

**HISTORY OF INDIAN CITIZENS LIVING IN SAMARKAND IN THE  
SECOND HALF OF THE XIX CENTURY AND THE EARLY XX CENTURY**

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**ANNATATION:** Central Asia, including Samarkand, is one of the most ancient cities in the world. In this article. Information on the socio-economic and cultural life of Indian citizens living in the Samarkand region in the second half of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century. Attempts have also been made to shed light on the role of Indian citizens in the socio-economic life of the country.

**KEYWORDS:** Hindus, Kattakurgan, Elder, usury, trade

Over the centuries, the glory of Samarkand has attracted many tourists and foreigners, although the city has become ruined or no longer serves as a political, economic and cultural center. For this reason, from time immemorial, people have longed to come to Samarkand and see it with their own eyes. During the study, Samarkand became one of the multinational cities. By the 19th century, in addition to the Uzbek and Tajik nationalities, the Indian, Iranian, Jewish, and Afghan minorities also appeared in Samarkand. There are reports that more than 17 nationalities lived in Samarkand in the middle of the 19th century (8.c.109). During this period, the city had a population of about 30,000, and under the influence of socio-political processes, the population of Samarkand was constantly renewed.

There is also information on the city's population in the national archives, according to which the ethnic composition of the population of Samarkand is extremely diverse, with the exception of Uzbeks and Tajiks, Arabs, Afghans, Indians, Jews and

other ethnic groups. In the sources one can find a lot of information about the national composition of the urban population. Information about the activities of Indian citizens in the city was confirmed on the basis of sources and literature on the subject, as well as national archives. Indians living in Samarkand, along with Iranian and Afghan citizens, made up 1/20 of the population. The number of Indians in the province was renewed every year, sometimes decreasing and sometimes increasing. Considering that in 1905 0.002% of the population of Samarkand region was Indians, this year the population of the city was 1026391, we can see that the number of Indians in the region was ---. In addition, 0.037% of the population were Gypsies (6.c.34-35). According to the Samarkand Statistical Committee of 1906, the ethnographic composition of the region was diverse. At this time 22 Indians were registered in the city (6.c.11). On January 1, 1916, according to the Samarkand Regional Administrative Statistics Committee, 2 Indians were registered in Samarkand, 3 in Kattakurgan, 5 in Jizzakh, and 10 in the whole region (2.c.23). By the beginning of the twentieth century, we are witnessing a decrease in the number of Indians in the region compared to the second half of the nineteenth century. According to the sources, Samarkand region was inhabited by about 100 (10.c.215-216) in the 60s of the XIX century, and even more by the end of the XIX century. The majority of Indian citizens living in the province were Indians from Peshawar, Bombay, Lahore and Shakarpur. They were mainly representatives of trade, usury, and seldom engaged in agriculture. There were even private shops of Indians in the city. We could meet Indian citizens in almost all parts of the province. For example, the city of Yangikurgan consists of 4 quarters, the 1st quarter of which consists of 3 pastry shops, 2 bakery shops, 1 flour shop, 24 food shops and 1 meat shop in Junuk district, almost all of which were run by Indians (9.c. .432). Indians also lived in the village of Bostanariq in the Muyun district of the Chelak district of the province (9.c.149). According to sources, there were a total of 214 Indians in Zarafshan district in the 1970s. There are 19 villages in Gazara Girdikurgan district of Payshanba district, 25 villages in Kattakurgan district, Damariq mahalla, where 47 Indians live. There were 4 Indian citizens in Panjikent, 16 in the mountainous areas of Panjikent, in particular in the Ablargutsky area, and a total of 20 Indian citizens

in Panjikent district (4.c.40-42-52-54-369-372). There are 128 Indians in Samarkand branch of Zarafshan district, 3 in Achamayli village of Sharozisky district, 4 in Paukhano district of Chelak district, 6 in Daul village of Samarkand region, 100 in Shavdarsky district and 13 in Djanup village of Yangikurgan district. 4.c.40-42-52-54-369-372). There were 9 Indians in Panjikent, which is a mountainous area of Zarafshan district, and 32 in Samarkand district, a total of 41 Indians (5.c.334-335). Indian citizens in Panjikent and Urgut were engaged in the trade of iron and steel products. Indians who came to Turkestan initially came to the country alone without a family, but after the opening of the Bombay-Botumi-Baku-Krasnovodsk sea route in the 1990s, Indians began to come to Turkestan with their families. So the weight of the routes from India to Turkestan prevented them from bringing their families to the country. Samarkand region 6 in 1891, 4 in 1892, 5 in 1894, 1 in 1898, 4 in 1899; In Andijan in 1909, 15 Indian citizens entered Turkestan with their families. In 1893, 26 Indians lived in the Russian-populated part of Samarkand. Of these, 20 were male and 6 were female (3.c.20). According to the 1897 census, there were 41 Indians in Samarkand Province, of whom 25 were men and 16 were women, and they lived in non-urban parts of Samarkand County (7) According to sources, Indian citizens living in Samarkand, as in other regions, lived in caravanserais. The city had 2 caravanserais and 3 baths in the 1840s, while before the Russian invasion there were 35 caravanserais, including 5 Indian caravanserais in Kattakurgan (8.c.8-9). Sources state that the Indians in Samarkand performed their religious rites in caravanserais every day as in their homeland: they were cleansed with water in the morning and then went to work (10.c.214-216). The main occupation of the Indians living in Samarkand region was trade usury.

Indians in Samarkand engaged in non-commercial usury, giving interest to the poor, earning a premium of 36%, 48%, and 50% per annum (1.c.130). The main capital of Indian usurers in Samarkand is attracted to the agricultural sector. The people of Samarkand have suffered a lot from Indian usurers. The Indian usurers in Turkestan suffered greatly, especially the poor peasants. For example, a poor farmer needed grain to plant a crop and received 8 pounds of grain from Indian usurers, who had to return

16 pounds after 4 months. If he fails to repay on time, he is sued, and if it exceeds 6 months, the amount of payment is close to 40 pounds. Initially, the Indians were lenient with the borrowers. (1.c.346) In most cases, the Indian usurers were able to repay the debts of the local debtor population with agricultural products, but they calculated the products at half the market price. The Indians worked in Turkestan for 5-8 years and tried to collect all their money from the debtors when they wanted to return to their homeland or go to another region. If the debtor is unable to repay, it is left to the Indians or servants who remain here.

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