

ANALYSIS OF SOME INDICATORS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE TINCA-BEIUȘ AREA (BIHOR COUNTY)

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In the present paper we will examine some indicators of rural development such as: technical equipping of the territory, the demographic and labor situation, some aspects of educational activity, culture, arts and health for each of the 5 rural areas in the survey taken of Bihor county. In this way we can form a picture of the alternatives for rural development, which put into practice will lead to improve the economic situation and the living area Tincea-Beiuș.

Key words: infrastructure, social aspects, labor resources, way of living

The development of rural communities can be described as a process in which the community is actively involved in order to mobilise all initiatives with a view to valorising one's own resources for the social and economic benefit of the community.

In the rural area, roads are the most important transportation ways, but road and traffic development in the Romanian rural area is still far from meeting either natives' needs or European standards. Only half of the communes have direct access to the road network, which allows us to say that the present road network meets only 60% of the total population. More than 25% of the communes cannot use the roads when it rains.

Other difficulties in the rural area are medical and educational services: rural population's access to basic education and to health services is hindered by deficit transportation services, which has a negative impact on doctors' and specialists' activity in the rural area.

The low level of education reflects in the quality of labour force in the rural area, which is a restrictive factor of economic development. Diversifying economic activities is not supported by trained workers or by workers specially trained for specific jobs.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Research was carried out in the area of the rural localities Beiuș, Tinca, Olcea, Holod, and Cociuba Mare, all located in the central part of Southern Bihor County.

Bihor County is located partially in the plain area and partially in the hill area. It also covers a mountain area, in the Western Apuseni Mountains, which is of interest only for the forestry industry.

For the field study, we chose four localities from the hill – plain area and 1 from the Western sub-mountain area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Agriculture plays a major role in the economics of the studied area. Despite all this, the economic and social development of an area is directly dependent upon the infrastructure of the area. In its turn, the economic and social development of an area also involves a certain level of development and qualification of the labour force. Or, to be more exact, labour force and economic and social development have a mutual relationship, being in a state of functional complementarity. Last but not least, economic and social health of an area strictly depends on the biological health of the populations in the area.

Technical equipment of an area is a primary must of economic underdevelopment eradication of the rural areas in most Western European countries. Land management and technical equipment of rural areas in most West-European countries are regulated by laws. According to experts in the field, all the laws regulating rural economics and rural society on the whole are covered by the rural code. Economic management and development of the rural area should lead to the achievement of the following main objectives:

- a) supporting the development of the entire opportunities supplied by the rural area;
- b) improving the demographic balance between urban and rural or even removing these disparities;
- c) developing agricultural activities in close correlation with non-agricultural economic activities up-stream and down-stream agriculture;
- d) ensuring a balanced distribution of the different activities that compete for a sustainable rural development;
- e) knowing the needs in the field of using labour force;
- f) encouraging activities in all possible economic fields.

A project of infrastructure allowing the technical equipment of the area stipulates the building up of a route network, of communication networks, the building of dwellings and of communal buildings, etc. Table 1 shows some elements that illustrate the technical equipment of the area as well as the dwelling fund in the studied area.

Table 1

Housing situation in the areas studied

Nr. crt.	The analysis indicator	Locality				
		Beiuș	Holod	Tinca	Olcea	Cociuba Mare
1	Total area, ha	2446	6607	14199	8609	7438
2	Existing Housing (No.)	3999	1513	2928	1060	1476
3	Housing in the prop. Public	63	20	29	2	3
4	Housing in the prop. Privat	3936	1493	2829	1058	1473
5	Surface area Total mp	161879	64021	124314	54927	68730
6	Surface area prop. public mp	1482	652	1136	98	183
7	Surface area prop. Privat mp	160397	63369	123178	54829	68547
8	Length of street town, km	31	9,5	44,7	26,8	3,3
9	Length modernized municipal streets, km	20	-	4,5	-	-
10	Length of water supply network, km	45,7	-	-	-	-
11	Length of sewerage network, km	32,8	-	-	-	-

Source: Local Mayoral

As for the total fund of dwellings, we can see that the inhabitable area per inhabitant ranges between 14.18 m² in Beiuș and 21.52 m² in Cociuba Mare. It is interesting to note that in Beiuș, a small urban locality, the inhabitable area per inhabitant is smaller than in each of the other four rural localities we studied, i.e. in Holod – 18.80 m² per inhabitant, in Tinca – 16.57 m² per inhabitant, in Olcea – 19.78 m² per inhabitant, and in Cociuba Mare – 21.52 m² per inhabitant. We think that the main cause of this state of facts is that in the urban area the population “benefited” from a flat in a block of flats, whose area per dweller is smaller than that in the rural area. The population in the rural area built itself private homes following the tradition, i.e. large houses with large rooms. It is true that most of the inhabitable area is not used as such, being reserved to relatives or to other people. Nevertheless, the truth is that people in the rural area benefit from larger inhabitable areas than people in Beiuș.

This does not go for infrastructure elements such as length of the roads, length of the drinking water network, length of the sewers. These elements of infrastructure can be found in Beiuș but they lack completely in the rural area. Most of it is because of the lack of initiative from local commune managers who made a bet on customs, on the conservatory attitude of rural communities and did

nothing or almost nothing to stimulate the natives to wish drinking water from a tap and sewerage networks. We also think that in the context of reasonable rural policies in the area, rural communities would even agree to spend some money in partnership with the State to implement such projects meant to bring them fresh water and remove waste water.

Demographics: labour force in the studied area

The three main resources of sustainable rural development are land fund, capital and labour force. Among them, labour force plays the most active role. Neither of the other two factors can act in the absence of the third, i.e. human resources.

Table 2

State population and labor force

Nr. crt.	The analysis indicator	Locality				
		Beiuș	Holod	Tinca	Olcea	Cociuba Mare
1	Population total 01.07.	11417	3401	7500	2776	3193
2	Of which women	5841	1754	3833	1408	1604
3	% women	51,16	51,57	51,11	50,72	50,23
4	Employees total	4194	228	779	115	139
5	Of which: agriculture	12	1	14	-	2
6	Employees in total industry	2142	13	200	1	14
7	In manufacturing	2037	-	151	1	14
8	In heat, gas, water	105	13	25	-	-
9	In construction	135	13	32	12	-
10	Transport, post, communications, trade	111	99	117	4	49
11	Public administration	76	1	17	10	10
12	In învățământ	407	41	139	43	44
13	In education	328	14	73	18	20

Source: Local Mayoral

A first conclusion that can be drawn from the analysis of the figures presented in Table 2 is the share of women of the total population. This indicator is part of the variation at the level of the entire Romanian and even European societies, ranging between 50.23 in Cociuba Mare and 51.57% in Holod.

A negative aspect in the rural area is that of the number of employed people. If in Beiuș most of the active population is employed, in the rest of the studied rural area the share of employed people is very low. If in the small urban locality Beiuș there are 4194 employed people out of a total population of 11,417, in the other four rural localities the number of employed people decreases dramatically down to 115 employed people in Olcea, except for Tinca, which is closer to the urban pattern due to some features.

The number of employed people in agriculture is also very low, ranging between 1 and 12, and concerning only specialists hired by the communal agricultural centres.

As expected, most of the employed people in the studied localities characterised by a higher level of development such as Beiuș and Tinca are

employed in industry, i.e. 50.07% and 25.67%, respectively. A relatively even number of people work in communications, trade, postal services and transportations. The share of people employed in education and health in the 5 localities are rather even, which point to a certain parity of the number of inhabitants per person employed in education and in health.

Considerations concerning the activity in education, culture, arts, and health

Education is a major activity that each community, including rural ones, should promote steadily. It is through education that people's intellectual needs are met and that labour force is trained. Therefore, it is not enough to rely on a large amount of population: that population should rely, in its turn, on a certain level of education, of professional training.

Table 3 presents some aspects concerning the activity in the field of education. It is interesting to note that the largest number of educational institutions is not in Beiuș, as expected, but in the rural localities Holod and Tinca. It is true that Beiuș, according to the Chart of the rural European area, is part of the rural area, but it is still an urban locality. In exchange, of the 5 rural localities, only two have a high-school: Beiuș – 3 and Tinca – 1.

The share of the pupils of the total population is very different. If the two localities ask for a higher economic and social development level – Beiuș 33.42% and Tinca 16.14% – then the other three rural localities have much lower shares, below 10% and going to 5.65% in Olcea. Field research showed that this indicator is slightly “altered” by the natural migration of the pupils that graduated from the high-schools in Beiuș and Tinca.

The teaching staff in the educational system is closely related to the number of population in general and to the number of population of school age in the studied localities. Staffs in the health system and in the social assistance field show the same dynamics.

The number of libraries is an interesting indicator of the cultural level of the population in a given area. From this point of view, we can notice that in Beiuș there are 1631 people per library, in Holod there are 1134 people per library, in Tinca there are 1875 people per library, in Olcea there are 555 people per library and in Cociuba Mare there are 639 people per library. The number of TV subscriptions also reflects the cultural level of the population: in Beiuș there is one TV subscription for 4.8 people, in Holod there is one TV subscription for 11.1 people, in Tinca there is one TV subscription for 7.3 people, in Olcea there is one TV subscription for 16.2 people, and in Cociuba Mare there is one TV subscription for 7.9 people. To also note the same differentiation between Beiuș and Tinca, on one hand, and the rest of studied localities, on the other hand.

The only locality in which there are hospitals is Beiuș, which has two such institutions, with a total of 305 beds and 34 doctors. In our opinion, a third hospital with a proper number of beds and doctors would be useful in Tinca.

Dentists and pharmacists are present in all the studied localities, with private practices in Tinca and Beiuș.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The rural area in the Tinca-Beiuș area has a high economic potential, with some of the most varied potentials. They allow the appearance in the rural area of alternative industrial activities that complete the incomes of the population in the rural area.

2. Multiplying economic activities in the rural area, using as completely a possible economic resources in the area could lead to an increase of the number of jobs in the rural area and of the life quality in the studied area.

3. Observing the principle of subsidiarity is a major factor in sustainable development in Romania in general and in the rural area in particular, with special mention for the studied area.

4. The present state of the infrastructure and the present state of the services strongly affect life quality in the rural area and hinder the development of economic and social activities.

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