

The general well-being: the theory and an estimation

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Increasing of the population well-being is the major problem of Kazakhstan social policy at the present stage of social development.

In an economic science well-being is treated as « a measure, or degree of people security with the vital blessings, means of existence. Well-being characterizes a living standard of people. The Standard of living ... is usually defined by size of gross national product or GNP per capita, average incomes of family, or person in comparison with a living wage in a given country and in other countries, with the consumer budget of family »/1, p. 43, 410/.

With the advent of money there was, probably, a representation about monetary unit as a measuring instrument of well-being though it was issued as theoretical view within the limits of mercantilist. In turn classics of political economy have added to mercantilism philosophy the concept of a surplus value where it is treated, that a unique source of riches is work of workers. In works of English economist A.Pigou cost approach to measurement of riches has received further development. A.Pigou's economic well-being is defined as a part of the general well-being which can be measured by means of money. At the same time he openly recognized, that « economic well-being does not serve as a barometer, or a parameter of well-being as a whole »/2/.

Nowadays in economic science cost interpretation of well-being has borrowed a leading position. And many economists-researchers con-

trary to the theory postulates, began to identify economic well-being with the general. It is necessary to note the fact, that as a result of productive forces development specific expenses of alive work are steadily reduced. Hence, the objective basis of the riches monetary concept measuring instruments is narrowed. From here, economic well-being loses, under B.Kornejchuk's statement, ability to replace in the theory and in practice the general well-being which covers such socially significant goods, as education, health, culture, creativity, safety, etc./3, p. 76/. In the developed conditions for the economists, got used to use cost indexes, the question on measurement of the general well-being has appeared not to be easy. To solve this problem they aspire by abstraction from real problems of a public life, designing of hypothetical functions of public utility, use of unevident mathematical methods. And, one of the most known positions of modern theories of well-being carries the name « theorem of impossibility ». Thus, between the formal-abstract maintenance of the concept of well-being and the major problems of the state which requires theoretically proved methods of measurement of social development, break was formed.

So, before researches there is a problem of general well-being integrated parameter development.

We divide opinion of economists who allocate the time concept of the general well-being which is based on a human life absolute value postulate among directions of researches. According to this concept the general well-being is measured not by money, but natural units of a life, i.e. time units. Authors of this concept develop the methodological principle of the classical school establishing direct dependence between exchange value of a product and size of working hours substantiated in it. According to classics' statements, working hours will be transformed in to economic well-being. From here it is logical to assume, that all time of a human life represents the general well-being. Hence, public welfare is equally to cumulative time of a human life of all society members.

«Time of a human life» is a total duration of the hisher, creative, actually human activity of the individual which does not include the lowest activity as a dream, physical work, empty pastime, etc. Time of a human life acts as creative time, and well-being - as result of its use/3, p.77/. A philosophical basis for this concept is the theory of time of French philosopher Anri Bergson which identified human time and the hisher activity: « Time is the invention, or it is anything »/4/. Its economic basis is the theory of economic development (J.Shumpeter), who considered creativity of a businessman as a major public interest/5/.

During the fixed time interval creative well-being of the individual is characterized by maximum activity relative density, i.e. a human life parameter of intensity. If to consider with respect to all life it depends not only on a intensity parameter, but also on life expectancy. During individual well-being calculation, in opinion of researchers, it is necessary to multiply intensive and extensive characteristics of his life. The public welfare also pays off as product of parameters of extensiveness and intensity/6/. The extensive parameter is equal to average life expectancy. In official statistics this parameter is presented as « expected life expectancy at birth ». It is named also as an **index of health**, as it reflects a level of population health.

The Intensive parameter informs on a of supreme activity population life saturation, which is about quality of a life. Such treatment of public welfare characterizes an educational level of the population. Here the realized ability to the supreme activity is meant education - education in the widest sense. In practice the intensive characteristic of public welfare is named also as an **index of education**. However, official statistics doesn't contain an adequate measure instrument of public welfare since it reflects only formal education aspect -number of workers with the diploma. For example, the talented sculptor without the diploma is considered in official statistics as a person without education while education is expressed first of all in a creative saturation of its activity at workplace and during leisure. Taking into considera-

tion of the above-stated the real estimation of an educational level of the population should be based on the given sociological inspections of the basic social groups. In consequence of that such researches now on a constant basis are not spent, calculation of public welfare should to use a higher education workers relative density parameter in an population aggregate number.

The given approach will not be coordinated with the representation which has developed already about well-being as about a synonym of the monetary income of the population. Though creative well-being also depends on economic well-being, but they are not identical. Growth of income of the population leads to increase in an index of education and health and, as consequence, - sizes of cumulative creative well-being. If in the cost concept the monetary income is a final measuring instrument of well-being, according to the time concept - only auxiliary means of its increase. However, creative well-being increases with increase in incomes until development of the person enables him to use the additional income for increase in duration of the hisher activity. Creative well-being is not boundless. So, at some threshold value of the income the person will settle the creative potential, from here and the further increase in the income will not promote any more to increase of his creative well-being.

At present stage the greater value for well-being are the internal goods - the developed abilities of an individual to the hisher activity while the traditional external goods gradually lose the former importance. The time concept considers both of the factor of well-being, both external (a level of the income), and internal (level of development).

The State economic policy should consider the relative importance of the population well-being factors. It is caused the fact by that though indexes of health and education are presented equally in the public welfare calculation formula, the equal budgetary charges directed to these branches, will lead to different relative changes in appropriate indexes. From here, the priority direction of well-being policy is con-

nected first of all with that branch, in which tence of budgetary charges will provide the greatest relative increase in a factorial index (see the table).

In Kazakhstan it is necessary to recognize health of the population the priority purpose of economic policy for two reasons. First, average life expectancy in republic essentially depends on a condition of ecology. Acknowledgement to that is significant fluctuation of this parameter on regions of the country depending on a condition of ecology. Secondly, in practice social priorities are usually defined on the basis of international comparisons of the statistical data describing various aspects of well-being. According to the table, Kazakhstan is in the lead among six European countries,

The table. Charges on public health services and education, parameters of health and erudition of the population, 1998-2004

Countries	Expected life expectancy, years	Number of 3-rd step students, for 1000 person	Charges on public health services, in % to GNP	Charges on public education, in % to GNP
Kazakhstan*	66,2	43	2,4	3,4
United Kingdom	77,9	34	5,9	4,7
Germany	78,0	25	8,0	4,4
France	78,7	34	7,2	5,9
Lithuania	72,3	33	4,1	6,1
Poland	73,6	37	4,2	5,4

The sources: Rossiya i strani – chleni Evropeiskogo souza. 2003:

Stat.sb./Goskomstat Rossii – M., 2003.p.42,95,97.

Uroven gizni naseleniya I bednost v RK (statisticheskii monitoring). A., 2005.p.9,23.

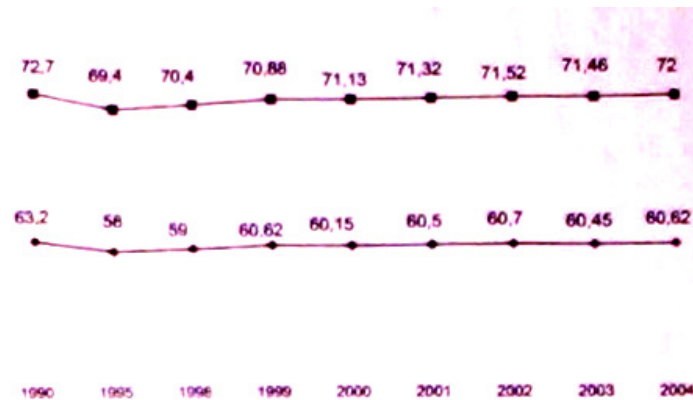
however considerably lags behind according to the parameter of expected life expectancy. One of principal causes of a negative situation with health is, alongside with negative influence of ecology and low incomes of the certain layers of the population, especially in a countryside, a low level of charges on public health services. From the table it is seen, that relative density of charges on public health services in gross national product in the developed countries considerably above, than in Kazakhstan: in Germany - in 3,3 times, in France - in 3,0 times, etc. At the same time relative density of education charges not so essentially exceeds the Kazakhstan level. From here follows, that the level of financing of the public welfare factor renders defining influence on the reached level of social development.

One of the basic conditions of increase of average Kazakhstan's people life expectancy is the increase in relative density of charges at public health services in gross national product. So, in a present social and economic situation a role of a parameter of expected life expectancy in system of the purposes of economic policy is comparable with a role of such basic parameters, as gross national product.

Reduction of expected life expectancy of the population and a high death rate among men of able-bodied age testify to deterioration demographic situation in republic. For 1990-2004 expected life expectancy at women was reduced from 72,2 till 72 years, men from - 63,2 down to 60,6 years (pic.1)

Break of values of the given women and men parameter has increased about 9,5 years till 11 years in 2004 that testifies about serious gender problems of demographic development of the country. Higher level of disease and death rate among men, and also their greater susceptibility explain stresses on big decrease in expected life expectancy of men in comparison with women and specify gravity of a problem of men's health.

Picture 1. Expected life expectancy at a birth, 1990-2004



Source: the Standard of living of the population and poverty in Republic Kazakhstan (statistical monitoring), 2005, p.23

Despite of women greater life expectancy, value judgment of health is lower. According to RK Statistics Agency only 3 % of women estimate a condition of the health as very good (men - 4,3 %), 41,9 % of women consider the health good (men - 49,6 %), and 9 % consider it bad and very bad (men - 5 %). The index of health of women makes 30 %./7/

Proceeding from the above-stated follows, that the parameter of expected life expectancy is actual, objective and measurable the characteristic of public welfare, hence, it is expedient for including level with gross national product in number of the basic target reference points of economic policy of the state.

In strategy of long-term development of the country « Kazakhstan - 2030 » /8/ among long-term priorities, alongside with economic growth on the basis of market economy, an effective utilization of power resources, development of a modern infrastructure and the professional government is « health, education and well-being of citizens of Kazakhstan », that is the basic components of human development.

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