

## Conference Paper

# Potential for Social Development of Rural Areas of Khakassia

**O.L. Luchnikova**

Khakass Scientific Research Institute of Language, Literature and History, Abakan, Russian Federation

### Abstract

This article explores the potential for social development in rural areas of Khakassia. The study identifies the crisis facing the contemporary countryside, connected with destruction of the agricultural sector by the agrarian reforms of the 1990s. Negative consequences are apparent in social, labor, cultural, household, even interpersonal areas of life. This study emphasizes the extensive potential of rural territories and focuses on the assessment of social development potential of rural territories of the Siberian region, particularly Khakassia; it can facilitate the sustainable development, and ensure a decent standard and quality of life for the rural population. The empirical base is statistical data and the sociological survey of the rural population of Khakassia in 2018.

Rural population of Khakassia is relatively stable in compare with the whole population in rural territories of Russia. Due to administrative and territorial transformations preservation of rural population of the region facilitates the conversion of the urban settlements to rural settlements, also due to ‘tightening’ of the population in large (especially suburban) settlements.

Depopulation of the rural population leads to the transformation of labor resources because of migration outflow, decline of employable population, and increase of pensioners. The general labor potential of this part of rural population is low due to a lower education level and forced need to work outside the profession.

The gender and age structure of rural population is unequal because of proportion of men and women. It correlates with marriage and birth rate; the decline of women of reproductive age (from 20 to 24 years) causes falling of marriages and fertility decline. The standard of living of the rural population of region is low. The evidence is complexity of access to medical care, decline of primary schools, elimination of cultural and leisure centers etc. Value orientations of the rural population change, for example, the values of well-being, comfort, and income become most important.

In our view, family farming plays an important role in the development of rural territories. Family farming (for example, sheep breeding) can be a main source of income of unemployed rural residents. Unfortunately, as per our survey, only one third of respondents are ready to engage in farming. In conclusion, the main potential for social development is human resources (preservation of rural population, increase of social activity, and family farming as a foreground source of income).

**Keywords:** potential, social development, rural territories, rural population, Khakassia

Corresponding Author:

O.L. Luchnikova  
 oltolt@mail.ru

Published: 21 January 2021

Publishing services provided by  
**Knowledge E**

© O.L. Luchnikova. This article is distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use and redistribution provided that the original author and source are credited.

Selection and Peer-review under the responsibility of the XXIII International Conference Conference Committee.

 **OPEN ACCESS**

## 1. Introduction

Contemporary Russian countryside is in a deep crisis. The origins of crisis are from the agrarian reforms of the 1990s, connected with the elimination of the collective-farm system and the transition to market principles of economic regulation. The results of these reforms led to the destruction of the whole agricultural sector. They affected negatively on all aspects of rural life: social, labor, cultural, household, and even interpersonal. The general result of all socio-economic transformations is a deep institutional change of contemporary countryside.

At the same time, most rural areas contain extensive natural, demographic, economic, historical and cultural potentials; the rational use of those can facilitate sustainable development, decent standard and quality of life for the rural population [18, p.6]. The problem is a question of realizing of this potential. Rural crisis affects all aspects of human existence (economic, labor, cultural, everyday spheres), therefore, the scientific problem of development of rural territories has a broad social meaning.

The article purpose is the assessment of social development potential of rural territories of the Siberian region – Khakassia.

## 2. Methodology and Methods

The empirical base is statistical data and the sociological survey of the rural population of Khakassia (residents aged 18 years and older). The survey was conducted in August and in September 2018 in each rural district of the region. The sample is quota, formed by two stages: at the first stage large and small settlements were randomly selected in each rural district, at the second stage rural residents of these settlements were randomly selected by gender and age. Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents are close to those of the general population by gender and age (n=1000). The survey method is a formalized interview at the place of residence. The sampling error was 3.09%. Data processing was performed using the IBM SPSS Statistics 19.

## 3. Results / Findings and Discussion

The decline of rural population is a general tendency in Russia, however the population of countryside of Khakassia is relatively stable (it varies between 150–170 thousands residents). The percentage of rural population of the region is 30.3 % (in comparison with 25.0 % in Russia as a whole) [9, p.37], [16, p.95] (table 1).

TABLE 1: Dynamic of rural population (2002–2019) [22, pp.348, 356], [12, pp.256, 304], [9, p.37], [5, p.15]

	2002	2010	2019
Russian Federation	26.7	26.3	25.4
Republic of Khakassia	29.2	32.7	30.3

Several factors affect the preservation of rural population of the region. Firstly, a large increase is due to administrative and territorial transformations, converting the urban settlements to rural settlements. Residents of these settlements joined the rural inhabitants. For example, the rural population of Khakassia increased by 9.4 % due to these reforms in the period from 2002 to 2010. Secondly, the increase is due to ‘tightening’ of the population in large (especially suburban) settlements. There is the process of enlargement of rural settlement (table 2). 68.7% of the rural population resides in large settlements with a population of more than 1001 people.

TABLE 2: The number of rural population in settlements with diverse size (2002–2010) [22, p.356], [12, pp.272–273]

Size of settlement, people	2002	2010
without population		
less than 6	–	–
6–10		–
11–25	5.9	0.2
26–50		0.4
51–100		1.1
101–200		4.0
201–500	11.6	9.7
501–1000	17.3	15.9
1001–2000	33.2	28.1
2001–3000	11.2	4.0
3001–5000		14.6
more than 5000	20.9	22.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Unfortunately, this source of population increase is limited. Residents of suburban territories aren’t rural in every sense of the word because of neighborhoods with the urban areas. In addition, medium and small settlements disappear. 42.0% of such settlements are located in areas of traditional habitation of Khakass people (Askiz and Tashtyp districts), where two-thirds of all rural Khakass people reside [4]. This situation threatens the preservation of the indigenous population, majority of who live in rural areas.

Depopulation of the rural areas leads to the transformation of labor resources. Part of the population declines because of migration outflow. According to the census the share of rural population with employment as the main source of income is 59.0% [17, p.194], [14, p.632]. At the same time, the number of pensioners increased by 9567 people in the period from 2002 to 2010 [6, pp.188–189], [15, pp.440–441]. The number of pensioners employed in economy increased by 2.5 times, on the whole, rural way of life (housekeeping, a low level of comfort and hand labor) affects negatively on the health of rural residents.

The general labor potential of this part of rural population is low. The following data is evident. Firstly, the rural population has a lower level of education than the urban population. The proportion of people with high education is 2 times less [7, pp.668–669], [13, pp.440–441]. 56.6% of labor force with secondary education is engaged in agricultural economic activities of Khakassia [8, p.66]. Secondly, rural residents lose their professional skills because of unemployment. According to the surveys, 42.0% of respondents work in the service sector. Migration outflow of qualified specialists to the urban areas deteriorates the situation.

Consequences of migration also significantly affect the appearance of a contemporary countryside. Rural population is aging. Part of the population over the age of 70 increased from 15.1% to 20.1% [8, p.39] (Figure 1).

There is also an unequal proportion of men and women in countryside. The number of women begins to predominate over the number of men in 40 years age groups in rural territories (in comparison to 15-19 age groups in urban territories) [4, p.39]. The predominance of men population affects negatively on the marital and reproductive behavior of rural residents. The demographic structure of the rural population correlates with marriage and birth rate. The decline of women of reproductive age (from 20 to 24 years) causes the falling of marriages and fertility decline [8, p.41], [19], [20], [21].

A new social class of rural precariat emerges (by Zh.T. Toshchenko) [23, p.3]. Precariat involves jobless, dependents, seasonal workers, shift workers and people with casual earnings, pendulum labor migrants, and employed illegally, and others. According to statistical data 19.2% of rural precariat in Khakassia (unemployed, recipients of social payments and other categories). The results of surveys correspond with the statistical data: the share of rural precariat is 21.2% respondents in Khakassia.

The standard of living of the rural population of region is low. According to scientists, rural population die 3.6 times more often than urban population because of old age; the explanation is specific health of rural residents or the lack of habit and the possibility of health care [3, p.124]. Every tenth rural resident of Russia doesn't have access to medical

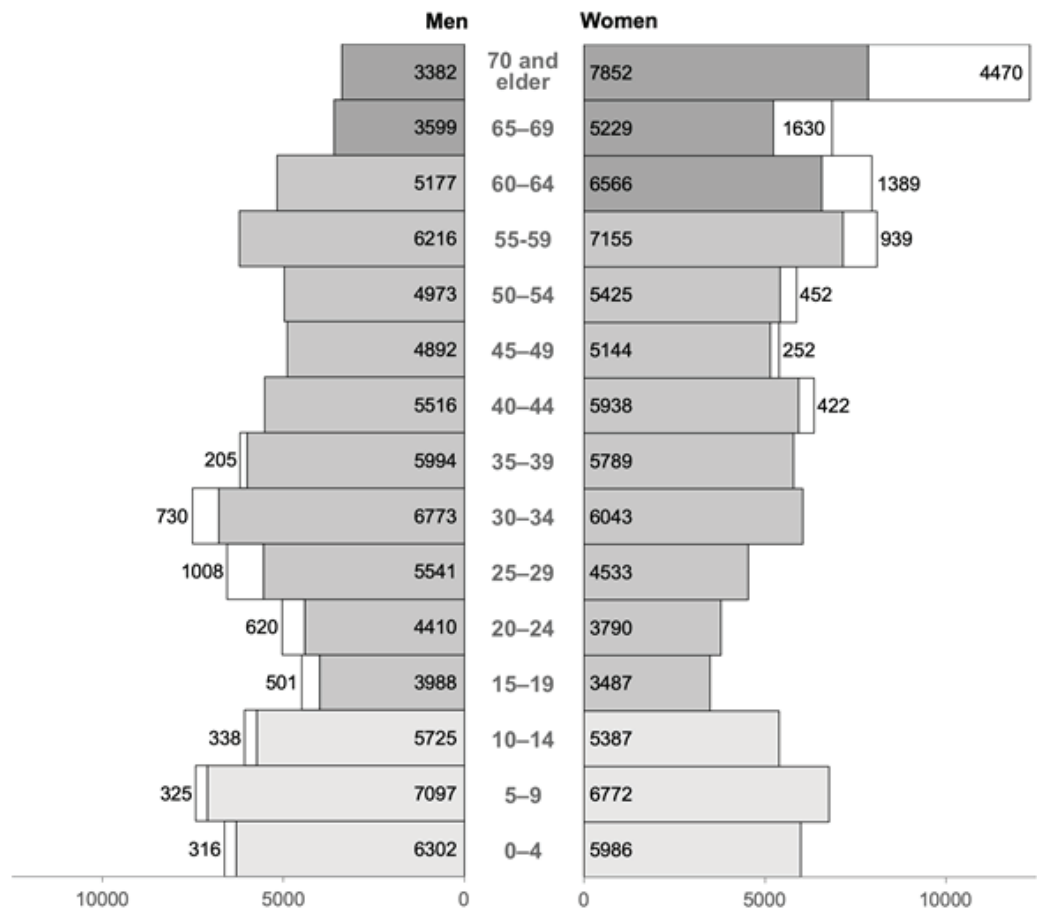


Figure 1: Gender and age structure of the rural population of Khakassia (2018) [8, p.39]

care, and a quarter of rural population meet with the complexity of access [1, p.99]. About three thousands of rural inhabitants don't have a possibility to operational health care in Khakassia. The decline of the number of rural schools due to the optimization reform has exacerbated the problem of access to school education for pupils. In the period of 2002 to 2018 the number of school organizations has reduced by 81 in Khakassia. The net of primary schools decreased by almost 80.0% [2, p.79]. Also cultural and leisure centers closed because of dilapidated buildings, outdated material and technical base, and lack of funds for their maintenance. According to scientists, cultural and leisure work is reduced to repeated entertainment activities, such as discos or diverse celebrations [10, p.3]. Different studies show that there is a direct connection between the economic situation and the material wealth of residents [11, p.485], that's why these processes reflect the low living standard by countryside.

According to our estimates, almost 30 thousand rural residents of Khakassia are below the poverty line (their incomes are less than cost of living). Every fifth rural resident

doesn't always have enough to eat, especially in small settlements. There are problems of quality medical care, of transport accessibility, and of cultural leisure.

Value orientations of the rural population change, for example, the values of well-being, comfort, and income become the most important. On the one hand, rural residents tend to compensate for the lack of material wealth; on the other hand, they use different means to achieve purposes (including, disapproved by society) because of their need of well-being. Other people try to find the ways of compensation, for example, by drinking alcohol. According to the survey one third of rural inhabitants are ready to make efforts to improve their life.

In our view, family farming plays an important role in the development of rural territories. Family farming can be a main source of income of unemployed rural residents. There are suitable natural and climatic conditions, appropriate resettlement, and traditional economy (including, cattle breeding). The one of the most perspective ways is sheep breeding. Development of sheep farming is profitable for family farming because of favorable environment and unpretentiousness of sheep in Khakassia. According to our survey one third of respondents are ready to be engaged in farming.

Local authorities conduct policies in the development of rural areas. The main guideline is to provide the conditions for development instead gratuitous help support. There are development programmes for sheep breeding and monetary compensation for cows breeding in Khakassia. These support forms are very effective due to their motivation mechanism.

According to our survey the level of material wealth varies significantly from different factors. For example, among the wealthiest people are more employed people with additional sources of income; among poor people are more unemployed and recipients of social payments. The higher level of material wealth gives more means for a better life, for example, for the development of family farming. However, among the wealthiest people are active rural residents, who are ready to make an effort to improve their living conditions.

## 4. Conclusions

In conclusion, the main potential for social development is human resources (preservation of rural population, increase of social activity, and family farming as a foreground source of income).

## References

- [1] Belova, N. I. (2017). Rural Health Care: State, Trends and Problems. *Sociological studies*, vol. 3, pp. 97–105.
- [2] Bondarenko, L. (2017). V. Rural School to be. *AIS: Economics, management*, vol. 7, pp. 78–89.
- [3] Bychenko, Y. G., Dolgova, E. M. and Shabanov, V. L. (2013). Rural Health System as a Factor in the Development of Demographic Resources of the Rural Community. *Vestnik of Saratov State Socio-Economic University*, vol. 2, issue 46, pp. 122–126.
- [4] Database of Municipal Indicators. Federal State Statistics Service of the Krasnoyarsk territory, the Republic of Khakassia, and the Republic of Tyva. Retrieved December 16, 2019 from <https://gks.ru/dbscripts/munst/munst95/DBInet.cgi#1>.
- [5] Demographic Yearbook of Russia. (2019). Statistical collection. Rosstat. Moscow, p. 252.
- [6] Economically Active and Economically Inactive Population. (2005). Moscow, IIC “Statistics of Russia”. Results of the All-Russian Population Census of 2002: In 14 volumes. Federal State Statistics Service, vol. 7, p. 787.
- [7] Education. (2004). Moscow, IIC “Statistics of Russia”. Results of the All-Russian Population Census of 2002: In 14 volumes. Federal State Statistics Service, vol. 2, book 1, p. 943.
- [8] Khakas Republic Statistical Yearbook. (2018). Statistical collection. Krasnoyarsk State Statistics Service. Abakan, p. 440.
- [9] Khakas Republic Statistical Yearbook. (2019). Statistical collection. Krasnoyarsk State Statistics Service. Abakan, p. 433.
- [10] Martirosyan, K. M. and Ropot, V. A. (2017). Perspective of Development of the System of Rural Cultural Institutions at the Present Stage. *Bulletin of the Krasnodar State Institute of Culture*, vol. 2, issue 10. pp. 3–8.
- [11] Namrueva, L.V. and Zemlyanskaya, S. V. (2017). Social Well-Being of Rural Residents as a Factor of Development of Agrarian Sector (On the Basis of Questionnaire Surveys 1996 and 2016 in the Republic of Kalmykia). *Theories and Problems of Political Studies*, vol. 6, issue 2, pp. 477–489.
- [12] Results of the All-Russian Census of 2010. (2012). In 11 volumes. Federal State Statistics Service. Moscow, IIC “Statistics of Russia”. Vol. 1: Number and Location of the Population, p. 1071.
- [13] Results of the All-Russian Census of 2010. (2012). In 11 volumes. Federal State Statistics Service. Moscow, IIC “Statistics of Russia”, vol. 3, Education, p. 1291.

- [14] Results of the All-Russian Census of 2010. (2012). In 11 volumes. Federal State Statistics Service. Moscow, IIC "Statistics of Russia", vol. 3, Sources of Livelihood, Book 1, p. 743.
- [15] Results of the All-Russian Census of 2010. (2013). In 11 volumes. Federal State Statistics Service. Moscow, IIC "Statistics of Russia", vol. 7, Economically Active and Economically Inactive Population, p. 1088.
- [16] Russian Statistical Yearbook. (2019). *Statistical collection. Rosstat*. Moscow, p. 708.
- [17] Sources of Livelihood. (2004). Moscow, IIC "Statistics of Russia". Results of the All-Russian Population Census of 2002: In 14 volumes. Federal State Statistics Service, vol. 5, p.1128.
- [18] Strategy for Sustainable Development of Rural Areas of the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2030. (2015). Moscow: Rosinformagrotech, p. 76.
- [19] Number of Marriages per 1000 Population per Year. EMISS. State Statistics. Retrieved August 8, 2019 from <https://www.fedstat.ru/indicator/33459>.
- [20] Number of Permanent Population – men by age as of January 1. EMISS. State Statistics. Retrieved August 28, 2019 from <https://www.fedstat.ru/indicator/31548>.
- [21] Number of Permanent Population – women by age as of January 1. EMISS. State Statistics. Retrieved August 28, 2019 from <https://www.fedstat.ru/indicator/33459>.
- [22] Number and Location of the Population. (2004). Moscow, IIC "Statistics of Russia". Results of the All-Russian Population Census of 2002: In 14 volumes. Federal State Statistics Service, vol. 1, p. 574.
- [23] Toshchenko, Z. T. (2015). Precariat-a new social class. *Sociological Studies*, vol. 6, pp. 3–13.