

# Pension Provision in The Khorezm Region In 1956-1964 (Achievements, Shortcomings, And Disparities)

 Allaberganov Ollabergan Arslanbekovich

Associate Professor at the department of History, Mamun University, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in History, Uzbekistan

**Received:** 10 February 2026; **Accepted:** 02 March 2026; **Published:** 23 March 2026

**Abstract:** In this article, the author analyzes the state of pension and social security policy implemented by the Soviet authorities in the Khorezm region between 1956 and 1964. The study highlights the achievements, shortcomings, and disparities related to pension provision, as well as instances of public dissatisfaction. Furthermore, on the basis of archival materials, it reveals the uneven introduction of pension provision in the urban and rural areas of the region, especially the fact that collective farmers remained outside the pension system for a considerable period of time. The article provides a scholarly analysis of the formation stage of the pension provision system in the Khorezm region in the context of territorial and social disparities.

**Keywords:** Uzbek SSR, Khorezm region, Khorezm Haqiqati newspaper, pension, social security, rural area, collective farm, urban–rural disparities, archival documents, workers, employees, collective farmers, length of service, employment record book, complaints and petitions.

**Introduction:** In the period following the Second World War, the restoration and improvement of the social welfare and pension provision system became one of the priority areas across the territory of the Soviet Union, including the Uzbek SSR. The increase in the number of persons who had become disabled as a result of the war, family members of fallen servicemen, and citizens incapable of work made it necessary to expand the pension and benefits system.

Using the example of the Khorezm region within the Uzbek SSR, this process acquired distinctive features. In particular, the years 1956-1964 stand out as a period when legal reforms in the pension system had begun, yet territorial and social disparities continued to persist in practice. This article provides a scholarly analysis of the achievements, shortcomings, and urban–rural disparities characteristic of that period.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Pension provision in the Khorezm region in 1956-1964 (achievements, shortcomings, and disparities) has been studied very little as a separate topic. In works related to the Soviet period, such as *The History of the Uzbek SSR* [1], as well as studies produced during the years of

independence, including M. Matniyozov's *History of Khorezm* [2], *The Social and Political Activities of the Leadership of the Uzbek SSR (1945–1983)* published under the executive editorship of Q. Rajabov [3], and *75 Years of Compassion and Care* by A. Mannopov and S. Mirzaahmedova [4], issues of pension provision in the Khorezm region during the 1940s and 1950s, together with certain problems and contradictions in social life, are only partially discussed. In addition, materials from Fund 170 of the Khorezm Regional State Archive, the newspaper *Khorezm Haqiqati*, and the journal *Social Welfare of Uzbekistan* served as the source base of this research.

## METHODOLOGY

In preparing the article, the synchronous method, the comparative-historical method, statistical analysis, and structural analysis were employed [5]. Through these methods, the dynamics of changes in the pension system during 1956-1964, territorial disparities, and differences among social strata were analyzed.

## RESULTS

One of the important components of the social welfare policy implemented by the Soviet authorities in the

Khorezm region during 1945-1991 was the pension provision system. During this period, the formation, development, and mechanisms for the practical implementation of the pension system were marked by distinctive features. Although pension provision was recognized as one of the priority directions of Soviet social policy, its implementation at the level of the Khorezm region was not organized equally or effectively in territorial and social terms. In particular, the pension provision system was not introduced equally in the urban and rural areas of the region, which led to significant disparities in the level of social protection between urban and rural populations. Urban residents, who were mainly employed in industry and state institutions, were incorporated into pension provision earlier and more fully. By contrast, the inclusion of the rural population, especially collective farmers, in the pension system was delayed and remained limited in character.

As a result of these processes, territorial (urban–rural), occupational (workers, employees, and collective farmers), and social disparities emerged within the pension provision system. Therefore, from a scholarly perspective, it is appropriate to divide the development of the pension provision system in the urban and rural areas of the Khorezm region during 1945-1991 into three main periods: the first period, 1945-1956; the second period, 1956-1964; and the third period, 1965-1991. This periodization makes it possible to reveal more deeply the changes in the pension provision system, its legal and regulatory foundations, and its practical implementation.

### **The Second Period: 1956–1964**

By this period, a new stage had begun in pension provision. For example, on 14 July 1956, the Law “On State Pensions for Citizens of the USSR” was adopted. This law was one of the key legal documents regulating the pension system in the Soviet Union, and it established the right of workers, employees, and persons who had become disabled due to incapacity for work to receive state pensions. In accordance with the law, pensions were granted in cases of old age, disability, and loss of a breadwinner [6].

The adoption of this legal act laid the foundation for the creation of a unified centralized pension system for workers and employees. However, members of collective farms were excluded from pension provision. Therefore, the rural population, especially collective farmers, was not recognized as an equal subject of social protection. This situation revealed an internal contradiction in Soviet social policy. In the USSR, which presented itself as a state that protected workers’ interests and cared for them, the fact that the 1956 Law

“On Pensions” did not provide the right to pensions for the rural population, that is, collective farm members, created serious social inequality. While the right to pensions was established for workers and employees, collective farmers remained outside this system.

Thus, when this situation is assessed from the perspective of citizens’ equal right to social protection, it becomes clear that the interests of the rural population were not sufficiently taken into account. From the standpoint of pension provision, this demonstrates that there was no equality between the rural and urban populations, that disparities existed, and that the interests of rural residents were not adequately protected in social terms.

As a result of the implementation of the Law “On State Pensions for Citizens of the USSR” of 14 July 1956, new pensions were assigned in the Khorezm region, and the number of pensioners increased. In particular, the number of pensioners registered with the social welfare departments of Khiva district and city amounted to 1,560, and in 1956 a total of 1,981,822 rubles was allocated for these pensioners. By 1958, this amount had risen to 4,034,038 rubles. According to analytical data, from 1 January 1959 to 1 January 1960, the total number of pensioners in Khiva city and district reached 1,828, and the total amount of pensions paid to them rose to 4,123,845 rubles. Of these:

1. 442 were war invalids, with 767,708 rubles allocated;
2. 496 were families of fallen soldiers, with 1,153,353 rubles allocated;
3. 789 were labor invalids, with 2,039,396 rubles allocated;
4. 198 were old-age pensioners, 99 were recipients due to loss of breadwinner, and 151 were pensioners of other categories, with 164,387 rubles allocated;
5. 88 were personal pensioners, with 184,548 rubles allocated [7].

By 1957, there were 1,750 pensioners in the regional towns, including in Urgench city alone. Most of these pensioners were workers and employees. Regrettably, the total number of pensioners in the rural areas of the region was only 2,510 [8]. In fact, there was a significant disparity in the social welfare system between urban and rural areas. In cities, the social welfare system was relatively well established, whereas in the districts this process was marked by serious shortcomings. For example, in 1958, the social welfare department of Kushkupir district in the Khorezm region received 676 applications from ordinary citizens, the majority of which concerned the unlawful payment of pensions

and allowances, as well as errors and shortcomings in the assignment of pensions and benefits. However, out of these 676 applications, 631 were not registered by the Kushkupir district social welfare department, and complaints and petitions were not addressed within the time limits prescribed by law. In addition, funds intended for delivery by the social welfare authorities of Kushkupir district were not provided on time and, in some cases, disappeared while in the hands of certain individuals [9].

One of the first modest steps taken to equalize the population of Khorezm region's cities and villages in terms of social welfare was the establishment of inter-kolkhoz councils in the early 1960s. These councils made pension payments to members of agricultural artels and provided assistance to people in need of pension support. Across the republic, 57,829 persons received pensions through inter-kolkhoz councils. In particular, according to the decision of the government of the Uzbek SSR dated 20 March 1961, inter-kolkhoz councils for pension payments were established in three districts of the Khorezm region: Khazorasp, Shovot, and Kushkupir. The Khazorasp district inter-kolkhoz council assigned pensions to 2,080 citizens, while 1,108 pensioners living in Shovot district received pensions under council decisions. It is noteworthy that archival documents do not record information about pensions granted to collective farmers through the inter-kolkhoz council established in Kushkupir district. Monthly pensions in this category were delivered by employees of communication departments [10].

In 1963, a total of 33 inter-kolkhoz councils were operating in the territory of the Uzbek SSR. However, from the perspective of the social welfare system, serious shortcomings remained in rural areas, compared to towns, in the process of assigning and paying pensions to collective farmers. One of the most important of these was the failure to fully and systematically register collective farm members who were entitled to pensions and to include them in the relevant lists.

As a result, in many collective farms, a large proportion of citizens who had reached pension age were not granted pensions. According to data presented in archival documents, in 1963 a total of 223,625 collective farmers in the Uzbek SSR were entitled to receive pensions. Nevertheless, pensions were assigned to only 141,687 of them, while 81,938 collective farmers were not granted or paid pensions at all.

Moreover, not all collective farmers to whom pensions had been assigned were actually able to receive them. In particular, out of the 141,687 collective farmers

whose pensions had been assigned, 5,320 were unable in practice to receive their pensions due to various organizational and administrative reasons [11]. In 1963, although a total of 20,915 collective farmers entitled to pensions resided in the Khorezm region, pensions were assigned to only 14,462 of them, while 6,453 collective farm workers were left without benefits due to the fault of collective farm board chairmen [12].

According to social welfare documents, the provision of state pensions to collective farm members began only after the adoption of the Law "On Pensions and Allowances for Members of Collective Farms" on 15 July 1964. Pursuant to this law, centralized social insurance funds for collective farmers were established across the Union, and from 1 October 1965 pensions began to be paid to collective farmers from these funds. The resolution set the maximum pension amount at 102 rubles and the minimum at 12 rubles [13].

## CONCLUSION

The years 1956-1964 were a period of formation and expansion of the pension provision system in the Khorezm region. The Law "On State Pensions for Citizens of the USSR" of 14 July 1956 strengthened the legal foundations of the pension system and contributed, above all, to a significant increase in the level of pension provision for the urban population. However, in practice, the following shortcomings remained:

1. a sharp disparity between the urban and rural populations;
2. the incomplete coverage of collective farmers by the pension system;
3. bureaucratic obstacles and failures to examine applications;
4. delays in the delivery of funds;
5. the incomplete implementation of legal norms in practice.

From 1961, the establishment of inter-kolkhoz councils in the region was a positive step for the rural population, but this system also did not develop into a full and stable mechanism. In general, although the pension provision system in the Khorezm region was institutionally strengthened during 1956-1964, the principle of social justice was not fully ensured. This period is of scholarly significance as a stage that shaped the historical roots of social disparities between the urban and rural populations.

## REFERENCES

1. Ўзбекистон ССР тарихи. 4-жилд. –Тошкент:

- “Фан”, 1971. 217-218-б.
2. Матниёзов М. Хоразм тарихи.2-жилд. –Урганч, 1997. 173-б.
  3. Ражабов Қ. Ўзбекистон ССР раҳбариятининг ижтимоий ва сиёсий фаолияти (1945 - 1983 йиллар). –Тошкент: “Фан”, 2020.
  4. Маннопов А, Мирзааҳмедова С. 75 меҳру шафқат йиллари. –Тошкент: “Адолат”, 1994. 5-6-б.
  5. Шадманова С. Тарих тадқиқотларининг методологияси ва замонавий усуллари. – Тошкент: “Баркамол файз медиа”, 2018. 70-б.
  6. Давлат пенсиялари тўғрисида қонун // “Хоразм ҳақиқати”, 1956 йил 17 июл.
  7. Хоразм viloyat davlat arxivi. 170 - fond, 1- ro‘yxat, 114-yig‘ma jild. 81-varaq.
  8. Хоразм viloyat davlat arxivi. 170 - fond, 1-ro‘yxat, 120-yig‘ma jild. 5-varaq.
  9. Хоразм viloyat davlat arxivi. 170 - fond, 1- ro‘yxat, 119-yig‘ma jild. 31-32-varaqlar.
  10. Хоразм viloyat davlat arxivi. 170 - fond, 1-ro‘yxat, 155-yig‘ma jild. 62-varaq.
  11. О‘zR MDA, R-96 - fond, 2-ro‘yxat, 1811- yig‘ma jild. 82-varaq.
  12. Хоразм viloyat davlat arxivi. 170 - fond, 1-ro‘yxat, 155-yig‘ma jild. 63-varaq.
  13. Закон СССР от 15.07.1964 N 2688-VI “О пенсиях и пособиях членам колхозов”, <https://www.consultant.ru/cons/cgi/online.cgi?req=doc&base=ESU&n>