

METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE STUDY OF THE CATEGORY OF WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION

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Abstract

This article examines the theoretical and practical aspects of research on welfare, living standards, and living standards of the population. The main trends and features of the formation of the population's well-being in the context of the modern transformation of the economic system are revealed.

Keywords: Welfare, income, distribution of wealth, goods, the standard of living, consumption, quality of life.

The concept of "welfare" has historically developed in parallel with changes in the processes of social reproduction and includes social, economic, and socio-economic approaches to defining the category of welfare.

The first who began to consider such concepts as wealth and welfare, both from the standpoint of society and from the standpoint of the individual, was the English economist Sidgwick H. (1838-1900). In his opinion, the same concepts (such as, for example, benefit, income, welfare) can have diametrically opposite meanings, depending on the position from which to study them, from what point of view they are considered.

Clarke J.B. in his work "Distribution of Wealth" (1899) first asks the question of the marginal productivity of factors of production, studies the mechanism of income creation (shares of income), and the system of distribution of wealth by owners of factors of production. A. Marshall moves from the study of macroeconomic problems of wealth to microeconomic ones, investigating the incentives of human behavior in matters of increasing individual welfare. Cournot A., using a mathematical model, explores the principles of wealth formation in conditions of monopoly and competition.

In the late 30s - early 40s. XX century schools were created that tried to provide a "synthesis between a free and socially compulsory social order". These are the views of Bergson A., Nobel Prize winners Arrow K., Samuelson P., Erhard L., McKenzie L., Geil D., Granberg A.

According to the above authors, any form of mixed economy is a condition for creating a society in which the needs of the individual are maximally satisfied. Often these concepts "living standards" and "well-being" are used as synonyms of each other, or they negate the value of one of them as an indicator of the population's living standards. This can be explained, to some extent, by the difference between the existing approaches to the category of welfare at the macro and micro levels [3].

The well-known economist Mayer V.F. identifies the categories of well-being and living standards while defining them as the provision of the population with the necessary material and spiritual benefits, the achieved level of their consumption, and the degree of satisfaction of people's needs for these benefits [1]. Also, there are the following interpretations of the concept of "standard of living" or "well-being":

- the degree of provision of people with material and spiritual benefits;
- the achieved the degree of development of physical, material needs of a person;
- the level of development of physical, spiritual, and social needs, the degree of their satisfaction, as well as the conditions in society for the development and satisfaction of these needs.

But such an interpretation of the concept of the standard of living is given by the modern economic dictionary: "The standard of living of the population is the level of well-being of the population, the consumption of goods and services, a set of conditions and indicators that characterize the measure of satisfaction of the basic vital needs of people" [4]. In other words, the standard of living in the degree of development and satisfaction of the needs of a person living in society.

What these definitions have in common is that the authors associate the concept of "living standards" with the development and satisfaction of people's needs. However, many of them make several reservations. So, Mayer V.F says that the concept of "living standards" reflects only the personal needs of people, "therefore, it is necessary to distinguish between indicators that directly form the standard of living, and factors that determine it" [1].

In our opinion, the category of "welfare" is one of the most multifaceted, and therefore insufficiently specified in economic theory. This is essentially due to the presence of many categories that characterize the degree of satisfaction of the individual with the conditions of his existence and the nature of the individual's life. An overview of the definitions of this category

allows us to formulate the following own generalized definition of this category: welfare as an economic category includes the sum of political, economic, and social factors that accelerate the growth of the level and quality of life of the population.

Welfare includes the following components: income and consumption; state social guarantees and paid services, social security, and social protection. When studying the category of welfare, the methodology for assessing the level and quality of life of the population is of interest.

In our opinion, welfare is a life support system - the reproduction of the physical strength of an individual, his socialization, and social compensation for low-income categories of the population.

The indicators used to assess the well-being of the population can be divided into quantitative and qualitative.

Quantitative indicators, first of all, are GNP, or national income per capita, the level of income and its distribution in society, the level of consumption of various material goods and services by the class of goods, the level of employment, etc. Qualitative indicators of the well-being of the population include indicators of working conditions, everyday life, and leisure of a person.

In world practice, to assess the well-being of the population, a system of so-called social indicators is used: GNP production per capita, the number, and proportion of people living below the poverty line, child and maternal mortality rates, life expectancy, the share of social spending in GDP, some additional poverty indicators (social spending, availability of primary education, health care systems, drinking water sources, etc.).

When studying the category of welfare, the methodology for assessing the level and quality of life of the population is of interest. It is an important analytical tool of state socio-economic policy, which allows:

1. To establish guidelines for the socio-economic policy of the state for the future.
2. Analyze the current level of socio-economic development of the country; assess the level of poverty.
3. Conduct interregional comparisons of the level and quality of life of the population.

Conclusions

Increasing the well-being of the population largely depends on solving the problem of uneven development of the regions of the republic. The disproportions in the socio-economic situation of the regions determine the relevance of the formation of the concept of the development of small

towns for the medium term. Again, the question of financing arises, here it is possible to envisage investments directed in a strictly defined channel and under strict control.

Thus, the approaches we have used to assess the well-being of the population allow us to give a comprehensive assessment of the standard of living, assess the degree of satisfaction of the material and spiritual needs of people in the current difficult conditions of economic development, propose an effective mechanism for social protection of the population, substantiate the directions of improving the process of generating incomes of the population as the most important factor in growth welfare.

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