

**THE PROBLEMS AND PECULIARITIES OF QUALITY OF LIFE IN BELARUS**

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Nowadays, the economic category of "quality of life" and its parameters are of particular interest to scientists, economists, sociologists and statisticians. The study of quality of life is one of the main analyses of the socio-economic development of the country.

The relevance of the topic of our research is determined by the fact that the situation in human potential sphere is currently being improved in Belarusian society. We can speak not only about its maintenance and preservation, but also about its further development.

Quality of life is an assessment of conditions and characteristics of a person's life, usually based on their own degree of satisfaction with these conditions and characteristics. Quality of life includes different factors, such as health, life expectancy, environmental conditions, food, everyday comfort with living conditions, social environment, psychological comfort, and satisfaction with cultural and spiritual needs [1].

One of the main indicators characterizing the quality of life is the human development index (HDI). Belarus is among the countries with high HDI and occupies place 53 among 187 countries [2].

High quality of living standard means that living conditions in Belarus are very good for people. Belarus provides its residents with high level of education, long life expectancy, reasonable income and other parameters characterizing the quality of life.

However, despite the high level of quality of life, there are still some unsolved problems such as [3]:

- negative population growth;
- reduction in life expectancy;
- high housing prices in the capital and in the regions, which makes it difficult to purchase a flat for young families, as well as for citizens who want to improve their living conditions;
- decrease in purchasing power of the population, population differentiation in terms of material wealth, dependence of certain segments of the population on the financial support from the state;
- low average wages compared to countries with developed market economies;
- preservation of hidden unemployment, low material support for the unemployed;
- preservation of overemployment of elderly citizens, women with children, students, due to the low wages and the lack of social welfare;
- sufficiently high level of low-income citizens; small pensions.

To solve these problems, we should follow socio-economic policy. And the main directions of the policy of our country should be:

- salary increase;
- improvement of working conditions;
- improvement of the efficiency of production;
- tax cuts.

To determine the living standards of the population of Pinsk we used the method of public opinion survey. Our questionnaire contained one question only: “How would you assess the development of the following areas in Pinsk:

- 1) Communications;
- 2) Ecology;
- 3) Quality of transport system;
- 4) Quality of goods consumed;
- 5) Health service;
- 6) Culture and leisure facilities in the city;
- 7) Educational institutions;
- 8) Living conditions;
- 9) Available jobs;
- 10) Income?”

We interviewed 30 people. The results of the survey can be seen in table.

Table – The results of the survey.

	bad	satisfactory	good
Communications	9	16	5
Ecology	7	11	12
Quality of transport system	5	18	7
Quality of goods consumed	9	18	3
Health service	16	12	2
Culture and leisure facilities in the town	10	14	6
Educational institutions	7	15	8
Living conditions	5	12	13
Available jobs	15	11	4
Income	12	9	9

One of the main priorities of the country is to fight poverty, increase average wages and salaries, improve pensioners’ living conditions, and give governmental support to the destitute.

In our town we should take into consideration problems of low wages and salaries, bad situation with jobs, not very good health service and small amount of leisure facilities. Some of these problems, like health service and low wages, exist all over Belarus but the others can be solved locally.

If we stick to the main directions of social and economic policy, we will be able to solve all the current problems in our republic and even improve the overall level of quality of life.

## References

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