

QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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Quality of life of the population is determined by the life potentials of the society, its social groups, individual citizens and the conformity of the characteristics of the processes, means, conditions and results of their livelihoods to socially-positive needs, values and goals.

Quality of life as a scientific notion comprises all the conditions of human existence: provision of material goods (food, clothing, housing), security, access to medical care, opportunity for education and development of abilities, state of the natural environment, social relations in the society, including freedom of expression and the influence of citizens on political decisions" [1, p.47]. The effectiveness of the state's social policy and, ultimately, the country's global rating depend on the quality of life. In this regard, the topic of the study is very relevant.

In some developed market countries, the quality of life is higher than in developing countries. In the countries with a model of socially-oriented market economy, the social aspects of the population's life and, accordingly, the quality of life are given more attention, since it characterizes the effectiveness of the state's social economic policy and, ultimately, the level of social development [2].

With the development of market relations, the center of economic development of the Republic of Belarus will be shifted to the regions, the importance of which is great, because the bulk of material benefits is created in them. At the same time, as market relations are formed, the level of regional development is uneven. This fact is explained by the following reasons: firstly, the peculiarities of regional development, and secondly, the selective attitude of state structures to the territories [3]. The regions have different bases of economic development, as well as different natural resource potential, composition and structure, territorial location of production, mentality, level of education of the population, especially local government.

The analysis of quality of life in the regions of the Republic of Belarus is based on the results of the calculation of the integral indices of quality of life by the rating method (ordinal scaling) and by the method of assessment developed by Belarusian scientists, which includes the following criteria: well-being, social security (or the quality of the social sphere), the quality of population, living conditions, environmental quality, natural and climatic conditions, legal protection and culture.

The analysis of quality of life allowed to carry out a research based on gradation and calculation of a rating of regions of Republic of Belarus on quality of life. Each region is assigned a rating score (one of the seven) for the group of each indicator that characterizes the quality of life of the population. The closer the indicator is to 1, the higher the quality of life of the population in the region is. The results are presented in table 1.

Table 1. – Rating of regions of the Republic of Belarus by quality of life

Indicators of Quality of Life	Brest Region	Vitebsk Region	Gomel Region	Grodno Region	City Minsk	Minsk Region	Mogilev Region
1. Welfare	4,50	5,30	5,83	4,00	1,30	2,17	4,50
2. Social protection	7	5	2	6	1	3	4
3. Population and health	2,3	6	3	4	3,5	4	4
4. Education	3,8	4,6	2,8	6,4	3,2	3,4	5,4
5. Housing conditions	4	5	6	2	7	1	3
6. Quality of products and services	4,14	3,71	4,14	3,29	4,57	3,14	4,43
7. Environmental situation	6	7	5	3	4	1	2
8. Legal protection	4	3	5	1	7	6	2
9. Culture	4	2	3	5	7	6	1
Consolidated rating score	4,42	4,62	4,09	3,85	4,29	3,3	3,37

Source: author's own research.

The highest positions in the ranking are held by Minsk (consolidated rating score is 3.3) and Mogilev region (consolidated rating score is 3.37). Basically, these regions are leading in such positions as ecological state

of the region and provision of housing. The weak economic position of some regions of the rating (Brest and Vitebsk regions) may be due to geographical location, underdeveloped infrastructure, etc. Graphical representation of the distribution of the regions of the Republic of Belarus on the rating scale is shown in figure 1.

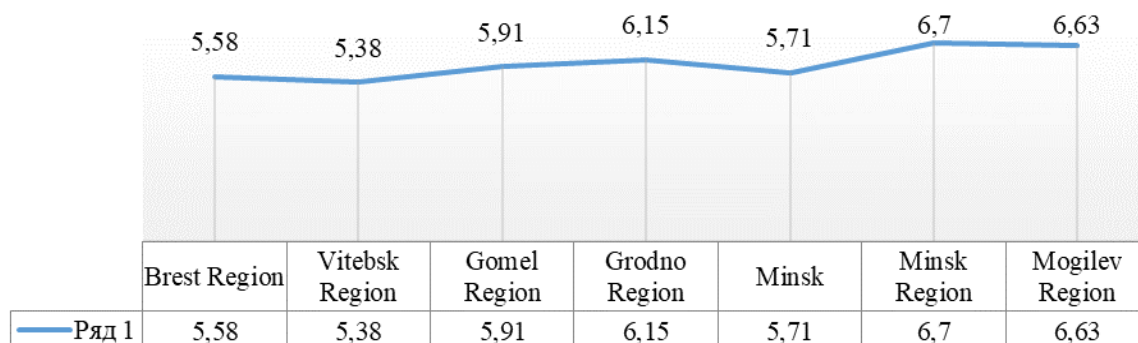


Figure 1. – Rating of the regions of the Republic of Belarus by quality of life

Source: author's own research.

Of course, determining quality of life of the population, any research focuses on the economic component and material benefits of a person. However, it should not be excluded that the quality of life is also an integrated social indicator. And it should find its manifestation in the objective and subjective satisfaction of a person with all the indicators of their life [4].

The state has a decisive role to play in this process. Social orientation of the development of the state is a vector of quality of life of the population. To this end, the necessary components on the part of the state should be considered such areas as:

- promoting the development of regions with low living standards;
- smoothing of fluctuations in the level of regional incomes;
- creating a comfortable living environment;
- implementation of environmental protection programs;
- creation of leisure facilities in remote regions;
- implementation of additional health programs in regions with low quality of life.

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