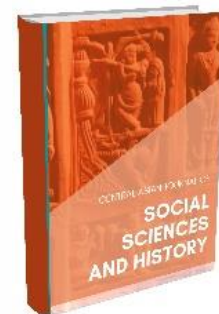




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Social Ecological Samples of Quality of Life

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Abstract:

The close intertwining of problems of environmental factors and the quality of life of the population makes it necessary to study the features of their interaction, identify patterns, and possible ways to optimize this interaction. The article substantiates the dominant influence of environmental factors on the modern model of quality of life. Theoretical approaches to understanding the quality of people's lives from a sociological point of view are considered. The features of the concept of perceived quality of life, structural-functional and socio-economic approaches to its assessment are revealed. A review of existing methods is proposed in order to systematize approaches to assessing the quality of life of the population presented in the scientific literature. It is shown that along with changes in the needs and living conditions of people, approaches related to the substantiation of various components of quality of life and their assessment are also evolving.

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Introduction. Modern technological solutions and developments allow a person to design the environment to suit any needs, but it would be a mistake to assume that such an impact is unidirectional. The environmental situation undoubtedly has an impact on a person and his life. Currently, the state of the environment in the Republic of Uzbekistan is not favorable: this is confirmed by statistical data on the state of the atmosphere, water, soil, as well as the opinions of the population and experts, and official documents [10].

The general concern of all categories of the population and experts is the state of drinking water, the

problem of air pollution, cutting down trees, etc. There is both similarity and specificity of the environmental interests of different groups of the population of the republic - residents of cities and villages. Features are associated with the way of life and with the dominant type of economic activity of certain territories. The importance of the social aspect of environmental problems was clearly formulated by W. Beck in his famous book "Risk Society", noting that environmental problems are not environmental problems, but in their genesis and consequences entirely social problems, problems of man, his history, his living conditions, his attitude to the world and reality, his economic, cultural and political views [2, p. 99].

The modern model of social development is designed to meet the strategic objectives of the long-term development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the main priority of which is the creation of a safe and comfortable environment for human activity, ensuring a high level of quality of life.

In the ecological model, the quality of life is considered in relation to the quality of the environment. Appeal to this aspect of the analysis of quality of life is due to the fact that assessing the quality of the environment is not only a prerequisite for improving the quality of life, but also its most important component.

In modern conditions, a person, when interacting with nature, must be focused on a type of relationship that will not bring deterioration to himself. Economic growth and the problem of preserving the environment can be compatible if policies are followed to ensure a decent quality of life. Quality of life in the ecological aspect is understood as the creation of conditions under which not only the environment is not disturbed and the question of the existence of man as a biosocial being is not raised, but also natural resources necessary for the existence of future generations are preserved. Turning to the analysis of the environmental component of the quality of life is associated with an increase in "the importance of environmental safety, since environmental changes can affect health and livelihoods, and sometimes even limit the possibility of survival" [6, p. 79].

Literature review. Modern humanitarian-ecological knowledge includes a large number of studies devoted to the issues of preserving the natural environment in the process of transforming the world at the stage of transition to post-industrial civilization. It is relevant to study sociocultural dynamics, including experiences of risky social and environmental practices [11.; 4].

The socio-ecological factors of optimizing the quality of life, the role of ecological culture in lifestyle, socio-cultural aspects of the formation of environmental consciousness, environmental management, state regulation of environmental quality have been studied.

The theory of quality of life was developed in American (USA) sociology. The most famous are the works of L. Jeffers and J. Dobos, E. Abbey and F. Andrews, T.V. Power. [1; 7; 9].

Materials and methods: The basis was taken from the scientific principles of studying the problems of interaction between nature and society, nature and culture, developed in philosophical, sociological and natural science works; constructive ideas of domestic and foreign scientists. The following approaches were used in the work:

1) systemic and integrated approaches as a direction in the methodology of scientific knowledge, focusing on considering the quality of life of the population as a complex structural complex phenomenon, the components of which are directly dependent on the state and dynamics of the entire socio-natural system;

2) an activity-based approach to the formation of the lifestyle of an individual, group, society. It implies activity as a means of formation and development of a person's subjectivity, his value orientations, mastering various forms of social consciousness (ecological, legal, civil);

3) mid-level sociological theories: socio-ecological, lifestyle, quality of life.

Results and discussions. D. Galbraith pointed out the need to solve environmental problems that affect the quality of life. Focusing on the impact of industrial production on the environmental component, it asks the question: do economic growth and its efficiency justify the negative consequences associated with the impact on the environment. The scientist himself is sure that no, it does not justify it, therefore, it is necessary, while increasing production, to raise and resolve environmental issues. Raising questions about the importance of addressing environmental issues, D. Galbraith describes the situation: "a family sitting by a polluted stream and spending the night in a park that is a threat to public health and morals. and before falling asleep on air mattresses in a nylon tent, amid the stench of decaying garbage, they may vaguely reflect on the strange unevenness of their well-being [5. With. 239–240].

Recognizing the environmental situation as the reason for the deterioration in the quality of life, representatives of environmental optimism believe that economic growth cannot be stopped. However, solving the problem of preserving the natural environment, restoring the disturbed balance between nature and man, even in conditions of economic growth, is quite realistic and possible. To do this, in their opinion, it is necessary:

- regulate and plan economic growth, consumption of non-renewable natural resources;
- to use a person not only as a labor force, but also as a creator, creator;
- to educate a new "ecological person", consciously focused on harmonizing the relationship between man and nature;
- to form a new system of values, from the standpoint of which problems of the state of the ecological environment should be considered;
- use the achievements of science and technology;
- create various environmental organizations and movements;
- solve problems of protecting and improving the environment;
- provide every citizen with a decent standard of living;
- introduce forms of production and consumption that will reduce the burden on the ecological environment;
- regulate demographic policy;
- eliminate the new contradiction between old technologies and environmental protection requirements by creating environmentally friendly equipment.

Often, the proposed mechanisms for stopping the process of environmental degradation are initially utopian in nature and do not take into account modern economic reality. So, Weizsäcker E. von, Lovins E.B., Lovins L.H. in the report "Factor Four. The costs are half, the returns are double," they propose to introduce a progressive tax on the use of natural resources, the proceeds of which will be used to protect the environment. When assessing the mechanism proposed by the authors, a number of

questions arise: first, how to determine the amount of the tax?; secondly, the level of environmental pollution is so great that it is becoming impossible to control it today; thirdly, the money to pay the tax is taken from the income received in the process of industrial production, which led to pollution; part of the funds is withdrawn from production. This negatively affects economic development. The funds received are invested in environmental protection. But economic growth continues, and environmental pollution continues. The process is endless. If these problems are solved, then modern society will be a society of a stable environment and a prosperous economy.

The Yugoslav philosopher R. Stupek, noting the connection between the quality of life and the quality of the environment, emphasized that the preservation of the human race means not only the satisfaction of minimal needs, but the formation of such aesthetic and humanistic principles, thanks to which a high quality of life can be ensured.

D. Markovich draws attention to the importance of the environment in the formation of a decent quality of life. By environmental quality he understands “natural and man-made resources, activities and processes in the environment, means and methods for implementing environmental policy, the influence of the environment on social development” [8, P.25]. However, in the above definition of the environment, such a component as economic activity, which in principle forms this or that type of environment, has not been taken into account.

R. Stupek and D. Markovich emphasize the role of the environment in the formation of a decent quality of life. In their opinion, only the quality of the environment around a person can provide him with a decent life as a biological and social being. According to the position of these scientists, there is a strict determination of the quality of life by the quality of the environment. This approach denies human activity and its role in shaping individual quality of life. R. Stupek and D. Markovich believed that the transition to a state of equilibrium between the ecological environment and economic growth is possible only within the framework of the concept of sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development is focused on achieving a decent quality of life without degradation of the ecological environment and preserving it for future generations.

Proponents of the concept of environmental pessimism believe that economic growth is the cause of environmental deterioration. Economic growth has a detrimental effect on the environment: it destroys the natural environment, introduces quantitative and qualitative changes into the biological foundations of life on earth, thereby destroying nature. The economic growth of the impact on the environment has, first of all, a negative impact on human health, on such components as life expectancy, the gene pool, the stability of the world's ecological systems, and the very foundations of human existence are under threat. In their opinion, continued economic growth, not consistent with the laws of nature, will lead to the depletion of the resource base, destruction of the natural environment and the death of humanity. Environmental pessimists rightly noted that moral capital is being destroyed and the level of mutual trust is decreasing. F. Fukuyama writes about this: “People who do not trust each other will interact only within the framework of a system of formal rules and regulations that need to be constantly developed, agreed upon, defended in court, and then ensured their compliance, including with through coercive measures. All of these practices that replace trust lead to an increase in what economists call “transaction costs.” In other words, the predominance of distrust in society is tantamount to the introduction of an additional tax on all forms of economic activity, from which societies with a high level of trust are exempt” [11. With. 136].

Environmental pessimists believed that only a cessation of economic growth would preserve the natural environment and man himself. They said that the balance in nature destroyed by technology and economic growth can be restored by stopping scientific and technological progress, transitioning to simple technologies, returning to the past, as J.-J. once proposed. Rousseau.

According to E. Giddens and W. Beck, at a certain stage of its development, industrial society begins to move to the stage of the so-called “risk society,” which is characterized by developed production, technological progress, economic growth and efficiency. W. Beck calls it a “risk society” because in it a person loses control over nature, over what he himself has created - hydroelectric power stations, dams, nuclear facilities. In his concept of the “risk society,” W. Beck examines the consequences of economic growth for the development of society and individuals. Like any other society, the “risk society” increases well-being, but at the same time turns a person into a creature defenseless against natural and social disasters.

In the world around us, there are a large number of different risks associated with production, trade, and movement. These are risks that can be predicted and managed, but in the modern world new unmanageable risks have arisen. W. Beck defines them as the result of human interaction with threats and dangers emanating from his environment. Among the risks of this type, he included nuclear energy, the production of various chemicals, genetic technology, economic disasters, emissions and industrial waste.

The essence of the concept of a “risk society” can be reduced to the following provisions: understanding the degree of risk and information about it is of great importance; an increase in the number of risks leads to socially dangerous situations; industrial society, focusing on satisfying constantly self-renewing needs and deriving economic benefits from them, creates dangerous situations and the political potential of a risk society; Only knowledge of the risks will help prevent them.

“...in a risk society, knowledge determines being”; it is necessary to analyze the social, economic, political and other consequences of risks [2]. Fear of new risks causes people to mistrust the social institutions of society and leads to the emergence of environmental and social movements.

Criticizing technological and environmental optimists, W. Beck draws attention to the fact that both have forgotten people. “Accordingly, there is a danger that the discussion about the environment conducted in chemical, biological and technical categories unwittingly causes people to imagine themselves only as an organic mechanism. Thus, it is in danger of turning into its opposite the error for which it rightly reproached the prevailing optimism of industrial progress for a long time - degenerating into a discussion about nature without man, without discussing the social and cultural side of the matter. From the very beginning, this approach remained hidden from the social, political and cultural realities and consequences of risk modernization” [2. With. 27, 28]. A person in a “risk society” has abandoned traditional values and norms.

The scientist associates the deterioration in the quality of life with various risks, a person’s fear of risks created by himself, his activities, technology and industry. According to U. Beck, risks are a natural stage in the development of society; it itself gives rise to them.

The following types of risks are defined:

“there are three types of global dangers: firstly, these are conflicts associated with “vices”, which are the other side of “benefits”, i.e. technical and industrial threats caused by the desire for enrichment

(such as ozone holes, the greenhouse effect, as well as unforeseen, not taken into account consequences of genetic engineering and retransplantation medicine).

Secondly, there is environmental destruction and techno-industrial hazards caused by poverty. A comprehensive analysis of the living conditions of the population, the reduction of genetic and energy resources, the functioning of industry, nutrition and settlement of people clearly shows that all this is closely interconnected and cannot be considered independently of each other. In relation to the threats caused by wealth and poverty, we are talking about “normal hazards”, which most often arise as a result of the lack (in a given country) or the use of ill-conceived security measures and thus spread throughout the world...

Third, the threat of using weapons of mass destruction (atomic, biological and chemical), on the contrary, is associated with a state of emergency during war (as opposed to the potential threat posed by these weapons). The danger of regional or global self-destruction by nuclear, chemical or biological weapons has not been eliminated, and after the end of the confrontation between East and West, it rather escaped the control of the superpowers, which found themselves in a “nuclear stalemate” [3. With. 76–78].

In a “risk society,” people are united by a sense of fear of the changing environmental situation. fear, having a negative impact on a person’s psychological and intellectual strength, further enhances his inability to deal with the changes occurring around him. The scientist explains the inability of a person to deal with risks by the fact that a person does not fully know the reasons for their occurrence and content. Therefore, he believes that to improve the quality of life it is necessary, firstly, to learn how to manage risks; secondly, to form and expand the environmental protection function of the state; thirdly, to change society’s attitude towards technology, which can not only produce risks, but also prevent them. E. Giddens, on the contrary, believes that only by changing a person, learning to manage fears and anxiety, maintaining optimism, and taking consistent actions to localize and eliminate specific risks, can a decent quality of life be ensured.

So, awareness of the interdependence of environmental and economic processes was the reason for the emergence of an ecological paradigm of the quality of life, represented by two opposite directions: environmental pessimism and environmental optimism.

Environmental pessimists see only one way to solve the problem of environmental degradation - stopping economic growth, leading to ensuring a decent quality of life. they promote the use of simple technologies and oppose scientific and technological progress. It seems that

Thus, the paradigm of modern territorial development is a spatial development model that ensures a safe and comfortable arrangement of the human living environment based on the realization of the potential for socially and environmentally oriented development of the construction business, including in the field of developing forms of partnership and cooperation with authorities.

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