

ASPECTS THAT CHARACTERIZE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN ROMANIAN RURAL AREA

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Abstract

Quality of life of people is an important concern in the economic and political sciences, Field of quality of life is an area of interest to practitioners and policy makers, arising out of major importance given to the human factor in a society, Analysis of quality of life is important to monitor the evolution in time of major social and economic phenomena that characterize a society as a whole, The analysis of social indicators system and thus of quality of life, is a basic concern of modern democratic societies, This analysis is necessary for identifying the changes that occur over time, the main economic and social issues - related to unemployment, population health status, level of vocational training, life satisfaction and subjective quality of life side, The analysis of quality of life indicators provides an overview of the general welfare of society, statistically grounded and solid theoretical and empirical bases, In developed societies, debates on quality of life took place in a context characterized by two trends: increasing awareness of pollution in the industrial society and economic growth effect of race on the one hand, and on the other hand, awareness of quality of life that recognized social value, Under threat of negative impacts of development, the society became aware of the need to revise economic orientation, Production processes created decades ago to get a better quality of life have become barriers to quality of life for present and future, Quality of life is an engine for economic growth, Therefore, the ultimate goal of any economic policy must be to increase the quality of life, The world economic growth is unprecedented, and, however, discrepancies between the rich and the poor is widening.

Key words: quality of life, standard of living, life expectancy

Analysis of quality of life in developing countries, and in a country like Romania, it is appropriate to make, as experience in the field, in relation to the assessment and analysis of poverty, the gap in society, given the low level of income compared with the needs, but without neglecting the interdependence of quality of life and natural environment characteristics, economic and political

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Quality level of life can be seen on the one hand, from a subjective perspective, and on the other hand, from an objective perspective, with its pragmatic implications in all spheres of economic and social activity, How we choose to live depends on the wishes and aspirations of each, in close correlation with all the conditions and possibilities (resources) created in the context of a society.

To characterize the quality of life have the following defining elements: the level and evolution of income, the level and structure of consumption of goods and services, working conditions and leisure, educational level and cultural level,

housing and communal services, health population,

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Development leads to improved quality of life of people and to expand their ability to shape their own future, This would increase the per capita income through economic growth and equitable education and employment opportunities, reducing gender disparities, better health, less polluted environment, civil and political freedoms.

When we say we consider sustainable development to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and for generations to come.

Demographic profile and labor resources

Rural - in size and population - is not as big a share in all the 8 development regions, The rural area is spread in the North-East (94,0% of the surface) and is the largest rural population in the South (58,6% of the population).

An important indicator of standard of living is the number of inhabitants per km², According to data presented in (table 1). The national average is 91 inhab/km², But there are some regions that year

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exceeds the national average. For example, the North-East where there are highest, 100,8 inhab/km², computed without taking the Bucharest region, but also regions where the values are lower, Southeast region, 60,0 instead/km², with the lowest level of this indicator.

The average population density in rural areas remained relatively constant over the years, being of 45.1 inhabitants per km²). Analysis of this indicator at the local level shows that over 80% of

rural areas have a density close to the threshold used by the European Union to identify rural areas. There are great disparities, especially due to the influence of regional and county relief.

From a demographic perspective, Romanian rural economy is characterized by the continuing trend of reduction in population, combined with increased demographic imbalances (high percentage of elderly population), whose effect is a high mortality rate.

Table 1

The main features of rural development in the eight regions

Region	Surface (km ²)	Rural population (inhab)	Density of population (inhab/km ²)	Number of communes	Number of villages	% from rural surface of region	% from rural population of the area
North-East	36,850	2,109,042	100,8	506	2,414	94,0	56,8
South - East	35,762	1,263,476	60,0	355	1,447	90,8	44,9
South	34,453	1,915,755	94,4	519	2,019	91,8	58,6
South- West	29,212	1,175,776	78,7	408	2,070	89,1	52,2
West	32,034	709,475	77,0	281	1,327	86,8	36,9
North- West	34,159	1,269,646	79,6	402	1,800	88,4	46,7
Center	34,100	1,024,160	74,0	357	1,788	83,4	40,6
Bucharest	1,821	179,113	1239,2	32	91	84,3	7,9
Romania	238,391	9,646,443	90,1	2,860	12,956	-	44,9

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 2010

From an economic perspective, rural economic development entails: low level of diversification of economic activities, the rural economy is based on agriculture, inefficient agricultural predominance in small farms, fewer jobs, and income of rural population.

In terms of housing and urbanism, are mainly rural characteristics: high degree of aging housing stock, amid a large proportion of residential buildings made from unsustainable materials (62% of total) and a poor road system insufficient water supply and inadequate.

The main factors contributing to socio-demographic development in rural areas are: birth rate, mortality and migration.

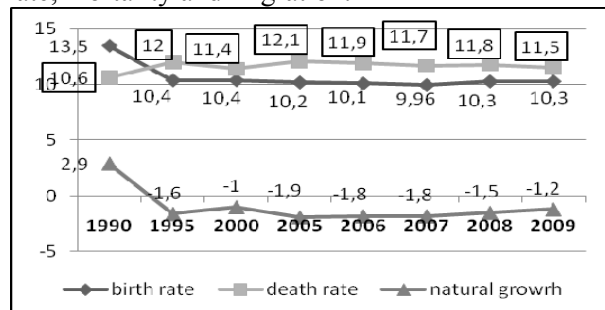


Figure 1 Natural movement of population

If in 1980 the birth rate in rural areas was about 17 per 1000 inhabitants, it went from 12.8 per 1000 inhabitants in 1994. Currently the birth rate in rural areas is 10.4, roughly equal to that of

urban (10.3). Birth values continue to have large variations in the field. In the east of the country's birth rate is nearly two times higher than in the south and west (figure 1).

The mortality rate in our country has stabilized around 12 deaths / 1,000 population, the index ranking among European countries with high mortality. In rural areas the average mortality is higher than in urban areas (about 14 / 1000 inhabitants) and the trend of recent years is increasing. In general, there is a strong direct correlation between the degree of mortality and demographic aging.

Return of rural youth has very favorable implications for the development of productive activity, their entrepreneurial spirit is easily formed and oriented, with priority to non-agricultural activities to be established and developed in rural communities. In these circumstances, it would have been an increase in quality of life, would limit migration and alleviate social problems were, including reducing rural unemployment. It would also increase employment of women, usually adapts more easily to non-agricultural activities.

Economic reforms have led to employment growth in agriculture. Agriculture has a buffer role for socio-economic occupational transition, absorbing labor released from other economic sectors, indicating low productivity per worker and suggesting a hidden unemployment, an increase in rural areas.

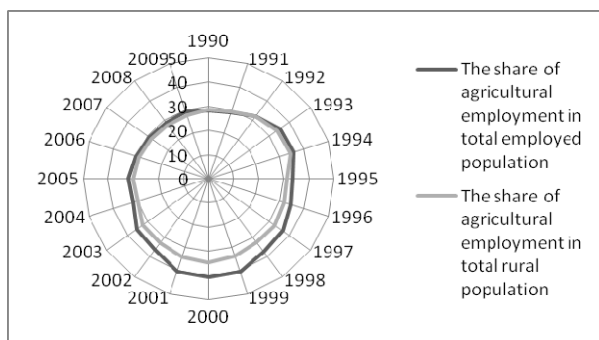


Figure 2 The share of agricultural employment in total population, 1990-2009

Previous figure 2 we present the evolution of employment in agriculture in total employed population and changes in agricultural employment in total rural population. It can be seen that the two indicators have a similar evolution.

In rural areas, employment is concentrated mainly on the agricultural sector. Regarding the employment status of rural population employed in agriculture, in 2008, 53.4% are self-employed, 42.1% are family members and unpaid self-employed, 4.3% are employed and 0 - 2% are employers.

The small number of workers employed in agriculture, only 4.8% of total employment is a problem facing Romanian agriculture, as owners of small skill level is very low and labor productivity and results of production are low relative (table 2).

Because mono employment of rural population in agricultural activities on their own, **the unemployment rate in rural areas** is lower than in urban population.

Table 2
Number and percentage of employees in Romanian

	1990	2000	2005	2009	2009/1990
No. of employees of agriculture Thousands	655,0	196,0	144,0	110,0	-545
The share of employees in the agricultural employment (%) of which:	21,4	5,0	5,0	4,8	-16,6
- Workers (%)	86,9	80,0	69,0	69,1	-17,8
- Old categorii de personal (%)	13,1	20,0	31,0	30,9	+17,8

Source: Based on data from Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2009

Number of unemployed in rural areas is 33% of the total unemployed in Romania. The highest values in terms of unemployment in rural areas, are recorded in the central zone (2.9%) and South (2.4) and lower values in the North-West and North - East (both with a rate of 0.7%).

Proportion of women who are unemployed is much lower than men because women's employment and the rate is lower.

Hidden unemployment is a phenomenon present in the area, one of the arguments is that almost 85% of rural population working in agriculture as a second activity which involves running a previous occupational activities.

The evolution of living conditions

Occupancy of housing reflects the economic development of the period analyzed by the potential it presents year in construction and availability of individuals to pay for housing, on the one hand and population, on the other. To characterize the quality of life from this perspective, it is important to know the average area per person and facilities enjoyed by homes.

Indicators relating to housing stock reveals its growth. It also noted an improvement in living conditions. Thus, in 2004, only 83.32% of all homes were equipped with power plants, currently over 99% of households have electricity. The situation is similar in both urban and rural areas. Regarding water supply, nationally there is an increase in housing equipped with running water facilities, from 65.05% in 2004 to 78.84% in 2009. In urban areas, on average over 90% of households have running water facilities, while in rural areas is much smaller share. However, there is an increase from 38.62% in 2004 to 66.74% in 2009, an increase of 28.12%.

Regarding the sewer plant, 63.37% of households now have such facilities, an increase of 9.35% in 2004-2009. In urban areas the percentage is above the national average in 2009, 83.25% of households had sanitation facilities. Rural areas are characterized by a lower level of endowment sewerage, 43.81% in 2009. In the six years analyzed, this indicator increased by 19.46%.

Health of the population

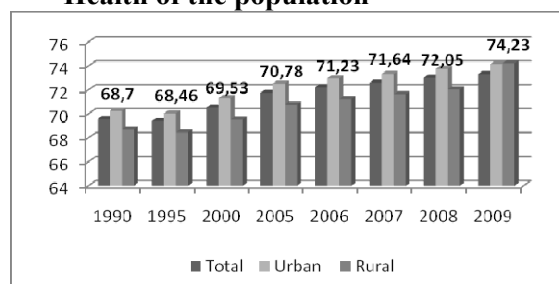


Figure 3 Life expectancy by sex and area

Post December period is characterized by increasing average life expectancy, within 19 years, this indicator increased by 5.42%. This trend is met both by residence and sex structure of population. In the analysis the average life expectancy is higher in urban than in rural areas and by gender the average is higher for women (77.67 years to 70.58 years).

Income and consumption structure

The main source of income was the total in both 2009 and throughout the period under review, the cash income (83.7% in 2009 up 4.1% compared to 2005).

Total household income structure is distinguished by:

1. Gross wages and other labor rights form the largest category of revenue, with the largest share in total household income (50.9% in 2009 increasing by 3.6% compared to 2005 and decreasing by 1.2 compared to 2008). Worth noting their low contribution to the formation of total revenues compared with developed market economy countries;

2. The large share of income in kind account mainly the consumption value of agricultural products from own resources;

3. Income from social benefits have an important share in total income structure (24.2% in 2009 to 20.4% in 2005);

4. Agricultural income: sales of agricultural products, animals and birds, provision of agricultural labor and income from companies and agricultural associations, representing approximately 2.5% in the year 2009, down from 2005;

5. Income from independent agricultural activities: trade, services, trades and professions practice (2.8% in 2009);

6. Property income: interest, dividends, rent, lease (0.2% in 2008);

Household income level and structure are determined by the number of income generating (especially the number of persons employed and the type of activity which they carry) and the position they hold in the hierarchy of household members income for the type of activity carried out (salaries, income from agriculture or independent non-agricultural activities). However the differences between incomes of different types of sensitive households.

Nominal average earning activities as agriculture, fishing and hotels and restaurants is well below average wages throughout the economy. In exchange activities such as public administration and defense, mining, electricity, gas and water far exceeds the average salary for the entire economy.

The level and pattern of consumption (including food) always correlate with income, with the price of current products market, with

expectations of future income, food habits, population structure by sex and age, family size, influence of advertising, etc. .

Economic crisis on fundamental aspects of quality of life (the life, training and maintaining family health, nutrition) and also the effects of degradation of some basic parameters of individual and collective well-being: education, culture, crime, insecurity - may explain the capacity to react to a crisis.

CONCLUSIONS

The transition period in Romania for a new society has the effect of major social losses. Contributed to this crisis not only economic, but also lack of training for social reform.

Romania needs to modernize and to reform policies to be able to preserve values. Modernization is essential to continue the increased prosperity, social cohesion, environmental protection and quality of life.

The current state is not really an option. The growth and a workforce employed in productive areas can achieve results that meet expectations The European Union has to our country. Through concerted action in areas that have a major impact on quality of life can progress in Romania's European integration.

Quality of life indicators can be warning signs to draw attention to social issues, as well as those that may have negative consequences in the medium and long term. It is important for establishing the selection of indicators to assess the effects of social objectives or policies to improve the quality of life.

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