration arise for a person. Vigilance and sensitivity grow in those cases where the line between norm and deviation is not quite obvious. In practice, this is expressed in such typical practice as tightening standards, which is directly a kind of tactics of growing existential security needs.

In modern conditions, the source of information about environmental risks for the majority is TV, the Internet and the print press, where the element of expertise may be absent or presented in a distorted form. The modern information society has turned the perception of perception upside down: an interpretation given through the right channel in an easy-to-read form is regarded as more real than that received from the senses or live communication.

Despite the striking differences in the ecological situation in the regions, which also affects the definitions in the mass consciousness, a number of typical social consequences of environmental risks are biased and pronounced, which is reflected both in the results of applied research and in the dynamics of social relations.

The first important point is the formation of an attitude towards negativism. In the overwhelming majority of mass polls, the environmental situation is assessed negatively.

The second trend is the risk of an increase in migration potential (an increase in the popularity of attitudes towards migration), at least in theory it is one of the significant and dangerous consequences of environmental risks. If in territories where technogenic and climatic factors of the environment pose a real threat to life, this factor becomes decisive, then for quieter territories it turns out to be only an additional incentive. Traditionally, this effect is tied to major disasters, where we are talking about environmental refugees or internally displaced persons with a very special social portrait and legal status.

In a broad sense, ecology includes all environmental factors, therefore, for example, seismically active territories lose their attractiveness, and regions with good natural and climatic conditions enjoy advantages.

The third trend is awareness of the impact of hazardous environmental factors on health. One of the most serious problems in this category is air pollution. Most of the urban population of Uzbekistan lives in conditions of high air pollution.

Air pollution belongs to the category of conventionally perceived risks, as opposed to, for example, background radiation. However, everything is not so simple here: the most harmful substances are often

odorless and do not introduce smoke when their concentration becomes dangerous. Therefore, by reducing the amount of hydrogen sulfide and iron scale impurities in the air, the company can achieve a decrease in social tension, while formaldehyde and benzapriene will remain in the atmosphere. Many organic carcinogens are not fixed by the sense organs, but their action is delayed and gradually accumulates. Therefore, such slow poisons have their consequences without affecting people's consciousness in any way, which, of course, poses an additional threat. The socially stereotypical concept of "clean air" has little to do with really safe air, with an atmosphere suitable for life. The common people still associate the cleanliness of the air with the number of green spaces and the presence of open spaces where it is "easier to breathe". It is well known since Jane Jacobs' analysis how far from reality is the myth that parks are the "lungs" of cities. [1. P.103].

From the point of view of the spatial aspect, the most clearly recognized environmental risks in the mass consciousness are produced within the urban environment, then industrial and natural. In urban conditions, the most noticeable factor is garbage collection. The problem of household waste disposal is very typical for cities.

Another product of a developed urban environment that invariably affects the environment is an increase in the number of cars, congestion of roads and bridges and, most importantly, traffic jams. Traffic jams are a fundamental environmental problem in the transport sector, since they simultaneously have a spatial dysfunctional effect and concentrate a huge number of exhaust gas sources in their epicenters.

The problem of traffic jams is not only an infrastructural problem, but a consequence of the crisis of overproduction and overconsumption. Today the car continues to function as a status attribute. In large cities, purchasing a car is a socially accepted practice, even if it does not provide any benefits for getting around. Traffic jams are becoming a problem not only in metropolitan areas, but also in relatively small cities with high incomes.

The presence of a large number of vehicles in a confined space always carries a physical and psychological stress for the townspeople. The content of the risk is that travel time becomes unpredictable, which limits the freedom of the individual.

The physical consequences of environmental disasters inevitably affect social well-being and public health. This influence is indirect and distributed relatively locally. The conceptualization of these consequences is largely based on the specific features of rehabilitation in each specific case. Research in this area suffers from a lack of specificity due to the difficulties in conducting expensive field work and the difficulty of conducting an adequate examination directly on the scene. By typology, natural ecological disasters are geological, hydrological, geophysical, biological and atmospheric. Technogenic, in turn, are physical, chemical, hydrodynamic, radiation and biological. This division is very conditional, since many catastrophes carry several consequences provoking each other in a chain reaction. [4.C.3].

Environmental risk gives rise to multiple adaptation strategies, which in modern conditions are transformed into problematization and de-problematization strategies. The quality of these strategies is determined by the level and specificity of the ecological culture of various social groups and communities.

Conclusions. Analysis and prediction of hazardous factors are necessary to assess the possibilities and prospects of urban development, which includes a single harmonious process of economic growth and improvement of social relations within the framework of natural, industrial and urban (infrastructure) environments. Environmental risks, among other factors, take a special place in the formation of the image and status of the territory, affect the quality of life and public health, and determine the degree of attractiveness of the territory for living.

The social consequences of environmental risks are those socio-political, socio-practical, sociocultural, socio-biological (physical), socio-demographic, socio-technical and other changes in systems that were caused by environmental risks. Such consequences can be managed without changing the risk factors.

The most significant social consequences of environmental risks are: a decrease in the self-esteem of public health, a deterioration in the self-esteem of the quality of life, a decrease in the attractiveness of a territory

for living, a deterioration in the reputation of a territory, a decrease in trust in business, government and the media, an increase in protest sentiments, the formation of negative attitudes and stereotypes, the emergence of conflicts between different groups of the population.

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