

¹Rajasehara Mouli Potluri, ²Dabylytayeva N.Y., ³Medukhanova L.A., ⁴Kerimbekova U.A.

¹PhD, Professor, University, Delhi, India

²Candidate of Economic Sciences, assistant professor, Faculty of International Relations,
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

³Candidate of Economic Sciences, assistant professor., Faculty of International Relations,
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

⁴Master's degree, Faculty of International Relations, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University,
Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: www.ulbosyn.com@mail.ru

Problems and Prospects of Improving the Quality of life in Kazakhstan and World Experience

This article discusses the problems of improving the quality of life in Kazakhstan. The statistical indicators of the analysis of the standard of living of the population of Kazakhstan are given in a number of the following most important socio-economic components of the standard of living, such as monetary incomes and their distribution, the level of the subsistence minimum. The key factors that influence the state of the economy and the level of citizens' well-being are identified. The main indicators of the standard of living of the population of some foreign countries are also considered. On the basis of a comparative assessment of these indicators, deficiencies in measuring the standard of living of the population in Kazakhstan were identified, and improved methodological approaches to assessing the standard of living of the population were also proposed. With regard to methods for assessing the quality of life of the population, based on the complexity of the object under study, a large number of analyzed indicators, it can be argued that not one but a whole set of research methods is needed: statistical, sociological, economic and mathematical. Thus, the analysis of the main indicators of the standard of living of the population of the RK showed both a number of advantages and problems. The standard of living of the population is an integral indicator characterizing the general welfare of the population. In this regard, the main agenda of the act remains the issue of strengthening social security and social stability in Kazakhstan society. A significant improvement in the quality of life is the most important socio-economic task on the agenda.

Key words: Quality of life, subsistence level, household income, living standards, human development index.

¹Rajasehara Mouli Potluri ² Дабылтаева Н.Е., ³Медуханова Л.А., ⁴Керимбекова У.А.

¹PhD докторы, университет профессоры, Дели қ., Үндістан

²доцент, Әл-Фараби атындағы ҚазҰУ, Алматы қ., Қазақстан

³Әл-Фараби атындағы ҚазҰУ доценті, Алматы қ., Қазақстан

⁴Магистрант, әл-Фараби атындағы ҚазҰУ, Алматы қ., Қазақстан
e-mail: www.ulbosyn.com@mail.ru

Қазақстанда өмір сүру сапасын жақсартудың мәселелері мен келешегі және әлемдік тәжірибе

Бұл мақалада Қазақстандағы өмір сүру сапасын жақсарту мәселелері қарастырылған. Қазақстан халқының өмір сүру деңгейін талдаудың статистикалық көрсеткіштері, яғни өмір сүру деңгейінің келесі маңызды әлеуметтік-экономикалық құрамдас бөліктері: ақшалай кірістер мен оларды бөлу, ең төменгі күнкөріс деңгейі көрсетілген. Экономиканың жай-күйіне және азаматтардың әл-ауқатының деңгейіне әсер ететін негізгі факторлар анықталған. Сондай-ақ бірқатар шет мемлекеттердің тұрғындарының өмір сүру деңгейінің негізгі көрсеткіштері қарастырылған. Осы көрсеткіштерді салыстырмалы бағалау негізінде Қазақстандағы халықтың өмір сүру деңгейін өлшеудегі кемшіліктер анықталды, сондай-ақ халықтың өмір сүру деңгейін бағалаудың әдістемелік тәсілдері жетілдірілді. Зерттеліп отырған объектінің күрделілігіне байланысты халықтың өмір сүру сапасын бағалаудың әдістеріне қатысты көптеген сарапталған көрсеткіштердің біреуі емес, зерттеу әдістерінің тұтас

жиынтығы талап етіледі. Олар: статистикалық, социологиялық және экономика-математикалық зерттеу әдістері. Осылайша Қазақстан Республикасы халқының өмір сүру деңгейінің негізгі көрсеткіштерін талдау көптеген артықшылықтар мен проблемаларды көрсетті. Халықтың өмір сүру деңгейі халықтың жалпы әл-ауқатын сипаттайтын ажырамас көрсеткіші болып табылады. Осыған байланысты негізгі күн тәртібінде қоғамдағы әлеуметтік қауіпсіздік пен әлеуметтік тұрақтылықты нығайту мәселесі қарастырылады. Күнделікті өмірдегі маңызды әлеуметтік-экономикалық міндет өмір сүру сапасын айтарлықтай жақсарту болып қала бермек.

Түйін сөздер: өмір сүру сапасы, күн көру деңгейінің минимумы, халықтың табысы, өмір сүру деңгейінің көрсеткіштері, адам дамуының индексі.

¹Раджасехара Моули Потлури, ²Дабылтаева Н.Е., ³Медуханова Л.А., ⁴Керимбекова У.А.

¹Доктор PhD, профессор университета, г. Дели, Индия

²К.э.н., доцент, Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, г. Алматы, Казахстан

³ К.э.н., доцент., Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, г. Алматы, Казахстан

⁴Магистрант, Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, г. Алматы, Казахстан

e-mail: www.ulbosyn.com@mail.ru

Проблемы и перспективы улучшения качества жизни в Казахстане и мировой опыт

В данной статье рассмотрены проблемы улучшения качества жизни в Казахстане. Приведены статистические показатели анализа уровня жизни населения Казахстана в ряде следующих наиболее важных социально-экономических компонентов уровня жизни, как денежные доходы и их распределение, уровень прожиточного минимума. Выявлены ключевые факторы, оказывающие влияние на состояние экономики и уровня благосостояния граждан. Так же рассматриваются основные показатели уровня жизни населения ряда зарубежных стран. На основе сравнительной оценки данных показателей выявлены недостатки по измерению уровня жизни населения в Казахстане, также предложены усовершенствованные методологические подходы оценки уровня жизни населения. Что касается методов оценки качества жизни населения, то исходя из сложности исследуемого объекта, большого числа анализируемых показателей, можно утверждать, что здесь необходим не один, а целый комплекс методов исследования: статистических, социологических, экономико-математических. Таким образом, анализ основных показателей уровня жизни населения РК показал, как ряд преимуществ, так и проблемы. Уровень жизни населения является интегральным показателем, характеризующим общее благосостояние населения. В этой связи основной повесткой дня остается вопрос укрепления социальной безопасности и социальной стабильности в казахстанском обществе. Существенное повышение качества жизни является наиважнейшей социально-экономической задачей, стоящей в повестке дня.

Ключевые слова: качество жизни, уровень прожиточного минимума, доходы населения, показатели уровня жизни, индекс человеческого развития.

Introduction

Kazakhstan has proclaimed a policy of building a welfare state with high standards of living. This position is reflected in the statements of the head of state. As Nursultan Nazarbayev noted in his message to the people of Kazakhstan: “The most important task of the coming decade is to improve the quality and standard of living of all citizens of Kazakhstan, strengthening social stability and security”(N. Nazarbayev, 2017).

Although “standard of living” and “quality of life” are similar concepts, they are far from identical. You can be financially secure, but you do not have access to clean water, high-quality medical care, high-quality food and other products of civilization. These are the components of the quality of life.

The modern economic dictionary defines the term “quality of life” as a socio-economic category representing a generalization of the concept of “standard of living” and including “not only the

level of consumption of material goods and services, but also the satisfaction of spiritual needs, health, life expectancy, environmental conditions, peace of mind, peace of mind.”

The main complex characteristic of the standard of living of the population is currently used human development index (HDI), calculated as an integral of three components: GDP per capita, life expectancy at birth, the achieved level of education (Buzlyakov N.I., 1969 : 208).

To compare the standard of living in different countries in world practice, the following indicators are also used:

- Volume of gross domestic product per capita
- Consumer Price Index
- Structure of consumption
- Mortality rate
- Fertility rate
- Life expectancy at birth
- infant death rate

With regard to methods for assessing the quality of life of the population, based on the complexity of the object being studied, a large number of analyzed indicators, it can be argued that not one but a whole set of research methods is needed: statistical, sociological, economic and mathematical (McGinnis, 2003:4).

One of the most important methods is the human development index. The Human Development Index (HDI) is an economic index used to characterize the quality of life in various countries.

Depending on the value of the HDI, countries are usually classified according to the level of development: high (0.8-1), medium (0.5-0.8) and low (0-0.5) level.

The HDI includes three indicators:

- the average life expectancy at birth (SPEDW)
- assesses longevity;
- the level of literacy of the adult population of the country and the total share of students;
- standard of living, estimated in terms of GDP per capita.

Longevity characterizes the ability to live a long and healthy life, which is a natural life choice and one of the basic universal human needs. The basic indicator of longevity is life expectancy, characterized by an average life expectancy at birth. This indicator, calculated separately for the male and female population, is calculated on the basis of the conditional generation, which is composed of the aggregate of people of different ages who died in a given year (Belyakov V.A., 2013:12).

Education is considered as the ability to receive and accumulate knowledge, to communicate, exchange information. Characteristics of education are adult literacy and full enrollment. Literacy refers to a person's ability to read, understand, and write a short, simple text relating to his daily life. The literacy rate of the adult population – the proportion of literacy aged 15 years and older – is the most important baseline indicator of this direction of human development (Revaykin A.S. 1999:118.)

The standard of living characterizes access to the material resources necessary for a decent living, including “maintaining a healthy lifestyle, ensuring territorial and social mobility, exchanging information and participating in the life of society”. The standard of living, in contrast to longevity and education, only opens up the possibilities that a person has, but does not determine their use. In other words, it is a means of expanding choice, but not actually choice (Böhnke P. 2005.).

Material and methods. To solve the set goals, such methods as the analysis of literary sources

and documents were used to study problems and determine the theoretical and methodological basis for the study; concretization, induction and deduction of theoretical knowledge; abstraction, classification and systematization of theoretical and experimental data on the research problem.

Today, the most promising method for assessing the quality of life of the population is the sociological method, which allows one to obtain rich information about the social differentiation of the quality of life, about the problems of meeting the specific needs of various groups and segments of the population.

Less promising, but also in demand at the present time, is a statistical method of research. The subject of the statistical method is a detailed study of socio-demographic processes. Economic statistics considers economic phenomena in close relationship with social processes, and the same indicators can be used to analyze both economic and social aspects. For example, labor remuneration indicators characterize, on the one hand, production costs (economic factor), and on the other, the income distribution process (social factor).

Results and discussions. According to the type of regulation of the minimum wage, economically developed countries can be divided into two groups:

The first includes those countries where the minimum wage is established by law (France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Luxembourg), as well as those in which its value is determined by agreements (Belgium, Greece);

- The second group includes countries in which the minimum wage is approved by industry agreements (Germany, Italy, Denmark) and by special bodies (wage committees in the UK).

In Japan, the national minimum wage is set by the government. The Labor Minister, together with the heads of the prefectural labor conflict bureaus, is considering the need to raise the minimum wage for low-wage workers (these include hourly wage workers, people of young and retirement age, unskilled workers). If this issue is resolved positively, then its size is reviewed by the deliberative bodies. The basis for increasing the minimum wage is also the appeal of employers and trade unions of 2/3 of the enterprises of the region to the prefectural labor standards bureau with a request to raise the minimum wage to the level reached at these enterprises by workers of other enterprises. The regional minimum wage is reviewed once a year (Zherebin V.M. 1994: 89).

In the USA, the minimum hourly wage is governed either by legislation or by trilateral agreements between representatives of the state,

trade unions, and employers. An important point is the degree of coverage of workers in various sectors of the economy by the statutory minimum wage. Today in the USA, their share is 88% of the total workforce. However, among the “uncovered” sectors were and remain retail, service, agriculture. In these same activities, even today, the law on minimum wages is not widely applied. First of all it concerns workers of small enterprises (P.A. Minakir 2009:27-28)

In France, the law provides the government with amendments to inter-occupational wages. But it can do this only after receiving the conclusion of the Labor Agreements Committee – a standing advisory body consisting of 16 representatives of employees, 16 representatives of employers, three representatives of family associations and three representatives of the government: Minister of Labor, Minister of Economy, chairman of social management under the Cabinet of Ministers (S. McCall 2015:229-249)

In a number of countries, wage committees have the authority to make final decisions on setting minimum wages. In the UK, the law gives counties wage councils (after the publication of proposals and the consideration of criticisms) to introduce new minimum wage rates without the consent of the government

The procedures for setting the minimum wage in Australia are conducted with labor judges. A review of the decisions of the wage committees is possible when filing an appeal to a similar court. The state sends its representatives to the courts if the issues considered there affect the public interest.

In most countries, the criteria for setting or changing the minimum wage are set out by law in the most general terms. The minimum wage, ensuring an adequate standard of living, is proclaimed a principal goal and criterion in the constitutions and laws of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico (Mak M, 2011).

The Statistical Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan has adopted 11 major socio-economic indicators to assess the standard of living. The system of socio-economic indicators used in Kazakhstan to measure the standard of living of the population does not take into account the structure of income and expenditure of the population, the differentiation of the population by income, the purchasing power of incomes of different social groups of the population, the level of satisfaction of needs for material goods and services.

In Kazakhstan’s scientific practice, there is an opinion that it is proposed to abandon the indicator of per capita income as a basis for the payment of

social benefits and be based on the calculation of equivalent income using a scale. To apply more advanced equivalence scales, it is necessary to use an indicator of an individual subsistence minimum, differentiated by demographic groups (for working-age population, pensioners, children). Utility payments should be allocated in a separate amount and calculated for each family according to the standards of the housing stock.

This approach will allow you to identify a family income deficit that can be replenished with the help of various social benefits, taking into account the targeting of recipients and the equivalence scales (as a statistical tool) will allow you to more correctly compare household living standards, which is directly related to the improvement of living and poverty (Tanirbergenova G.B. 2012:25).

In accordance with the established principles of state power and development of the country. Programs implemented for these purposes, aimed at providing employment and raising income levels, social protection of the most vulnerable categories of the population. Even in the conditions of the global financial crisis that broke out, the state did not refuse social support from its citizens.

First of all, Kazakhstan has achieved significant success in the fight against poverty and misery. There has been a steady increase in the subsistence minimum: for the period from 2011 to 2019, it has almost doubled from 15,999 to 28,284 tenge.

In the country, the average life expectancy has reached 72 years, the well-being of the population has increased, which has become more spending money to buy durable goods. Other indicators of quality of life and demographic indicators, on which the sustainable development of the country and its competitiveness in the foreign arena, have improved. At the same time, cardiovascular diseases, accidents, injuries, murders, and neoplasms remain the main causes of death.

At the same time, Kazakhstan has many problems, the solution of which will allow to improve the quality indicators of the existence of the population. For example, one of the significant reasons for the lagging of the quality of life in villages from the city is the lack of quality drinking water. In terms of water availability per capita, Kazakhstan ranks last in the CIS. Consumption of poor-quality water significantly affects the health of the population. About 80.0% of diseases of the population of Kazakhstan, according to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, one way or another, is associated with poor water quality. According to the report of the Chairman of the Committee on

Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the population of most villages in the country (72.4% or more than 3 million people) consume water from decentralized sources, that is, wells, springs and artesian wells.

The next aspect characterizing the quality of life is the ecological situation in the place of residence. Air is an essential component of public health. Atmospheric air is one of the main human habitats and the quality of the human body, level of physical development, reproductive capacity, susceptibility to diseases, life expectancy, and the quality of life of the population in general depends on its quality. Road transport also makes a significant contribution to urban pollution. All these harmful factors adversely affect the health of the population (Shokamanov Y.K. 2008:347).

According to world ratings, Kazakhstan is among the countries with a high level of human development (HDI). Thus, in 2018, in the ranking of the human development index of the United Nations Development Program, the Republic of Kazakhstan ranks 58th among 189 countries of the world; in 2017, the World Economic Forum's human capital development index was ranked 29th among 130 countries. In addition, Kazakhstan in terms of the income differentiation of the population – the Gini coefficient is among the group of countries with a relatively even distribution of income.

It should be emphasized that this year, for the first time, Kazakhstan entered the highest category of the UN rating – a group of countries with a very high level of human development. There are 59 countries in this category, together with our country, including Russia, is in 49th place, Belarus is in 53rd place. During the presentation of the report in New York, the UN Development Program Administrator Achim Steiner stated that, on average, a child born in a country with a low level of human development can live a little over 60 years old, while a child born in a state with a very high level development, can live to almost 80 years. Similarly, children in the least developed countries are more likely to spend seven years less in school and university than children from rich countries (Statistics committee, 2018).

In addition, in the Strategy “Kazakhstan – 2050: a New Course of the Established State” N. Nazarbayev sounded 10 global challenges of the XXI century, which must be taken into account for further successful development. One of these challenges is increasing social instability. In this regard, the main agenda is the issue of strengthening social security and social stability in Kazakhstan's society. At the same time, among the key areas of

the Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025, primary tasks are set to improve the quality of life of citizens and ensure social well-being.

The standard of living of the population is an integral indicator characterizing the general welfare of the population. To analyze the standard of living of the population of Kazakhstan, we define a number of the following most important socio-economic components of the standard of living: monetary incomes and their distribution, the level of the subsistence minimum, etc. The primary characteristics of the standard of living are the monetary incomes of the population, their size, structure, and indicators of the differentiation of their distribution. According to the results of a household survey in the 2nd quarter of 2018, cash income averaged KZT 153,725 per capita, which is 9.3% higher than in the corresponding period of the previous year. At the same time, there are significant differences in the living standards of the population in urban and rural areas (N.Nazarbayev, 2012).

According to the survey results, the cash income of the urban population exceeds the income of the rural population by approximately 57 thousand tenge or 47%. In addition, the average household size in a city is smaller than in a rural area and does not exceed the average republican size of a household. Analyzing the structure of incomes, we note that the main source of monetary incomes of the urban and rural population is the income from labor activity, which is about 75%.

Within the framework of social security, the subsistence minimum plays a key role. From January 1, 2018, the subsistence minimum (VPL) for calculating the amount of basic social benefits was set at 28,284 tenge, an increase of 15.6% compared to last year. The structure of the subsistence minimum was also changed: a fixed share of expenditures on non-food goods and services was set at 45% of the cost of the minimum consumer basket (against 40% earlier). In this regard, for the current year there was an increase in the proportion of the population with incomes below the subsistence minimum. So, in the 2nd quarter of 2018, the share of such a group of the population as a whole in Kazakhstan was 4.7%, in the city – only 2.9%, in the rural area – 7.2%. The overall increase in the share of the population with incomes below the subsistence minimum compared to the same period last year was 1.7 times, in the city – 2.2 times, in the countryside – 1.6 times. If we consider the indicators in a regional context, then the largest share of the population with incomes below the subsistence minimum is typical for the Turkestan

region – 11.2%, which is 2.4 times higher than the national average, the smallest share in Astana – only 0.7% (Stat.kz: <http://economy.gov.kz>, 2018).

Conclusion

Thus, the analysis of the main indicators of the standard of living of the population of Kazakhstan showed both a number of advantages and problems. The standard of living of the population is an integral indicator characterizing the general welfare of the population. The main achievement on the way of entering Kazakhstan among the 30 developed countries of the world can be considered the inclusion of our country in the highest category of the HDI rating. This advantage should be reflected in national indicators, analyzing which, today the situation is the following: on average, monetary income per capita is growing (9.3% growth in the 2nd quarter of 2018), but there are certain uneven distribution. As the analysis showed, such discrepancies exist in the territorial (city / village) and regional context. At the moment, the main source of monetary incomes

of the population is income from work, but for rural areas there is a higher proportion of income from self-employment than that of the urban population. At the same time, there are changes in the level of the subsistence minimum (increase in its size and transformation of the structure), which plays a key role in the framework of social security. According to the results of the analysis, one of the challenges for social welfare could be an increase in the share of the population with incomes below the subsistence minimum (4.7% in the 2nd quarter of 2018 vs. 2.7% in the 2nd quarter of 2017). In this regard, the main agenda remains the issue of strengthening social security and social stability in Kazakhstani society. A significant improvement in the quality of life is the most important socio-economic task on the agenda. In order to achieve it, the state administration system is being improved, primarily aimed at improving the informational transparency of public authorities, expanding the scope of their interaction with the population within the framework of participatory relations, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration.

References

- Belyakov V.A. Quality of life as a socio-economic category // Bulletin of UdmGU.-2013.-№3-p.12.
- Buzlyakov N.I. Methods of planning to improve the standard of living. – M., Economy, – 1969. p.208.
- Böhnke P. First European Quality of Life Survey: Life Satisfaction, Happiness and Sense of Belonging. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2005.
- McGinnis, J. Michael. "Toward Improved Quality of Life." Issues in Science and Technology 19, no. 4 (Summer 2003).
- Mak M., Peacock C. Social Sustainability: A Comparison of Case Studies in UK, USA and Australia, 17th Pacific Rim Real Estate Society Conference, 2011, Available at:http://www.prrs.net/papers/Mak_Peacock_Social_Sustainability.pdf, 2011.
- Minakir P.A. Spatial economy. Scientific journal / №4 (20) 2009. – p. 27-28.
- Message of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev to the People of Kazakhstan "The third modernization of Kazakhstan: global competitiveness".
- Message of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev to the People of Kazakhstan "Strategy" Kazakhstan-2050 "a new political course of the established state.
- Revaykin A.S. The standard of living of the population – M. : Science, 1999. – p. 118.
- Shokamanov Yu.K. Trends in human development in Kazakhstan. – Almaty, – 2008. P. 347.
- S.McCall. (2015,Mar.7). Quality of Life in Social Indicators Research 2. Pp 229-249. 1975. Available: <http://logica.ugent.be/philosophica/fulltexts/25-2.pdf>.
- Statistics committee/Quality of life of the population in Kazakhstan in 2018 // [Zakon.kz/https://www.zakon.kz/4931122-kachestvo-zhizni-naseleniya-v.html](http://zakon.kz/https://www.zakon.kz/4931122-kachestvo-zhizni-naseleniya-v.html).
- Stat.kz/The quality of life of the population in Kazakhstan in 2018 // <http://economy.gov.kz>
- Tanirbergenova G.B The standard of living of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Current status and ways to increase. – Almaty, – 2012. – P.25.
- Zherebin V.M., Rimashevskaya N.M. Problems of poverty alleviation in the development of foreign government and international organizations // Poverty: the view of scientists on the problem. M. : Science, 1994. – p.89.