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Scientific Review Article

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE ROMANI POPULATION IN THE REGION OF THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA

ABSTRACT: The subject of this paper is a social economic analysis of the quality of life of the Romani population in the region of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Life on the 'edge of poverty', often endangering basic human needs and postulates worthy of a man of the 21st century, represents an imperative to a wide social community to include all its resources, so that the Roma have a dignified life and an equal status with other members of society. Seen from a sociological aspect, the concept of quality of life provides information on satisfaction with one's life and the degree of adequate functioning in the environment.

In a theoretical sense, the position of each individual in society is influenced by some factors, which also apply to the Romani

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population. In order to establish someone's position in society, it is necessary to define criteria, which can be also called influencing factors. During the research, the principles of PEST analysis were used, with predefined political, economic, sociological-cultural, and technological criteria, i.e. factors, based on which the current position of the Roma was tested, and, the hypothetical ones, were projected on the quality of their life in the future.

The general goal of this research is to improve the position of the Romani community in AP Vojvodina, observed from the point of view of the economic and social status that affects the quality of life (subjective and objective factors and others). The specific goal of the research presented in the paper is the valuation of subjective and objective factors and their direct influence on the quality of the lives of Roma. The research sample population is represented by members of the Romani community who live in the territory of AP Vojvodina.

Key words: social, economic, analysis, quality of life, factors

INTRODUCTION

The characteristics and lifestyle of the Roma, according to many behavioural criteria, are similar everywhere in the world and they face the same problems. Quality of life is first and foremost a psychological category that does not automatically result from the satisfaction of some basic needs, but from the entire psychological structure of an individual in interaction with his physical and social environment. From a psychological perspective, quality of life provides information about a person's feelings, as well as her interactions with others. The core of the research problem is the identification of the influencing factors on the position of Roma in society in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (APV), with the hypothetical view that by the valorisation of the basic factors and their application, the position of members of the Romani community in APV would be significantly improved.

The Millennium development priorities are directed at raising awareness of all aspects of development that are crucial and go beyond economic growth itself, in order to mobilize governments around the world to action and activities dedicated to social status and well-being, health, and a secure environment, and in that direction to the further planned development of the Romani population.

Throughout their history, the Roma have gone through difficult periods with the culmination of Nazism, which took many victims at the world level, and the Roma, along with the Jews, were specially treated as beings of an "inferior race". The tradition and customs of the Roma as a nomadic people made their position even more difficult, and settling in the countries was subject to obstacles and humiliation from the majority population in those countries.

For this reason, it should not be surprising the Roma need for proving themselves and making an effort to fit into the lifestyle of the nation-state where they live, work, and found families.

IMPACT OF CHANGES ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE

When we look around us, changes are happening everywhere. Science in general is most often concerned with scientific and technological revolutions, with a note that the older the society and the more developed the science, the bigger, stronger, and more impactful the changes are on individuals and the operations of economic entities and society as a whole (Nikolic, 2016, p. 66).

The goal of any change is progress, whether personal or corporate. Changes are a daily occurrence, and in the business ambience, changes bring prosperity and sustainable development of the organization. "Practice shows that it is most difficult to make changes in conditions of a high level of stability, high salaries and satisfactory living and working conditions, because "comfort" often puts you to sleep, which leads to the subjects of change trying to make the comfort last as long as possible" (Radosavljevic, Radosavljevic, 2012, p. 90). Analysis of the environment is of great importance for the acceptance and management of changes. In addition to the analysis of the general environment, it is necessary to analyse the external and internal environment, available resources, the labour market, culture and attitudes, the level of education from the aspect of the level of expertise and necessary knowledge, and additional elements of change.

Internal and external analysis of the Romani community was carried out on the basis of a SWOT analysis. The analysis of strengths and weaknesses gives a picture of the internal situation of the Romani community, and the analysis of opportunities and threats, of the environment in which the Romani community coexists. Doing a SWOT analysis raises the question of how some weaknesses related to the economic and social status of the Romani community, or threats from the environment, can be turned into strengths and opportunities that the Romani community can use for its own development. The analysis of the environment was performed on the basis of a PESTEL

analysis. Determining strategic priorities and key areas of action means making a decision about what needs to be achieved based on an overview of the current situation and the vision, that is, the projection of future changes.

The analysis of the position of the Roma, whether it is SWOT or PESTEL, in addition to environmental, legal, and economic issues, also deals with the daily problems of the overall quality of life of the Romani population with a special emphasis on areas such as education, employment, human and minority rights, discrimination and the availability of equal conditions on the labour market, minor's marriages as a form of crime in the field of human trafficking, entrepreneurial business with an emphasis on female and social entrepreneurship and the employment of highly educated Roma, many of whom have doctorates. It is important to note and point out the problem that many Roma do not declare themselves as a Romani national minority exactly for the reason that, due to stereotypes, prejudices, and long-standing ingrained intolerance towards them, they are denied many rights that belong to them by law. It is much easier for them to "tacitly bypass" their minority affiliation and thus acquire the conditions for a better and improved quality of life and work. This is one of the fundamental problems and reasons why the official data on the number of Roma do not agree in statistics and in the literature dealing with the problems of the Romani community.

Existing social attitudes can represent either an advantage or a threat to the strategy of sustainable development of the Romani community. The technological environment does not only refer to technology in the sense of computers and management systems but also to the overall communal, road, and other infrastructure that will improve the conditions and quality of life of members of the Romani population within the community. The strategy of sustainable development of the Romani community can be affected by technological changes, in the sense that it remains excluded from the contemporary trends of society, which is tried to be solved by the Strategy and the Agenda as the fundamental documents on the basis of which the Council of the National Community plans its activities and work in the field.

Quality of life as an economic and social aspect of living

The Social Progress Imperative defines social progress as “the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential”. Improving the quality of life is a complex task, and the effort to measure progress so far has simply not created a clear enough picture of what a successful society looks like (see more on <https://www.socialprogress.org/>).

In recent years, more and more attention has been paid to the assessment of the quality of life. The quality-of-life results from the satisfaction of basic needs, but also from the entire psychological structure of the individual in interaction with his physical and social environment. Assessing the quality of life is a complex process, and for this reason, it is based on numerous indicators that differ between countries on a global level (Jokovic et al, 2017, pp. 90-94).

According to Haas (1999, pp. 215-220), "the quality of life is a multidimensional assessment of the circumstances of an individual's life as they exist at that moment and are presented in the context of the culture in which they live and the values they hold. These are usually subjective feelings of well-being, such as physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions. In certain conditions, objective indicators can supplement or serve individuals who are incapable of subjective perceptions to assess the quality of life".

According to Schalock (2000, pp. 116-127), "quality of life is a concept that reflects the desired living conditions of an individual related to eight main dimensions of his life: emotional well-being, interpersonal relationships, material well-being, personal development, physical well-being, self-actualization, place in society and rights".

According to Testa (1996) defined "quality of life, or more precisely, 'health-related quality of life', indicates the physical, psychological, and social dimensions of health, seen as special areas that are influenced by the experience, beliefs, expectations, and perception of the individual. Each of these domains can be measured in two dimensions: objective evaluations of functioning or health status and subjective - perception of health" (Davern, Cummins, 2006, pp. 1-7).

According to Meeberg (1993), "quality of life is a feeling of overall satisfaction with life, determined by the mental readiness of the individual whose life is valued. Other people from the environment must agree that the individual's life circumstances are not threatened and that they adequately serve his needs" (Mandzuk, McMillan, 2005, pp. 12-18).

According to Lane, "quality of life is properly defined through the relationship between subjective or person-based elements and a set of objective circumstances. The subjective elements of a high quality of life include a feeling of prosperity and well-being, progress in personal development, and dignified life. The objective element is understood through circumstances that present a favourable chance for exploitation by people living their lives" (Christoph, Noll, 2003, pp. 521-546).

According to the Quality-of-Life Group of the World Health Organization (1995, pp. 1403-1409), the quality of life definition implies a "personal view and perception of living from the aspect of culture, value

indicators, tendencies, opportunities that are provided in the future, standard of living and interests".

The indicators are divided into three broad dimensions of social progress: basic human needs, basic well-being, and opportunities. Within each dimension, there are four components that further divide the indicators into thematic categories. A closer selection of indicators allows for a detailed analysis of the specific foundations of social progress in each country, and broader index categories help to better understand global and regional trends (see more on <https://www.socialprogress.org/>). In the past, economic indicators and an approach based on objective social indicators were used to define and measure the quality of life (Ilic et al, 2010, pp. 52-60).

"The basic dimensions related to the quality of life, according to different authors, are diverse, but most of them refer to (URL):

- a) health;
- b) bodily and physical well-being;
- c) emotional and psychological well-being;
- d) material well-being;
- e) environment;
- f) feeling of belonging to the community."

Health and health care: Numerous indicators are monitored in the field of health, of which the following are specially monitored in relation to the Romani population: the length of life of Roma, i.e., the ratio of mortality to birth rate, the percentage of infant mortality, but also during the first years of life; whether non-discriminatory access to healthcare services same as to the majority population is provided; determinants related to general health such as obesity, smoking, and others. When talking about health care of Roma, one of the frequent reasons why Roma do not use health care (except in emergencies) is the rude, unfriendly, and repulsive attitude of medical workers. The Roma's low knowledge of their rights related to their health and lack of knowledge of procedures for accessing health services is usually the "reason" for such behaviour by medical workers. Roma come to health centres without health insurance, without a chosen doctor, without a certified health card, and therefore fail to gain access to health care. Medical workers do not have time to adequately explain to each person the reason why they cannot get the health service they are looking for, but simply refuse them, and the Roma perceive this refusal as discrimination. Roma tend to avoid situations in which they are discriminated against and the main reason why many curable diseases among Roma become chronic and leave lasting consequences on their health is late intervention.

Emotional and psychological well-being, material well-being, and environment are related to **leisure and social interactions**, which means time

spent outside of activities related to productivity, which is reflected in happiness and life satisfaction.

Interactions related to social life are considered capital in the field of social action and are of special and exceptional importance for society as a whole, but also, for individual members of the Romani community. Social interactions that are frequent are related to a better life, health, greater chances when looking for a job, business activities, and better efficiency and productivity in performing daily jobs and tasks. Reliance on community members and belonging to the community are also important indicators of measuring the quality of life.

Education: According to research, the Roma represent one of the largest and most vulnerable minorities in Europe (there are between 8 and 12 million Roma worldwide), and what is characteristic is that in Europe, the Roma remain excluded from many areas of society, i.e., many rights are denied to them deprived and as if they were destined for a life of poverty. It is generally known that the Roma face numerous problems, among which access to quality education is particularly important.

As the main problems related to education, citizens of the Republic of Serbia and members of the Romani national community identified: the unavailability of schools and quality education, especially in rural areas, the low quality of education in primary and secondary schools, the disconnection between educational programs and the needs of the labour market, the high cost of university education, the lack of quality lifelong learning programs, as well as the insufficiently successful implementation of inclusive education.

According to Gavovic and Timotijevic (2012), the analysis of the quality of life includes the areas: political and social environment - political stability, crime rate, rule of law, etc; economic environment - stability of the economy, banking services, etc; sociocultural environment - censorship, restrictions on personal freedom; health and sanitary environment - availability of medical services and medicines, infectious diseases, sewage, waste, air pollution, etc; schools and education - the standard of schools, availability of schools and education; public services and transport - electricity, water, public transport, traffic jams; free time - restaurants, theatres, cinemas, sports and more; consumer goods - availability of food, clothing, cars, etc; home - houses and apartments, appliances, furniture, maintenance, and natural environment - climate, history of natural disasters, pollution, etc. Also, according to Gavovic and Timotijevic (2012), "safety is the factor that is highlighted as the most important and that requires the most improvement. In order for a city to be attractive for living in, it must, first of all, provide a sense of safety and security and have well-organized communal services and enterprises. The list of other factors that influence the attractiveness of a certain city includes the cost of living, public transport, roads and parking, environmental protection,

and access to health services. This is followed by schools and educational institutions, parks, and recreation areas, as well as childcare facilities. Economic insecurity, the level of pollution, and security are the three main areas of concern".

Standard of living: In relation to the entire population, the standard of living of the Roma is extremely low, and the marginal social position of Roma is the main generator of their poor standard of living. The integration of Roma into contemporary social trends, the division of labour, and culture can be seen as a process of passive adaptation, i.e., assuming roles that have already been determined for them: external through the marginalization by global society and internal through the reproduction of the Romani community's lifestyle.

According to Basic (2013, pp. 1-32), "the life problems of Roma should be solved by suppressing and eliminating structural poverty through the design, adoption, and development of a participatory, dynamic, cooperative integrative model in which the state and its services help poor Romani men and women to reach a certain level of living standards. At the same time, it is necessary to implement training and empowerment programs for poor Romani families to independently maintain that or achieve a higher level of standards".

When it comes to the sociological-cultural, demographic, and social characteristics of the Romani community based on the number and share in the total population of members of the Romani national community in Serbia, the Roma represent a relevant community, and their social, economic and cultural position has an impact on the demographic characteristics and their position in society. The data speak of different numbers of Roma from census to census, which cannot be explained by demographic data. According to Mitrovic (1996, p. 19), "research shows that the ethnic origin is most often hidden by Roma who are educated and who have left the typical Roma environment and who have integrated into the broader social community". The national 'awakening' and ethnic emancipation of the Roma in recent decades has caused an increasingly clear emphasis on the Romani origin and an increasingly frequent declaration of belonging to the Romani national community at the population census.

According to Basic (2011, p. 11), "the identity of the Roma is in constant change, and the early migrations from the prehistoric times directed them towards cultures that were often not favourable to the newcomers, i.e., encounters with different cultural influences caused the Roma to change their religion, language, customs, habits".

Romani language: When looking at the Roma as a national minority whose status is recognized, it can be pointed out that they are not on the map since Romani has not yet met the necessary criteria for mapping as an official language in relation to the percentage of members of the Romani community in the majority of places. Roma generally adapt to another culture, confession,

and accept the language of the environment in which they live. It can be said that the mother tongue is one of the most recognizable signs of national identity that can be used to study the composition of the population.

The analysis of strengths and weaknesses gives a picture of the inner situation of Romani settlements, and the analysis of opportunities and threats, of the environment in which the Romani settlement coexists. Doing a SWOT analysis raises the question of how to turn some weaknesses of Romani settlements or threats from the environment into strengths and opportunities that the Romani settlement can use for its own development. In the SWOT analysis, strengths and weaknesses are defined clearly and simply, while unclear and insufficiently defined areas are avoided.

The ecological analysis that is carried out in Romani settlements is directly related to the state of the environment in which the residents of Romani settlements live and work and involves monitoring data on the state of air, water, soil, elements of biodiversity and the relationship to natural resources that make up the living ambiance of the Romani community and similarly. Life in Roma settlements has its strengths: low housing costs, togetherness, good mutual knowledge, environmental awareness, connection with compatriots in other settlements and mobility within the state, even between states, and the collection of secondary raw materials as an additional source of employment.

Figure 1. - SWOT analysis of the place and role of the Romani community in AP Vojvodina

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expansion of the urban part of the settlement; ✓ Serbia's involvement in the Roma Decade and the resulting affirmative policies in the area of housing, ✓ Schooling and education, ✓ Female and social entrepreneurship ✓ Employment ✓ Health care for the Roma population, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The country's poor economic situation due to the pandemic crisis and the war in Ukraine, ✓ Weak implementation of international conventions, ✓ Weak institutional mechanisms for improving the position of Roma, ✓ Poor intersectoral cooperation, ✓ Extreme right-wing groups, ✓ Implementation of the legislative legal framework

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed institutional mechanisms for improving the position of Roma, ✓ national "awakening" and ethnic emancipation of the Roma, ✓ The existence of domestic and international funds to support programs and projects for Roma, ✓ Allocation of funds for the improvement of the position of Roma by the republican, provincial, and local authorities, ✓ Adoption of National strategies, policies, and agendas for the period 2015-2030. 	<p>of recycling without recognizing the work and experiences of Roma in recycling itself.</p>
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Low housing costs, ✓ Community and good mutual knowledge of the inhabitants of the settlement, ✓ Lower average age, ✓ Ecological conscience, ✓ Access to garbage dumps, ✓ Connection with other settlements, ✓ Mobility within the state and interstates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unfavourable communal infrastructure (electrification, water supply, road infrastructure, access to educational institutions), ✓ A lower standard of living than neighbouring countries, ✓ Poverty, ✓ Poor health, ✓ Lower educational status compared to the majority population, ✓ Lower work status regardless of the level of education, ✓ Bad image in the environment, presence of prejudice, and marginalization,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inertia of the inhabitants of Romani settlements in the struggle to improve the standard of living, ✓ Emigration of educated and employed people from the Romani settlement, ✓ Handling hazardous waste.
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Prepared on the basis of the source: Jovanovic, J, 2014, p. 45 (graduate thesis)

Subjective and objective indicators of measuring the quality of life

"Some authors believe that the quality of one's own life is measured by subjective criteria, while others say that the assessment of the quality of an individual's life largely depends on individual temperament or the need to combine objective and subjective aspects of the quality of life, given that these factors are correlated" (Gavovic, Timotijevic, 2012).

"The subjective measurement of the quality of life is based on the measurement of the psychological state of individuals in terms of values, attitudes, beliefs, aspirations, satisfaction, and happiness. Subjective indicators reveal an individual assessment of the objective state of the environment and one's own life (URL), considering that an individual as a person can best determine for himself the degree of his happiness and satisfaction with life as a whole or parts of life" (Cummins, 1996, pp. 302-303).

"The way in which objective indicators are recognized and interpreted indicates training in the understanding of value principles and the application of objective indicators in relation to the impact on experiencing well-being" (Ilic and others, 2010, pp. 52-60).

"An objective approach in measuring the quality of life, as indicators measures events that are different, which strive to make a conclusion about the quality of life based on the characteristics of individuals and their living conditions" (URL), such as e.g. gross domestic product and other economic measures that have long been considered the main indicators of the well-being of a country. These measures only provide information about material well-being, and not about other important elements of society (Slavuj, 2012, pp. 73-92). The objective indicators of the quality of life refer to the objective characteristics of individuals, to economic measures, among which it is particularly necessary to emphasize the role of the gross domestic product, but also to other economic measures related to the area of housing, exposure to

crime, employment which has already been discussed, education, accessibility to entrepreneurial activities and others.

According to Jankovic, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality (2012, p. 11), “the interconnection of anti-discrimination measures and measures for the social inclusion of Romani men and women and the realization of rights in the field of education, employment, housing, and health care is particularly emphasized in the Strasbourg Declaration on the Roma”. According to the data provided in the Strategy for improving the position of Roma in the Republic of Serbia, the characteristic of the socio-economic position of the majority of Roma is a very low level of economic independence, followed by high unemployment and the exclusion of Roma from the institutions of the public system.

The question of employment, the labour market, and the availability of certain types of employability

The problem of unemployment is generally a common problem in Serbia. The issue of employment is of crucial importance for improving the quality of life of the Romani community. Unemployment brings with it a number of negative economic, social, social-psychological, and demographic consequences. In conditions when entire regions are facing the problems of unemployment, falling living standards and consumption, as well as minimal economic growth, electronic business requires new personnel structure that has computer literacy and changes in the education system, digitization, and global phenomena of population migration, it is necessary to the problem of economic analysis of the labour market and the problem of unemployment is aligned with the needs of the economic structure, on the basis of which it is necessary to model the strategy and public policy that leads to the welfare state and modern economic development.

The economic theory under unemployment implies "the forced free time of a person who wants to find a job, (...) an unwanted phenomenon, both for individuals and for companies" (URL). Unemployment affects society in general, and individuals affect in a particularly negative way the quality of life, social and psychological effects and consequences for health, financial consequences, and the like. The causes of unemployment are also complex and a consequence of the low level of education, overpopulation, underdevelopment of infrastructure, underdevelopment and imperfection of the market, low productivity, immobility of the workforce, and the like.

Many authors dealing with economic analyses believe that it is necessary to create flexible labour markets that would help to solve the problem of the constant and high unemployment rates. Roma in Serbia face multiple problems, among which difficult access to the labour market stands

out. The Romani family is characterized by early marriages, a large number of children, and an extended family in which patriarchal customs prevail. One of the possible solutions to such a situation for the Romani population is to create an environment that will be stimulating for the development of Romani entrepreneurship. In Serbia, about 50% of Roma live in 573 Romani settlements. In the total population of Serbia in 2011, women predominate (out of 7,186,862 inhabitants, women make up 3,687,686 or 51.3%), while men predominate in the Romani population (out of 147,604 Roma, men are 75,042 or 51.0%). When looking at the rates of masculinity by age, it can be concluded that in the population of Serbia there is an excess of the male population between the ages of 35 and 39 and then there is a tendency of decreasing rates of masculinity, and the largest excess of women is registered among the old population (Radovanovic, Knezevic, 2014, p. 62).

The majority of the members of the Roma community are employed in collecting secondary raw materials or maintaining hygiene, which is an additional problem for educated young Roma, considering that the National Employment Service mostly offers them similar jobs or jobs in that branch. The insufficient number of employed Roma in state and public enterprises is evident. More than half of the Roma population in Serbia belongs to the age group that can make the most work contribution, however, 70% of Roma have never worked. When it comes to Romani women, the number of unemployed is even four times higher (Steiner et al, 2003). When it comes to the employment of the Romani population, it is mostly short-term and usually, the Roma do work that does not require any qualifications. That is why their earnings are significantly lower than the majority of the population. The Romani population mostly works informally, hired by friends and neighbours (21%), while 12% get a permanent job, and 10% are engaged in selling goods on the market. Among Roma who participated in the research, 10% received social assistance and that was their only income (Steiner et al, 2003).

Within the framework of neoliberalism, Romani men and women are given jobs and jobs that are difficult and socially devalued, the consequences of which are very dehumanizing. The entire Romani community is also publicly stigmatized, for example, collectors of secondary raw materials, street cleaners, and the like. If we look at the type of unemployment where the Roma as a national minority, it can be pointed out that the first type would be structural unemployment, given that it is caused by major changes in the economy, due to which workers who are left without a job, and given insufficient education and lack of competence conditioned by technological achievements and the growing knowledge economy, they have to look for work in other branches, which often requires them to retrain or receive additional training and finish at least elementary school, or it requires necessary to move (migration), which is unacceptable to their traditional

upbringing and attachment to certain places. The number of members of national minorities, primarily Roma, in the state, public sector, and even in the private sector is negligible, and the number of successful Romani entrepreneurs could be 'counted on the fingers'.

The low economic engagement of young Roma is an important factor in the age structure of the Romani population as in the majority population, where example it can be stated that the percentage of dependents in the Romani population is 60%, and in the majority population around 37%. The majority of Roma are not covered by programs within the employment system, their work is not legally economically active, and they are mostly considered unemployed.

If they do get a job, it's the hardest unskilled job and the lowest paid. This kind of attitude towards the members of the Romani community has lifelong implications and the impossibility of a decent life, and employment, not to mention advancement.

Based on the research by Knezevic (2010), the level and structure of the education of the Romani population are conditioned by its position in society and cultural specificities. The low educational profile is contributed by economic misery and a partially rooted understanding that they don't even need school, as well as an ineffective state apparatus that does not recognize the problem or solve it slowly and inefficiently. Also, this way of defining the problem of unemployment leads to a connection with education and the need to network institutions that will generally work to solve this problem. Entrepreneurial business is a chance to employ a large number of unemployed persons.

It is necessary to mention the importance of social entrepreneurship as a chance for employment and education of Roma, especially in the field of female entrepreneurship. The Romani community will succeed in quality development if, during a certain period, its development is higher than average. This is possible only by raising the awareness and knowledge of not only the Romani population about themselves and their importance and opportunities in modern society but also the awareness and knowledge of the entire society about the Roma, their culture, history, needs, similarities and differences, as well as the development of empathy and goodwill to all integrate together and contribute to a better tomorrow, which is the main goal of the document *Transforming Our World: Agenda for Sustainable Development* until 2030. The poverty of members of the Romani community is reflected in the fact that they are unemployed because they are poor and without a school education, and they are poor because they are unemployed or perform poorly paid jobs. Most Romani families live only on humanitarian and social aid and struggle for daily survival. Most of these 'invisible citizens' live in difficult living conditions (Jaksic, Basic, 2002). In addition, there is

discrimination during employment, as well as low quality of employment - poor working conditions, low income, and the like.

CONCLUSION

Taking into account the fact that the Roma have a low educational level and are not economically empowered enough, it can be assumed that their position will not significantly improve in the future. A new generation of young Roma will be created who will not be ready to meet the challenges of the new society. The majority of Roma are not covered by programs within the employment system, their work is not legally economically active, and they are mostly considered unemployed. If they do get a job, it's the hardest unskilled job and the lowest paid. The incomes that Roma earns are mainly from the following occupations: seasonal work, illegal work, collection of secondary raw materials, help from relatives from abroad, and social assistance from the state. The reason for the unfavourable position in the labour market is primarily the low level of education and discrimination by employers.

State services that deal with employment do not keep records of the employment of Roma. There are no funds for the development of entrepreneurship among Roma in any of the institutions of the system. Donations from international organizations that our country received to reduce poverty and improve the employment of the Romani population are not enough. Collecting secondary raw materials is one of the occupations that Roma most often do at low prices. That is why the state should systematically solve the problem of collecting secondary raw materials that Roma deal with and introduce it into legal flows. Collecting secondary raw materials is one of the occupations that Roma most often do at low prices. That is why the state should systematically solve the problem of collecting secondary raw materials that Roma deal with, and introduce it into legal flows. Due to all of the above, we can expect greater migration of Roma to the countries of the European Union with the aim of better economic stability.

The position of the Romani community in the APV is below any average level in relation to members of other communities and national minorities who live there. The application of influential factors, such as: political, economic, sociological-cultural, and technological, by the wider social community, above all the state apparatus, would significantly increase the quality of life of Roma in Vojvodina, which would significantly affect their wider integration in society. Particularly expected are the results of the influence of the level of education of members of the Romani population, which gives as a final result

the possibility of their permanent employment, constant material income, and therefore a better quality of life.

In the absence of serious financial assistance and permanent employment for adult members of Romani families, which are significant for a large number of Romani families who are unable to provide their children with clothing, money for snacks, or a monthly ticket for transportation to school, this problem still exists until the adoption of a new Strategy in which measures will be better implemented and their implementation enabled.

RESUME

It can be summarized that the Roma, as a minority people living in Serbia, encounter a series of obstacles and problems important for the analysis of the quality of life of Serbian citizens in their daily life: from discrimination; threats to basic human rights related to employment and the educational process; through the impossibility of adequate accommodation and solving the housing issue. According to the data provided in the Strategy for improving the position of the Roma in the Republic of Serbia, the characteristics of the socio-economic position of the majority of Roma indicate a very low degree of economic independence, followed by high unemployment and the exclusion of Roma from the institutions of the public system.

Due to the low rate of economic activity of the majority of Roma, there is socio-economic backwardness, political barriers to employment, and other demographic characteristics. On the other hand, for the first time after a long series of years of neglecting the needs of the Roma community, important steps were taken on the way to solving the problem by adopting strategies that offer solutions with clearly defined deadlines and entities responsible for implementing the planned projects. International organizations are also involved in their implementation: through their non-governmental organizations, as well as through official institutions, and the assistance they provide has several aspects of expression: advisory, financial and legal assistance.

The educational and working structure of the Roma is primarily influenced by socio-economic relations, educational composition, and work status, which are also related to the age and gender of the Roma. Considering the low quality of life of the Romani population, it is necessary to make a comprehensive analysis of the migration of the Romani population in search of a better life and to make a series of measures and strategic solutions that will stimulate them to stay in Vojvodina, that is, Serbia. Of course, the gross domestic product affects the quality of life not only of members of the Romani population but also of members of the majority nation.

Tradition, which is repeatedly emphasized as a characteristic of the Roma population, can be seen in another way as “an insurmountable obstacle to their inclusion, without a realistic analysis of the problem”.

REZIME
DRUŠTVENO-EKONOMSKA ANALIZA KVALITETA ŽIVOTA
ROMSKOG STANOVNIŠTVA U AUTONOMNOJ POKRAJINI
VOJVODINI

Predmet ovog rada je socijalno-ekonomska analiza kvaliteta života romske populacije u AP Vojvodini. Život na „ivici siromaštva“, često ugrožavajući osnovne ljudske potrebe i postulate dostojne čoveka 21. veka, predstavlja imperativ širokoj društvenoj zajednici da uključi sve svoje resurse, kako bi Romi imali dostojanstven život i ravnopravan status kod ostalih članova društva. Posmatrano sa sociološkog aspekta, koncept kvaliteta života daje informaciju o zadovoljstvu svojim životom i stepenu adekvatnog funkcionisanja u okruženju.

U teorijskom smislu, na položaj svakog pojedinca u društvu utiču neki faktori, koji se odnose i na romsku populaciju. Da bi se utvrdio nečiji položaj u društvu, potrebno je definisati kriterijume, koji se mogu nazvati i faktorima uticaja. Tokom istraživanja korišćeni su principi PEST analize, sa unapred definisanim političkim, ekonomskim, sociološko-kulturološkim i tehnološkim kriterijumima, odnosno faktorima na osnovu kojih je testiran trenutni položaj Roma, a hipotetički projektovani na kvalitet njihovog života u budućnosti.

Opšti cilj ovog istraživanja je unapređenje položaja romske zajednice u AP Vojvodini, posmatrano sa stanovišta ekonomskog i socijalnog statusa koji utiče na kvalitet života (subjektivni i objektivni faktori i drugo). Specifičan cilj istraživanja predstavljenog u radu je vrednovanje subjektivnih i objektivnih faktora i njihovog direktnog uticaja na kvalitet života Roma. Populaciju uzorka istraživanja predstavljaju pripadnici romske zajednice koji žive na teritoriji AP Vojvodine.

Ključne reči: društveni, ekonomski, analiza, kvalitet života, faktori

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