A Sociological Research on Urbanization and Urban Problems in Tbilisi

Ani TARUGISHVILI†

Along with modernization and globalization, urbanization trends are increasing more and more, and urban lifestyles are also changing rapidly. Various statistical data indicate that more than half of the world’s population lives in urban areas. Rapid urbanization has become the cause of numerous problems in the cities. Within the scope of this paper, the research focuses on the phenomenon of urbanization and urban issues in the capital of Georgia – Tbilisi. After leaving the Soviet Union, Georgia faced severe political and socio-economic problems. From the Soviet socialist economic model-central planning, state domination of property, and means of production, Georgia switched to a free market economy model after the 1990s. The negative results of the privatization policy started this process were experienced in the city. Without a specific urban policy, the effects of urbanization could be seen visibly in Tbilisi. Consequently, this article aims to determine and compare urbanization and urban problems in Tbilisi’s two different districts (Mtatsminda and Nadzaladevi). The study is based on a survey research method. The data obtained within the scope of the research are socio-demographic characteristics of the city of Tbilisi, socio-economic situation, migration experiences, perception of urbanity and sense of belonging, level of satisfaction with the neighborhood, urban life experiences, urban problems, etc. sociological view has been examined.