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QUALITY OF LIFE PROBLEMS IN MODERN RUSSIA



Anastasia Ragozina

Teacher in Serov School number 19
graduate student

anastasia453@yandex.ru
11, Krasnogvardeyskaya str.,
Serov, Sverdlovsk region, 62492, Russia
+7 (34385) 6-40-74

Abstract. The article reveals the problems of the quality of life currently in the Russian Federation. Particular attention is focused on the characteristic of the dynamic of individual indicators of life quality. The level of health, fertility and mortality of the population are analyzed. The serious demographic problems connected with low birth rate and high mortality of the population were revealed. On the basis of the analysis of poverty and its connection with the population's fertility, it is concluded that the causes of the demographic crisis lie in the non-economic sphere. The unemployment rate and its interrelation with the income level of the population are analyzed. The income level is analyzed in comparison with the subsistence level, and the structure of the population's expenditures is also analyzed. The decrease of real disposable money income of the population is stated. In addition, as a result of the analysis, a significant (up to 10 times) differentiation of regions in the population income was revealed. To a large extent the differentiation of income also depends on the branch of the economy. The problem of poverty of the population is analyzed in more detail. As a result of the analysis it was concluded that the most urgent problems of the life quality in Russia at the present time are the provision of employment, the strengthening of the social security of the population, and the fight against poverty.

Keywords: quality of life, standard of living, birth rate, life expectancy, social provision, wages, human development index.

JEL codes: I 31; J 18; O 47.

Introduction

The life quality is the final criterion that allows assessing the effectiveness of economic transformations at any level of management. Management of life quality is the base for the growth

and modernization of social policy [15]. To maintain an acceptable life quality for the population, it is necessary to evaluate it timely and take measures to increase it. The life quality can be defined as a system of indicators that give an idea of a certain sphere of human activity. LQP is a complex social and economic category, that is why, its research in modern conditions is one of the most urgent tasks not only in economic and social, but also political and spiritual development of the country.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the current state of the indicators of life quality of the population in Russia.

Analysis of the quality of life problems in Russia

During the period of market reforms, the level and life quality in Russia significantly decreased. The human development index decreased from 0.848 in 1992 to 0.755 in 2011. Individual life quality indicators such as- birth rate, mortality, life expectancy, morbidity have, deteriorated the number of registered crimes has increased. Many forms of social provision, the state of the environment such as - the atmosphere, water, soil have worsened.

Life satisfaction depends on economic conditions only 40%, and 60% - on psychological factors [12]. Historical experience shows that the decline on life quality, but not the level of life is that explosive mixture that can cause social shock [1, c. 97].

From the beginning of the 1990s, the health of the Russian population began to deteriorate sharply. The death rate rose 1.6 times compared with the mid-80s. Because of this, by 2012 the country lost over 9 million people, primarily from heart and brain diseases.

At the same time, there was more than a twofold drop in the birth rate, because of which the country lost more than 14 million potential citizens who were unborn.

Since 1992, mortality has exceeded the birth rate and depopulation has begun - the extinction of the population. The share of the Russian population in the world reduced by half from 1950 to 2011, from 4% to 2%. And, according to the same RIA Novosti data, it will be halved in the next 50 years and will be already 1%. The extinction rate reaches 0.8% per year. At such rates of degradation, the number of indigenous people in 50 years will be halved and the majority in Russia will be Muslims [8, c. 15].

Not only the environment [14] but material well-being is of great importance for health and quality of life.

In 2011, the proportion of poor and very poor in Russia according to the international criteria was (income of dollars per day):

Beggars (\$ 1 and less) 18%

Very poor (\$ 1-2)32%
The poor (\$ 2-5)39%
The rest (more than \$ 5) ...11%

However, during the researches economic factors proved to be not the main causes of the demographic catastrophe. The rich died almost as often, and their childlessness was even higher [10, c. 15].

Scientific researches showed that the main and main causes of depopulation are in the spiritual sphere: depression and loss of meaning of life, resentment because of unfair results of "reforms" and impunity of evil, moral degradation from the power of money, cult of violence and debauchery.

The life quality in Russia in recent years has been catastrophically decreasing [2, p. 83].

The total number of unemployed in Russia, calculated according to the methodology of the International Labor Organization, in January 2012 has increased by about 5.9% - to 5 million 709 thousand people, and the unemployment rate - from 7.2% to 7.7% of the economically active population. At the same time, the number of officially registered unemployed has increased by more than 1 million 609 thousand people during January alone.

Officially, the number of population that has money incomes per capita below the minimum subsistence level established in Russia is 18.9 million, and its share in the total population is 14.1 percent.

The real disposable money income of the Russian population - calculated without compulsory payments and adjusted for the consumer price index - in January 2012 decreased by 5.5% compared to January 2011.

A decrease in the standard of living is also evidenced by the fact that in the structure of expenditure of the population the share of food expenditures increased with a general decrease in its calorific value. The daily calorific value per capita in Russia is 2,300 kcal. According to this indicator, Russia is close to Moldova, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the Philippines, Bolivia. In developed countries it exceeds 3000 kcal (Great Britain, Germany, Finland, Netherlands, USA, Canada) [9, c. 90].

During the years of reforms, in essence, many branches of the social sphere have been destroyed and the share of the population's spending on paid services has decreased. The quality of medical care and education has decreased. Full- treatment and rest outside the permanent residence became inaccessible to a significant part of the population [3, c. 186].

Interregional and interbranch differences in income and wages have increased. Compared with average wages in the Russian economy, the lowest wages are in the social sphere - education,

health, culture, science, agriculture and forestry, light industry and machine building. Payment in the gas, oil production and refining industry, non-ferrous metallurgy significantly exceeds the average wage.

The differentiation of Russian regions in the number of subsistence level sets that can be purchased reaches 10 times. The regions that are financial centers (Moscow) or connected with the fuel and energy complex (Tyumen Region, Yamalo-Nenets and Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrugs) are among the most provided. The least provided are the Republic of Ingushetia, the Komi-Permyak Autonomous District, Republics of Tuva, Dagestan, Chita Region. There is a significant differentiation in the quality of life in urban [11; 16] and rural areas. Reduction of interregional differentiation of real incomes of the population is one of the most important directions in the policy of incomes and wages [6, p. 186].

According to the State Statistics Committee of Russia, the proportion of the population living below the poverty line exceeds 20%. Among the less provided, the largest share is made up of pensioners and large families. Therefore, in the policy of income and wages, the first attention should be given to their social protection.

The growth of poverty is largely connected with the fact that in modern Russia, the inflationary burden is distributed unevenly. Expensiveness of consumer goods and services in the first place and in a greater degree concerns those of them that satisfy primary life needs and constitute the basis of consumption of the poorer strata of the population [4, p. 57].

The fight against poverty is one of the most important strategic tasks of the democratic development of society. It is necessary to establish the official status of a poor family, so that many types of social benefits become targeted. This applies in the first place to the children and subsidies for housing and communal services. According to the estimates of the International Labor Organization (ILO), only about 1/5 total social transfers in Russia go to families who are below the poverty line.

The poverty alleviation program should be implemented in conjunction with programs for long-term economic growth and investment, stabilization of the monetary system [13], employment and job creation.

When developing an income policy, it is necessary to consider two variants. The first involves the development of historically formed in Russia forms of social protection of the population, based on social justice, collective relations, equal access to education, health care, the state's care about citizens from birth to old age. The second option is based on a combination of accumulative and distributive principles, differentiation of social protection between the rich and the poor layers of the population [7, p. 55].

Conclusion

1. Improving the quality of life is the most important direction in the policy of income and wages. The level and quality of life are interrelated. The standard of living characterizes the socio-economic results of the development of society.

2. The level and quality of life are measured by a system of indicators - integral and private, natural and valuable. To develop the policy of income and wages, it is important to take into account not only the general characteristics of the level and quality of life in the country, but also their differentiation by socio-demographic, professional and income groups of population, by region, rural and urban areas.

3. In modern Russia, the most urgent problems of raising the level and quality of life are ensuring employment, strengthening social security of the population, fight against poverty [5, p. 97].

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