

DETERMINING THE VILLAGE STATUS AND ITS FUNCTION IN SOME SETTLEMENT AREA OF MONGOLIA

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Abstract: Amendment of the Constitution of Mongolia approved by the State Great Khural on November 14, 2019 for the first time clarified and regulated the legal basis of the village in its administrative and territorial units, as well as its management and organization structure. Previously, according to the law of Administrative and Territorial Units and Their Management of Mongolia, administrative structure divided into provinces (aimags) and capital, aimags into soums, soums into bag, capital into districts, districts into khoroos and the legal environment and status of the village were undefined. Therefore, 21 potential settlements to become villages remained with bag and khoroos status. Constitution now formed the legal basis issuing the village status in some settled-area and the transfer of some administrative and territorial units for their management functions for the villages becoming the National issue. According to the Law on the Legal Status of Towns and Villages of Mongolia, the village has a population of 500-15,000 and self governed, managed by one of the most developed sectors in agriculture, industry, tourism, recreation, health, transportation, and trade. The main purpose of this research is to determine the status of villages in some settled-area, and to define their functions, provide strategy and recommendations that based on national survey of current settlements, geographical location, population, society and economy.

It is important to analyze the geographically optimal settlements that have an impact on the sustainable growth of the local economy, where the majority of the population works in one of the sectors in industry, tourism, recreation, transportation, and trade. The purpose of this study is to determine the spatial status of settlements and to include these issues in the spatial planning of regional and local development.

Keywords: •Functions • Population • Settlement • Status • Village

Introduction

The settlement is divided into two classifications, cities and villages, depending on the size of the population[1]. One of these two settlements, the village or small industrial settlement in the countryside, initially established in 1960 as a cooperative farm[2] in Mongolia. In 1970-1990, Khoroos (villages) established in aimags and soums are merged with soums. Some khoroos also renamed as a soum status. During this time, the number of the capital city and soums increased up to 330, 21 aimags, 9 districts, about 1,600 baghs, and more than 100 khoroos (villages) were reorganized[3]. According to the "Constitution" of Mon-

golia, number of units with equal rights such as soums, khoroos, districts, and local cities of the previous system were reduced and providing the status for these settlement under the constitution the village administration, its executive functions and legal scope have changed and it started to play the role of soum, bag and khoroos[4].

The amendment to the Constitution of Mongolia stipulates that "the legal basis for the self-governance and organization of cities with state and local ranks in administrative and territorial units, as well as villages, shall be established by law". The law also states that "the transfer of administrative and territorial units and some of

their management functions to cities and villages shall be decided by the State Great Khural upon the submission of the Government[5]." This is the first time Mongolia has clarified the legal basis of a village in its territorial unit and its own management and organization.

Previously, according to the Law on Administrative and Territorial Units and Their Management[6], the administrative structure divided into 21 aimags, capital city, and provinces into 330 soums, soums into 1618 bags, the capital city into 9 districts, and districts into 152 khoroo. (**Province, Capital City** → The main function is to establish a system of local governance in government structures and cooperate to implement the Government policies, its ministries and agencies in accordance with local specifics and development needs. **Soums, Districts** → The State Great Hural, the Government, the Courts and the Aimag and Capital City Units are responsible for involving citizens, business entities and organizations in their territories in the implementation of their policies and decisions. It is also a second-level unit responsible for dealing with emergency mobilization within the framework of the law. **Village** → A self-governing settlement with a population of 500-15,000, developed in one of the sectors: agriculture, industry, tourism, recreation, transportation, and trade[7]. **Bag, Khoroo** → The first unit to register citizens and households living in their area[8], and to provide basic social services, jointly protect the environment, to mobilize citizens for social welfare, and to involve

them in government work,[9]).

The legal environment and status of the village were unclear. Therefore, 29 non-agricultural settlements have the status of soums, bags, and khoroo that have the potential to become villages, such as industrial, recreational, tourism, trade, and transportation.

The Constitution provides a legal basis for granting village status in some settlements, which raises the issue of transferring some administrative, territorial units and their management functions to villages at the national level. By implementing self-governance, the village will be able to bring public services closer to the people and develop economically independently.

The purpose of this study is to develop and analyze methods and criteria for determining the status of villages and their functions in some settlements, and then to determine the spatial status of settlements and to include these issues in the spatial planning of regional and local development. At the national level, the survey was conducted on the basis of geographical location, population, socio-economic and surveys of existing settlements (soum centers, bags, khoroo, emerging settlements) that contribute to the sustainable local economic growth.

Methodology

The survey identified 27 settlements[10] in Mongolia which had the status of khoroo (village) in 1990, as well as settlements with village status but governed by soums, bags and khoroo units. In addition, quantitative and qualitative surveys were used to identify settlements for village status.

Table 1-Criteria for granting village status:

Status of village	Status of population, localization, settlement, employment	Economy	Infrastructure	Social service	Geographical location
<p>Village (urban and rural settlements)</p>	<p>-It has a population of 500-15,000[11] -The majority of the population lives in the village [12] -The economically active population (70-80%) is employed in the production and service organizations of the Village [13] -A village is that the settlement process is gradual</p>	<p>-It takes a role in local socio-economic development. -One of the most developed sectors of the village is agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, recreation, transportation and trade. [14] -Villages with potential to support industrial and service cooperation and diversification with neighboring aimags, soums and cities [15]</p>	<p>It is an urban settlement connected to the road and railway network (M.Bayantur 1970)</p>	<p>A village is with basic social services (school, kindergarten and cultural center) [16]</p>	<p>-It is located in the center of one of the soums and bag or in the satellite of the city. -However, the bagh is not the soum center -In terms of territory, the size of the built-up area for settlement, production and services determines the boundaries of the territory of the village.</p>

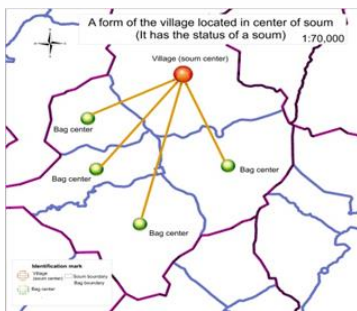
The average annual population growth was calculated by comparing it with the national average $\Delta P = \frac{(P_T - P_C)}{P_{C+} (T_T - T_C)} * 100$ (1) [17] for 2003-2010 and 2010-2019 according to the equation "Methodology for calculating basic population statistics." The majority of the city's population lives in the area permanently.

A form of village (Forms and types of administrative, territorial and geographical location)



(Picture-1)
Form-1
Type of village with Khoroo location (status with Khoroo)

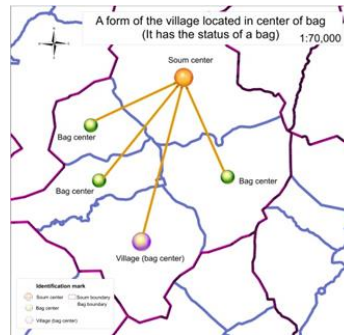
Geographically, village is located next to a city
 -Administratively and territorially, the village has the status of a khoroo
 -As for the boundaries of the territory, it covers only the residential, industrial and service areas of the village.
 -Administratively, it belongs to the city and district administration.



(Picture-2)
Form-2
Type of village located in soum center (status with

soum)
 -Geographically, the village is located in the soum center

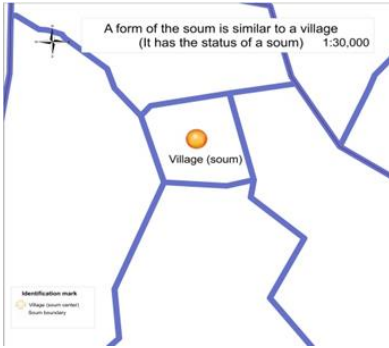
-Administratively and territorially, the village has the status of a soum center bagh
 -As for the boundaries of the territory, it covers only the residential, industrial and service areas of the village.
 -Administratively, it belongs to the soum government.



(Picture-3)
Form-3
Type of village located in the center of the bag

(status with bag)

-Geographically, the village is located in the center of one of the soums (the bag is not the center of the soum).
 -As for the boundaries of the territory, it covers only the built-up areas of the settlement, production and services of the village (without agriculture and barns)
 -Administratively, it belongs to the soum government



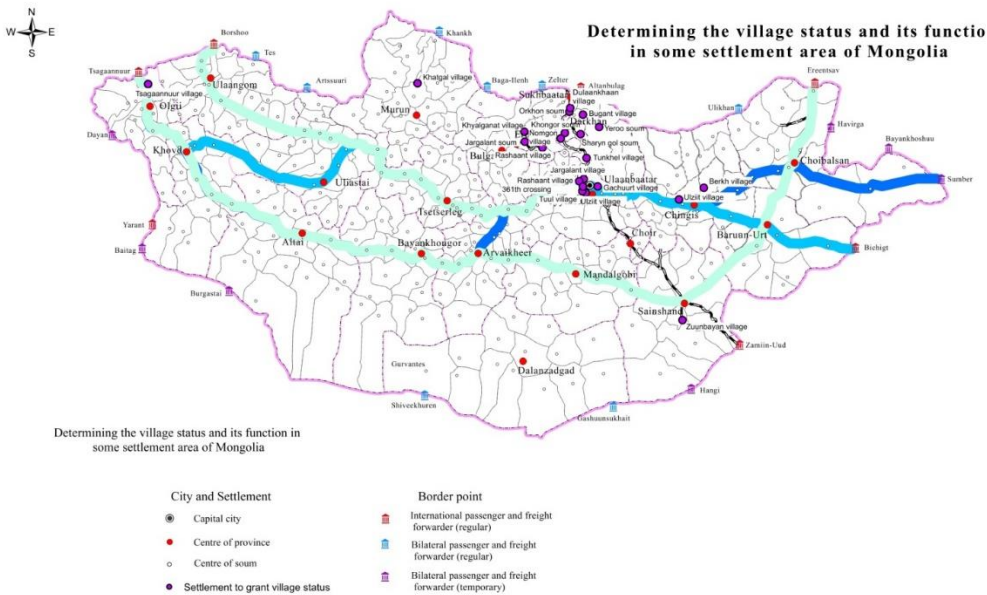
Picture 4

Form-4 The soum itself is a village (status with soum)

- Geographically, the village is located in the center of the soum
- Administratively and territorially, the village has the status of a soum
- As for the territorial boundaries, the soum (village) includes only residential, industrial and service areas.

-Administratively, the soum (village) belongs to the aimag government.

Picture-5 Village status granting settlements in Mongolia



Conclusion

Nowadays, these settlements take a significant role in local socio-economic development. It is also developing into a densely populated village with industry, services and infrastructure. Most of the small settlements in our country have agricultural functions (except for agricultural settlements). This shows that the possibility of developing industrial settlements (villages) in rural areas has not been regulated by the law. Amendments to the Constitution of Mongolia have

included additional provisions in the Law on Administrative and Territorial Units and Their Management. It became necessary to determine the functions and status of the village. Village status settlements were assessed according to criteria and their functions were defined. The survey covered khoroods, former settlements, new settlements, and settlements with legal status. According to the survey, Jargalant, Orkhon, Khongor, Yeruu, Shariin gol soums (from 330 soums), Tsagaannuur, Khyalganat, Zuunbayan,

Tunkhel, Berkh, Bugant, Rashaant, Ulziit, Khatgal, Nomgon bags (from 1618 bags), Gachuurt, Jargalant, Tuul, Ulziit, 361 crossing and Rashaant khoroo have been included in village status granting places. The functions of these settlements are defined as 8 for industry, 9 for agriculture, 9 for potatoes and vegetables, 2 for tourism, and 2 for transportation. Also, in terms of administrative and territorial and geographical location, there are 6 types of villages located in the center of the khoroo, 4 types of villages located in the soum center bag, 10 types of villages located in the bag center, and 1 type of village in the soum itself. Both urban and rural areas have the same economic complex. It is economically important to locate the industry as close as possible to raw materials and energy sources[18]. The advantage is that these settlements contain factors that can contribute to industrial development. The development of these settlements will reveal the natural conditions of the environment and its resources, and create opportunities for their proper use in terms of human essential materialistic needs.

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