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SOCIOECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF VILLAGE YOUTH IN THE CONTEXT OF JOINING THE EU

The article covers the main problems of village youth life in Ukraine and carries the analysis of social infrastructure in the countryside; giving inter alia the portrait of an average young countryman and determining the key measures of social and economic improvements in the villages of Ukraine.

Keywords: village youth; unemployment; social infrastructure; countryside; agriculture sector; household.

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СОЦІАЛЬНО-ЕКОНОМІЧНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ СІЛЬСЬКОЇ МОЛОДІ В КОНТЕКСТІ ВСТУПУ УКРАЇНИ ДО ЄС

У статті висвітлено основні проблеми життєдіяльності сільської молоді України; здійснено аналіз стану соціальної інфраструктури сільських територій; представлено усереднений соціальний портрет молоді людини – мешканця села; визначено основні заходи щодо поліпшення соціально-економічного стану сільської молоді.

Ключові слова: сільська молодь, безробіття, соціальна інфраструктура, сільські території, аграрний сектор, домогосподарство.

Табл. 2. Рис. 1. Літ. 12.

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СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ СЕЛЬСКОЙ МОЛОДЕЖИ В КОНТЕКСТЕ ВСТУПЛЕНИЯ УКРАИНЫ В ЕС

В статье рассматриваются основные проблемы жизнедеятельности сельской молодежи Украины; осуществлен анализ состояния социальной инфраструктуры сельских территорий; представлен усредненный социальный портрет молодого человека – жителя села; определены основные мероприятия по улучшению социально-экономического положения сельской молодежи.

Ключевые слова: сельская молодежь, безработица, социальная инфраструктура, сельские территории, аграрный сектор, домохозяйство.

Statement of the problem. Of all the global processes that have recently taken place in the world, the most visible and appreciable change is the ideological orientation of young people.

It is particularly acute in the countries where profound social changes are held. At that rate the new generation is forming in Ukraine.

So, it is logical that successful development of Ukraine as a comparatively new sovereign state depends on their welfare, civic and social activity.

Youth have always represented the future of humanity. Trying to participate fully in the life of society, young people do their best in fitting into the established order – in other words, to socialize. Along with this, being a major human resource of the country's development youth is the main force which can transform the established order and become a guide for social changes, economic development and technical

progress of a country. Especially it is relevant for village youth because young people there are continuers of national ideas, traditions and identity.

Analysis of the latest research and publications. Ukrainian regions have many diverse problems, and the most complicated in terms of their solutions are the issues of youth unemployment, demographic crisis, and low standards of living in district centers and villages. And with it the agrarian business is interesting for a lot for investors. Large-scale investment projects are realized in many European and developed Asian countries, small cities and countryside are in progress. There are a lot of different articles and scientific works written by agrarian economists on investment attractiveness and rural areas development. Among them are V.Y. Mesel-Veselyak (2012), Y.M. Novikov (2006), K.I. Yakuba (2009). Significant contribution to the study of the state youth policy is made by famous scientists of our country V.A. Golovenko (2009), E.M. Lianova (2011), Y.O. Lupenko (2012), M.P. Perepelitsa (2001).

The unsolved part of the problem. Current social and economical problems of young people under transformational economy were covered by economists. However, there is still a strong necessity to continue studying a number of aspects which are connected with youth's level of living in the countryside.

The aim of the research is coverage of the main problems of Ukrainian village youth and their vital activity; analyzing the social infrastructure of rural areas; definition of the basic measures for improvement of social and economical position of Ukrainian village youth.

Results of the research. The social status of youth in the society is one of the main indicators of its development because our future depends on it. Young people, which is more than a third of the population of Ukraine is a large social group that needs an active support from the government.

Modern young people are the subjects of influence from the side of political institutions, political structures and associations, which have place in our social community.

It is a complicated and contradictory system which reflects all social, economical, and political tendencies of modern Ukraine's development and particularly in rural areas.

Today social infrastructure of villages in Ukraine is rather neglected and worse than urban one. There is a considerable level of unemployment in small cities, district centers and villages. This is the reason for another problem – demographic crisis. Looking for the better level of life youth leave for getting education in regional centers or in the capital of the country. After graduating from universities a lot of young people don't want to come back to their villages to work (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2010). As a result, working class in villages and small regional centers has no opportunity to renew and increase by new experts with relevant levels of knowledge. On the one hand, there are no people to work, and on the other one, there are no places to work.

Now, Ukraine as a state has an important task to interest youth in staying in villages, to create new working places for all ages there, to improve the conditions of living and work for educationalists, workers of culture, medicine and social sphere in the villages.

As of January, 1, 2012 the rural population of Ukraine was about 14.2 mln. of people. It is about 31.1% of the total population of Ukraine.

After the latest wide-ranging population census (1989), the amount of villagers decreased by 2.9 mln. of people. It is about 17.4%. According to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine as of January, 1, 2012 the urban population was about 10,927.0 ths, and village population was about 4,480.5 ths of people. The population census showed that there were about 2 mln of young families. Only 600 ths of them had lived in village areas (State Institute for Family Development and Youth, 2011: 19).

Comparing with the European Union, it should be noted that the proportion of young people with the age over 15 years who live in rural areas is dominated nationally (Table 1). In 2011 there were about 16.1% of young people elder than 15 years who lived in the villages. It is for 0.5% more than in generally in the countries of the EU. In most EU member states youth elder than 15 mainly live in the countryside. Its part in comparison with national rate is a bit higher. It is connected with general situation in economically developed countries. Significant part of the population there lives in ecologically pure areas working in large cities. They prefer to live 40–70 km from cities. As we can see in Table 1 the situation like this can be noticed practically in all the countries except France, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden (The Eurostat, 2012).

Table 1. Part of the population in the EU member states in the age elder than 15, 2011, % (The Eurostat, 2012)

Countries	Part of the population elder than 15	
	Rural areas	National rate
EU-27	16.1	15.6
Belgium	18.6	16.9
Bulgaria	13.4	13.4
Czech Republic	14.5	14.1
Denmark	18.4	18.3
Germany	13.8	13.6
Estonia	16.1	14.9
Ireland	22.9	20.9
Spain	15.8	14.8
France	17.6	18.5
Italy	13.3	14.0
Latvia	14.6	13.7
Lithuania	15.4	15.1
Hungary	15.0	14.9
The Netherlands	18.4	17.7
Austria	15.5	15.1
Poland	16.6	15.3
Portugal	12.7	15.3
Romania	16.0	15.2
Slovenia	13.8	14.0
Slovakia	14.4	15.4
Finland	16.8	16.7
Sweden	16.1	16.7

Today in Ukraine there are about 28.4 ths of villages. According to various transformations which take place in the settlement system, the total number of villages is steadily decreasing. Among such transformations are such as: creation of new settlements, disunity, unification, removal of settlement from the register etc. The rates of reduction are observed since the 1990s and is around 17–18 settlements a year.

Worsening of social and economic village problems caused the decline of countryside manufacturing and agriculture. In the 1990s agricultural production in all categories decreased by half. In 2000–2002 the volume of output gradually began to grow up. At the same time lots of essential structural changes in agriculture have taken place during this period. The had not only negative influence on social and economical position of the countryside but reverted it for many decades (Lianova, 2011).

Unemployment is one of the main reasons of village poverty. In 2011 there were 56.1 ths of agricultural enterprises of various management and legal forms, 41.0 ths of cooperative farms, more than 5.3 mln. of private agricultural farms (Table 2). But still the majority of agricultural enterprises and their subdivisions are located in medium and large villages.

Table 2. Number of economic players at the agrarian market, 1990–2011, author's calculations

Economic players	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
Agricultural enterprises	3595	8346	16935	57877	59059	57152	56493	56133
Farms	82	34778	38428	42445	42446	41906	41524	40965
Private agricultural farms, ths	5683	5568	5498	5437	5332	5300	5286	5277

The structure of consumption and level of living of the majority of village families are still close to the indices in underdeveloped countries. In 2011, almost 70% of villagers had the total costs per head less than living wage; more than 65% of total costs (72% of consumer) were for feeding; expenditures on industrial goods and services consist of most necessary things – clothes, shoes, soap and washing powders, electricity, gas and solid fuel (The State Statistics Committee).

In 2010–2011, according to the official data, when there was an improvement in the overall economy (GDP growth etc.), as well as in agricultural production, the number of employed villagers decreased from 6474.2 ths of people in 2010 to 6450.3 ths of people in 2011. With it there was noted the total increase of economically active population from 6091.7 ths of people in 2010 to 6109.1 ths of people in 2011.

During the years of independence at the expense of social and domestic network's reduction, rural areas lost about 200 ths of working places, and as a result the reductions in livestock for 500 ths (Mesel-Veselyak, 2012).

Total resources of village households (families) now by more than a third are formed through cash and income of their own (home gardens etc.). Wages in agriculture are the lowest among all economic sectors. The worse is only fishing industry. In January 2012 it was 1679 UAH per month, nearly 1.5 less than the national average.

With the above mentioned phenomena in the industrial sector of villages, the deterioration of villagers welfare and the negative processes in the social and cultural sphere are closely connected. They are caused by chronic shortage of funds in local budgets to ensure the normal functioning of social and cultural institutions, a sharp decrease in the support of these institutions by agricultural enterprises, the practical cessation of governmental funding of countryside social infrastructure and low demand of population for paid services.

In the 1990s the network of social and cultural services in the countryside reduced. In 2011–2012 it was declined by 429 schools, 308 medical institutions, more

than 100 leisure clubs, rest and culture homes, about 200 libraries. Social institutions became single objects. The only thing that still held a certain, but less for 3 times than in the best years was the opening of new preschools (in 2011, by 511 units more than in 2010) and the construction of gas pipelines (The State Statistics Committee, 2012).

In 1990th in Ukrainian villages 13–14% of the population was connected with agriculture. These were aged people or teenagers. At the beginning of the XXI century it is about 50%. By January, 1, 2012, farms employ more than 70% of villagers. Thereby now we can see the fundamental difference between domestic agriculture and agricultural sector of highly developed countries where this situation is at the postindustrial level. Ukrainian agriculture is concentrated in the sector of the so-called private agricultural farms where about 80–90% of all processes are manual because more than 80% of agricultural machinery park is wornout. Now it is on the pre-industrial phase.

The crisis in the agricultural sector, social and economic decline of Ukrainian villages has an extremely negative impact on the situation of young farmers. According to the sociological studies, 37% of young people in the countryside consider themselves socially poor protected, 27% – totally unprotected (Perepelitsa, 2001).

The crisis of the agriculture led to the fact that this professional area became unpromising for youth.

Only seldom young people can find work in villages and at rural enterprises. In spite of the fact that the unemployment rate of the village youth has been doubly decreased during 2010–2011, it is still doubly more than the same level of urban youth. Wages at village enterprises are unattractive for young and active people (it is three times lower than wages in industry).

According to the sociological studies, only 13% of village youth consider that working in the countryside is their mission. Slightly more than a half of young farmers want to move to cities, and 28% of them want to do it because they want to change village job to urban one. During 2011, 6% of the villagers at the age of 14–24 years have been worked abroad, especially in border areas. This index is considerable higher in Western areas, (e.g., in Transcarpathian region in 2011 it was 28%) and 2.5 times more than in urban settlements (The State Statistics Committee, 2012).

Prospects of management and/or inheriting a farm are also disappointing: bad conditions of most of these farms' functioning are restraining the development of farming. According to the sociological studies, only 16% of young villagers set up their own farming households or are on the way to do it. Hard and inefficient work at private agricultural enterprises doesn't suit the youth either. The main reason is because it is almost impossible to set up efficient production. The situation becomes more sophisticated because adult members of village families don't have the right for land share and very low chances to buy land after the moratorium on sale is removed.

Educational level of village youth also declines. There are a lot of those who have only basic secondary education, particularly among 15–19 aged villagers. It is closely connected with the financial security of villagers and critical position of educational institutions. Now more than 23% of village schools have low occupancy. More than a half of those schools are elementary schools. Only 2.1% of village pupils (against 10% in towns) in 2011/12 school years studied in classical schools (gymnasiums), lyceums and colleges. According to the sociological studies, 88% of the village

youth consider that they don't have an opportunity for the educational of necessary level (Novikov, 2006).

Quality and availability of higher education is still an actual problem for village youth.

Taking into consideration that pupils of village schools usually get worse education than in cities, the commercial ground of higher education makes a lot of borders for village youth, especially from not rich families. This is the reason why villagers are oriented on entering the universities of I–II levels of accreditation. Urban citizens and residents of regional centers prefer to enter the universities of III–IV levels of accreditation. In 2011/12 school year there were about 43% of villagers in the total number of students at the I–II accreditation levels, and in universities of the III–IV accreditation levels there were only 31%. Most villagers enter state universities (about 88%) (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2011).

According to the social studies conducted by the State Institute of Family and Youth in 2011, the most attractive professions for the young people are lawyers (42%), businessmen and entrepreneurs (37%), bank employees (15%) (Figure 1). These specialties which are interesting at the labor market are not very popular among village youth. Among their professions are: farmers, agriculture specialists (5%), engineers (9%), salesclerks (11%), teachers (14%) (The State Statistics Committee). Young people consider those professions not very profitable for their future life.



Figure 1. The most popular professions among village youth
(The State Statistics Committee, 2012)

Today Ukrainian social and economical situation in villages and the development of village youth are the subjects of attention of the government, ministries and departments, local authorities, local governments and non-government organizations. The necessity to improve it was more than once noted in the decrees of the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada and the Government's decisions.

There are different laws of Ukraine directed at solving various problems of village youth. Among them are: the Law of Ukraine "Assistance with social formation and development of youth in Ukraine", "Social work with children and youth of Ukraine", "Youth and children non-governmental organizations", intersectional programs of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and The Ministry of Ukraine on Affairs of Family, Children and Youth with the name "Village youth" and "School bus". In many areas regional programs are pointed at improving life conditions in villages and for youth in particular

(Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2010). It necessary to admit that the rate of living in villages consists not only of economic aspect but also of possibility to develop the national culture, ecological safety, freedom of choice in different types of activity and opportunity to safe the traditional way of living (Olshanska, 2011).

However, it should be noted that market reforms in the agricultural sector are performed much slower than in other economic fields. Overcoming of social and economical decline in villages needs a lot of efforts and funds which would be aimed at rebirth and multiplicity of producing branch, creation of new working places, increasing villagers' welfare, improving and strengthening the resource base of social infrastructure.

Conclusions and recommendations for further research. Ukrainian agrarian strategy should be oriented at entering the EU. Agrarian policy should provide high competitiveness of domestic agricultural products at home and foreign agrarian markets. It will allow Ukraine take a proper place in international labor division. Strategic realization of governmental policy in the countryside should be aimed at de-agrarianisation of economy and providing multifunctional development of villages with the features of postindustrial society. The countryside is not only agriculture, but roads, gas and water supply, sewage system, communications, medicine and education, domestic services and small business etc. It is really necessary to stabilize the number of village population to safe Ukrainian nation fulfilling the flexible policy of agrarian industry's support and stimulating the multifunctional and diversified countryside's development. In addition, one of the main tasks of countryside's rebirth should be strengthening of local government and authorities, its organizational and material measures, rising of the non-governmental forces in realization of reforms, along with the formation of economic mechanisms of village development.

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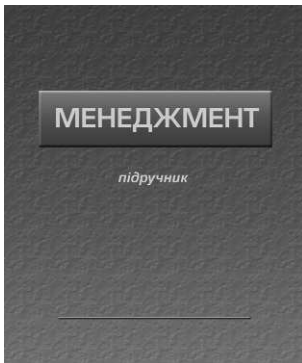
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КНИЖКОВИЙ СВІТ



СУЧАСНА ЕКОНОМІЧНА ТА ЮРИДИЧНА ОСВІТА
ПРЕСТИЖНИЙ ВИЩИЙ НАВЧАЛЬНИЙ ЗАКЛАД
НАЦІОНАЛЬНА АКАДЕМІЯ УПРАВЛІННЯ

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Має гриф підручника від МОН України.

У даному підручнику викладено матеріал, який дає системне уявлення щодо менеджменту. Комплекс представлених навчальних матеріалів стосується відносин управління на макро- та мікрорівні економічної системи, що дозволяє сформувати сутнісне бачення щодо менеджмент-взаємозв'язків різноманітних видів діяльності. У цілому викладений матеріал суттєво поширює теоретичні і методичні уявлення щодо менеджменту.

Підручник включає теоретичні засади менеджменту, історію його виникнення і розвитку, форми і методи документообороту при здійсненні управлінської діяльності, основи операційного менеджменту, розкриває нові тенденції у розвитку стратегічного менеджменту. Містить також менеджмент-практикум щодо основних засад управління.

Призначений для студентів вищих навчальних закладів, викладачів, аспірантів, а також всіх тих, хто цікавиться питаннями управління.