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Elyorbek Akramovich Tajimirzaev

Andizhan State University

Senior teacher at the department of the history of Uzbekistan

THE ACTIVITIES OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE VALLEY OF FERGHANA FROM 1960 TO 1980 (IN THE EXAMPLE OF LIBRARIES)

Abstract: The article covers the history of libraries in the villages of the Ferghana Valley in the 1960s and 1980s. In particular, the issues of libraries serviced for the villagers, their supply of books, and their logistical support are covered by archival materials and scientific literature on the subject.

Key words: library, book, village, collective farm, state farm, club, schoolchildren's literature, book fund.

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Introduction

The book is an integral part of the cultural development of society. Humanity is one of the determinants of cultural civilization. For centuries, the book has played a decisive role in the upbringing and mental development of the individual. A Scottish writer Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) noted on books' position for the development of the society as: "The book is a truly breathtaking and noteworthy view of human creation. The books live in the wisdom of the past; however, the voices of people whose soil has already been frozen are distinctly louder and clearer. Mankind has created, re-imagined, and all that he has achieved is preserved in the pages of books, like a magic box. The vast majority of all areas of human knowledge reside on paper, in books that are memories of personality" [1, P.10].

From ancient times until today, the book has been a treasure trove of knowledge in the lives of people in Central Asia, including the Ferghana Valley. Libraries play a key role in bringing this priceless treasure into people's minds. During the years of independence in our country complete changes are being implemented in all spheres. In particular, library-information services play a key role in the transformation of cultural and educational spheres. The law on further development of library system adopted by the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Information and Library Provision of

the Population of the Republic" dated June 20, 2006 [2 P.3.] No. 381, of February 23, 2013 "On Measures for Continuing the Qualitative Development of Information and Library and Information Resource Services on the Basis of Information and Communication Technologies during the years of 2011-2015" [2. P 30-31]. Decree No. 1487 and the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Information and Library Activity" dated April 11, 2011 [2. P.31.] have become important. Moreover, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan SH.M. Mirziyoev announced "Five key initiatives to improve the spirituality and organization of meaningful leisure time for youth" on March 19, 2019. The project of the Program of measures to increase the spirituality of youth, to popularize reading among them is aimed at the implementation of the objectives of the fourth initiative. The initiative is expected to deliver 1 million books to each region on fiction, historical, scientific and popular topics. It is also planned to reconstruct and overhaul information and library centers and open public libraries by entrepreneurs [3.]. The article describes the work done during the Soviet era in the rural areas of the country in the activities of libraries.

Research methods.

In the middle of the 50s of the XX century the problem of creation of the state public library in each

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rural soviet was solved in the republic, and each collective farm had created a network of collective libraries and collective libraries in collective farms [1.P.151]. The central executive committee decision of October 21, 1959 "On the state of library work in the republic and measures for its improvement" [1.P.152] was instrumental in the organization of library services for the rural population of Uzbekistan. The main purpose of the decision-making was to improve the cooperation of various network libraries. The reason was the problem of establishing a library network in the country was not fully resolved. If there were only one rural or collective farm library for 572 rural students across the country, then 362 students in grades 1-8 had one school library, meaning there were not enough libraries in rural areas. For example, there were no libraries in 220 settlements in Samarkand province, 298 in Fergana, and 600 in Surkhandarya. In rural areas, there were no libraries in primary or 8-year schools. In addition, the number of libraries available in the settlements was not the same. For example, in one settlement there were 8 libraries, and in other settlements there were no libraries [4.P.47.]. Of the 7,144 residential settlements in the country, 3,102 (each with more than 500 inhabitants) lacked libraries, and libraries close to these accommodations were located 5 km away [1. P.152-153.]. During the period under review, the condition of libraries' provision of children's literature was not satisfactory. The children's literary fund of the libraries was 2,610,967 copies, and each rural library had an average of 292 books. Each reader had an average of 2.2 copies of books. There were such rural children's libraries in the country with no more than 50 children's books. For example, the village libraries in the "Jambul" section of the "Organza" rural council of the "Politotdel" collective farm in the Upper Chirchik district of Tashkent region can be a clear example of such case.[4.P.48.]. The problem of providing libraries with children's literature was not only specific to the Ferghana Valley regions, but also to other regions of the country and to KASSR. For example, in 1970, 60-70% of students in rural libraries in KASSR were children, but only 15% of the book fund was children's literature [5. P.54.].

Even in the 1960s, there was a shortage of libraries in rural areas. For example, in 1963, 2073 rural schools in the country did not have a library. In particular, 485 out of 1,809 primary schools (26.8 percent) had libraries in 2,882 eight-year schools - 2,174 (75.4 percent) and 1,075 secondary schools - 1,075 (96.7 percent). In addition, the availability of bookstores by existing libraries was very low [6. P.65.]. In particular, libraries with 750 or more books accounted for 0.33 percent in primary schools, 19.2 percent in eight-year schools, and 60 percent in secondary schools. In primary schools, there were 0.17 books per pupil, 2.8 books in eight-year schools and 3.4 books in secondary schools. The situation was

particularly acute in rural areas in some regions of the country. Book provision of rural schools in KASSR was 54%, Surkhandarya region - 56%, Ferghana region - 57%. In some regions of the country, only 10-15% of the total number of students was involved in libraries. For example, in the eight-year rural school number 6 in Altyaryk district, Fergana region, there were 658 students, and only 29 were members of the school library. The buildings of the school libraries were not equipped with the necessary tools and library equipment [6. P.66.].

As early as 1966 a network of libraries began to appear in every major settlement, rural councils, state and collective farms. In particular, 1176 collective farms and 1109 club libraries were reorganized. In accordance with the decision of the Central Executive Committee of Uzbekistan "On measures to improve the work of cultural and educational institutions in rural areas" in 1968, these libraries began to be transformed into public libraries [1. P.153.]. However, in the late 1960s, clubs and libraries operating in the Andizhan region did not meet demand. Their material and technical base was very weak. Their equipment and tools failed to attract visitors because of their poverty. This is because the funds allocated to cultural and educational institutions were very small and cannot meet their real needs. In particular, most libraries had no book shelves, so they had to use their own handmade book shelves. An average of 220 rubles per year was allocated for capital repairs and purchase of equipment.

Another problem was the provision of rural libraries with literature written in Uzbek. In 1968, 65-70% of the literature in the rural and collective farm libraries in Andizhan region was in Russian, and 30-35% were literature in Uzbek. This made it difficult for rural families to access the book. In addition, the provision of children's literature to libraries was in poor condition. The need for such books was only 40-50%. Therefore, children's libraries did not know what kind of book they would give to their readers [7. P.14.].

In 1969, there were 203 collective farm libraries with 309,420 copies of book fund in the Fergana region. In 1969, these libraries received 55,968 books. They served 65,253 readers a year, which was 9566 more than in 1968. The readers were given 24,796 copies of books in various fields, of which 23,341 copies were composed of books about Lenin, the Bolshevik "god" [8. P.129.]. In libraries, special attention was paid to the promotion of Soviet propaganda. In particular, in 1969 the collective farms of the region had 6852 public events, including 1188 events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of V.I. Lenin [8. P.130.].

The situation in Namangan region was almost the same as in Andizhan and Fergana. In 1974, there were 455 libraries in the Namangan region with 2 million 201,000 books. During the first 9 months of

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1974, these libraries served 268,000 students. They were given 2 million 146,000 books, much more than in 1970 [9. P.106.]. The amount of funds allocated from the regional budget to increase the fund of the regional libraries was also increasing. For example, in 1974 the regional budget had allocated 2.5 times more money to buy books than in 1970. Only in 1973 it made up 34 thousand rubles, and in 1974 it constituted to 83 thousand rubles.

Although some progress had been made in this area, there had been serious problems. Another problem in this area was the lack of a network of stationary libraries. In 1974 there were 1 regional, 24 city, 14 district, 218 villages, 18 children, 10 clubs, 98 collective farms and 42 trade unions' libraries in Namangan. In 1974 there were no stationary libraries in more than 50 settlements of the region. Residents of these settlements had to use the services of small mobile libraries.

Another serious problem in the library sector was the weak material and technical base of libraries. Most libraries in the region were located in adapted buildings. The central library was not opened in Namangan due to lack of buildings. The district libraries, in particular, the libraries of Namangan, Turakurgan, Uchkurgan, Kosonsoy, Naryn districts, were in very narrow premises. All rural and collective farm libraries were unable to provide their work in the winter due to lack of heating systems [9. P.108.]. The regional library, which had 200,000 copies, was unable to stock its books in its building in 1973 [9. P.109.].

Collective libraries played a significant role in the period studied. In 1970 there were 99 collective farm libraries in Namangan region. One of the most well-functioning libraries in this collective library was the "Leningrad" collective farm library in Pap District, with a total of 3,846 copies of books. In 1970, there were 500 readers of the library, and they had asked for 3,448 books. During these years libraries of this kind also had been providing mobile services to the public. In 1970, the "Leningrad" collective farm library served seven mobile services and organized 14 public events on social and political issues. The collective farm library "Jdanov" in this district was also one of the region's largest collective libraries with over 2,730 books. There were 539 readers in the library and 5285 books were handed out that year. This library had provided 7 portable field trips and brigades and has organized 10 public events on various topics [8. P.74.].

In 1983, only 60% of rural librarians in Andizhan were educated in the field of library science, but 70% of them had secondary special education. At the beginning of the 1980s, rural libraries confessed a lack of specialized Uzbek literature on such subjects as cotton growing, selection and seed breeding, and the use of machines in cotton production [10. P.18.]. However, during this period most mobile libraries in

the rural libraries of Andizhan region were created. In the region libraries, on average, there are 6-7 mobile libraries, and in complex libraries there are 12-13 mobile libraries. Mobile libraries served almost half of the population [1. P.174.].

In 1982, the fund of the Andizhan regional libraries collected 667,100 copies of agricultural and technical literature, accounting for 11% of all books in the regional library (UzSSR - 10.7%). Issuance of production books to readers amounted to 13.8% of the total book issuance rate (9.7% in the Republic, 10.9% in the USSR) [10. P.23.]. On the other hand, regional libraries were not fully provided with books published in the country. In particular, only 70% of production-related books published by 1982 republican publications were delivered to the Babur Regional Library. Another disadvantage in this area was that the use of libraries for inter-library members was very low. For example, in 1982, only 4 out of 488 rural libraries in the Andizhan region used inter-library subscription [10. P.24.]. Of the 488 rural libraries in the region, 77% occupied an area of less than 50 square meters, and only 24% of the libraries had reading rooms [10. P.25.].

By the late 1980s, per capita book availability in the country had increased from 2.7 books to 4.3 books in rural areas. These figures were 5.6 books in the Andizhan region, 6.3 books in the Khorezm region, 4.5 in the Bukhara region, and 4.9 in the Tashkent region. The share of books in local languages was 42.5% of all publications, including 57.8% in rural libraries also reveal how much change the field had undergone [1. P.154.]. This process is also observed in the work of libraries. In 1970 the total number of libraries in the countryside was 4801, the book fund was 17 261 thousand, and by 1990 the number of libraries was 6,208, and the book fund was 49,074 3 thousand. In the cities in 1970, there were 1081 libraries, the book fund was 13,976 thousand copies, and in 1990, the libraries were 1,453, and the book fund was 38,652,800 copies. This is evidence of how the number of libraries and book collections in rural areas increased over the years [1. P.155.]. At the same time, the average rural libraries in the country were 1.8 times less than in the USSR, the club facilities were 3.8 times less, and cinema equipment was 2.8 times lower.

Inadequate access to cultural facilities for the rural population was due to the very limited funding available to the community. For example, in 1985 only 0.1% of public funds allocated for agriculture were allocated for the construction of cultural facilities. In spite of the small amount allocated, it has not been used fully. The Ministry of Construction and Contractors underestimated the role of the social sector and did not implement their plans. In 1981-1985, 8.51 million rubles were invested, of which only 6.63 million rubles or 78 percent were spent [11. P.25.].

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In conclusion, although the 1960s and 1980s, Ferghana Valley's rural areas had made some changes in the field of library service, the material resources of libraries were inadequate. Since most rural libraries were located in non-adapted buildings, it had caused some discomfort for readers. One of the reasons that made it difficult for every rural family to access the book was the fact that a large portion of the existing

books in the rural libraries were in other languages, and that there was a lack of local Uzbek literature. During the period under review, the availability of libraries for the rural population had increased considerably over the past 50 years, but we can see that the availability of libraries was far below than the average in the USSR.

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