

THE EVACUATION POLICY OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITY TO THE UZBEKISTAN SSR

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ABSTRACT:

This article covers information about the evacuation of starving and orphaned children from some regions of the USSR to the territory of the USSR in the 20s and 40s of the 20th centuries, the establishment of “Children’s Homes” for their accommodation, and the assistance of our hospitable and tolerant people to the children who moved. Also, with the help of archival sources and scientific literature, the causes and consequences of this evacuation policy implemented by the Soviets, as well as the state of aid and work done by the state and the government for the displaced children are described.

Keywords: evacuation, hungry children, orphanage, guardianship, refugee, Central Children’s Commission.

INTRODUCTION

Due to the independence, the attitude towards the history of our country changed radically, as a result, it became possible to illuminate our history without ideological biases and on the basis of comparative analysis and in-depth study of the sources. As a result, the history and historical processes of the Soviet colonial era of our country are being studied by our historians through archival sources and illuminated based on new approaches. In this article, the history of the evacuation policy implemented by the Soviet authorities in 1920-1940 and the fate of the children transferred to the Uzbek SSR were covered based on historical methods.

RESEARCH METHODS

In the 20s of the 20th century, the Soviet government carried out the evacuation of the children of the families whose parents died and suffered mass starvation from the Volga territory and Ural regions, which suffered from famine, and from the territories occupied by the Germans during the Second World War (1939-1945). At that time, the biggest problem for the Soviet authorities was the issue of housing and providing food and clothing for the evacuated children.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

After all, many measures have been implemented in order to eliminate this problem. According to archival sources, the Central Executive Committee of Turkestan and the Soviet of People's Commissars, based on the decision on the issue of evacuation adopted by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee on July 27, 1921, came to the conclusion that the country had the opportunity to receive 25,000 children. It was emphasized that displaced children should be placed in schools, boarding schools, "Children's homes" and, if there is no place, in families of residents [1. p.25]. The evacuation of children to Turkestan began in August 1921. In the first half of August 1921, 265 children from Volga territory, where famine prevailed, were brought to Tashkent and placed in boarding schools [2. p.201]. The Department of Public Education and its special representative mainly dealt with the issues of children's evacuation. In September 1921, 500 Muslim children from the Samara province and the Republic of Tatarstan were prepared for evacuation to Tashkent [1. p.55]. In general, by the end of 1921, 55 thousand 355 children were evacuated to fertile regions, including Turkestan [18.p.43]. Moreover, the evacuation of hungry children from the Volga territory and Ural regions increases so much that as a result, there are problems in receiving them, providing them with shelter, and providing food and clothing.

On September 17, 1922, Fatchullin, head of the public education department of Tashkent New City, who studied the conditions for providing food and clothing to the brought children, appealed to the Turkestan Ministry of Education and Culture and the People's Commissariat for Food of the Republic, and asked to provide "children with food other than dry bread" brought as a result of the evacuation [3. p.283]. Preparations for the reception of children brought from famine areas were also not satisfactory. Due to the lack of attention given to the brought children, the children met their needs by stealing from the market. It is also recorded in archival sources that hungry children sometimes bought food for themselves by selling goods belonging to the state [4. p.129].

As a result of the evacuation policy, in the 1930s there was an overabundance of unaccompanied minors across the country. As a result, the government of the Uzbek SSR collected them from the streets and placed them in children's reception centers in the cities of Bukhara, Andizhan, Kokand, and Tashkent [5. p.640]. According to the views of this period, a procedure was introduced to register children under 16 years of age and collect them from the streets, and to employ those over 16 years old [6. p.12]. Also, taking into account the increasing number of girls among the evacuated children, an additional 120-bed reception for girls was established in Tashkent [7. p.14]. By 1935, children over the age of 13 were employed through the Internal Affairs bodies.

The operation of the institution where the evacuated children are located, that is, "Children's Homes", was not satisfactorily organized, this situation was not favorable to the displaced children, and they preferred the street life to such an uncomfortable lifestyle, and the cases of running away increased. Even in the "Children's Homes" where the girls were placed, the situation was quite complicated. For example, in 1932, the "Girls' Orphanage" was established in Samarkand for 90 people, and when this institution was investigated by the

government leadership, it was found that there were 72 people. By nationality, they belong to 1 Uzbek, 2 Tatars, 2 Armenians, 67 Europeans, and it was found that girls also ran away due to the bad conditions here [8. p.2]. However, due to the well-organized provision and educational process in some “Children’s Homes”, the relocated children lived in these homes. For example, 57 children were accommodated in “Children’s Home” No. 3 in Behbudi, and those who ran away because of better conditions were not identified [9. p.642]. Also, archival sources contain information about the looting of funds allocated to “Children’s Homes”. That is, information on the disappearance of 27,000 rubles from the “Children’s Home” in Gijduvan, 20,000 rubles from the “Children’s Home” in the former Lenin (now Mirabad- author S.T.) district, and 29,000 rubles from the “Children’s Home” No. 19 in Tashkent defined [10. p.128]. Taking into account that the fate of children lies in this, the destroyed funds caused the lives of many children to be in a difficult situation.

During the Second World War, the process of evacuating orphans from Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine to Uzbekistan began in October 1941. At this time, hundreds of evacuated people from the front line, destroyed cities and villages began to arrive in our country by train. In November 1941, 22,000 children were evacuated to Uzbekistan, and 9,420 of them were placed in Children’s Homes. Most of the displaced children, 69%, were boys, more than half of them were orphans, and the rest, as a rule, had one parent, but they had no place to live. The republic’s leadership faced the task of settling these evacuated children and teenagers. Evacuated children were placed in collective farm clubs, teahouses and school buildings. In October 1941, the Central Evacuation Department was established under the Republican People’s Commissariat of Education[11. p.17]. Here, the evacuated children were given sanitary procedures, food and clothes. Teachers were on duty at the evacuation point around the clock. One of the canteens near the central evacuation unit is attached to feed the children. Near the center, a 200-bed quarantined “Children’s Home” was opened, and children stayed here for two to four weeks [12. p.48]. Then some of the children were sent to vocational and railway schools, and the rest were given to families.

In December 1941, the republic’s Central Evacuation Commission and its regional, city, and district departments were formed to regulate the children evacuated to our country. In January 1942, by the decision of the republican commission, small committees were formed to identify evacuated children, sponsor them, provide cultural services and organize various parties for the benefit of children, collect clothes, and establish “Children’s Homes” at collective farms and state farms. Employees and female teachers of “Children’s Homes” in Uzbekistan took an active part in helping the evacuated children. For example, Babushkina, the director of the 22nd Charity House in Tashkent, risked her life several times and went to the frontline areas to evacuate orphans together with medical workers. He brought many children from Moscow, Leningrad and Minsk. About 500 orphaned children were placed in “Children’s Home” No. 22, which he headed [13. p.5]. From October 1, 1941 to October 1, 1942, 43,000 children were evacuated to 78 “Children’s Homes” in Uzbekistan.

According to the data of 1942, 154 new “Children’s Homes” were established in the republic, 69 of them were evacuated, and the number of children there increased by 80% [14. p.23].

The dynamics of the number of “Children’s Homes” in Uzbekistan can be observed in archive documents. If on the eve of the war there were 107 “Children’s Homes” in the republic with 12,000 children, by 1944 it can be said that the network of “Children’s Homes” and the number of children in them has almost doubled. An example of this is the following archival information, that is, a total of 215 “Children’s Homes” were established in the republic and the number of educated children was 27,450 [15. p.43]. The growth of “Mercy Houses” until 1943 is connected with the transfer of 23 Polish “Children’s Homes” (with 1995 children) to Tashkent in March of this year [16. p.21]. Since 1945, the number of “Children’s Homes” and contingents began to decrease. One of the main reasons for the decrease in the number of “Mercy Houses” in the republic is that most of the children of “Children’s Homes” were resettled to their cities and regions after the war. In particular, in July 1945, 11 “Children’s Homes” were relocated from the Uzbek SSR to Ukraine [11. p.18].

During this period, Soviet authorities paid special attention to children's institutions and took them under control. Regular humanitarian aid was provided to these houses by militias in the region, city and district. Special canteens were established in Tashkent, Samarkand, Andizhan, Kokand, where evacuated children and children of frontline soldiers were fed free of charge every day, 192,000 rubles have been allocated by the Republican Commission for free meals for children in canteens. Regional commissions have been collecting funds for the fund to help the evacuated children. For example, in June 1942, 214,384 rubles were collected in the Ferghana regional commission, and 269,000 rubles in Bukhara [17. p.43].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that hundreds of thousands of children were evacuated from the territories of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus to the territory of the Uzbekistan SSR by the Soviet authorities, and hundreds of thousands of starving refugee children moved to our country in various ways. The number of children relocated to Uzbekistan was too high and there were not enough reception centers for the relocated children. Moreover, the Soviet government carried out the evacuation of children in a fragmented manner, leaving the children brought with housing, food, clothes, tables and chairs, etc. provision was unsatisfactory. Food and clothing were provided by the local population. The young people of Uzbekistan took the evacuated hungry children into their arms, gave them shelter, food, clothes, and shared their and their children’s sustenance with them. Even despite the incredible difficulties of the war period, the lives of hundreds of thousands of children were saved thanks to the quick actions of the leadership of the republic and the generous support of the Uzbek people. That is why some of the evacuated and escaped hungry people did not want to return to their country and stayed in Uzbekistan.

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