

QUALITY OF LIFE AS AN INDICATOR OF GOVERNANCE EFFECTIVENESS

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ABSTRACT

This article focuses on researching the basis of the quality of life category as an indicator that reflects governance effectiveness. Were modernized methods of estimating the quality of life in the region and conducted their integration with the method of analysis of hierarchies to determine the coefficients of the parameters influence. The article gives a comprehensive analysis of the category quality of life in the context of the population in the Volga Federal District regions. On the basis of this comparative analysis was made a rating of the regions, presented the theoretical rationale of the quality of life management, identified the main problems and proposed recommendations for their management.

Keywords: quality of life, cumulative integral index of the quality of life, cumulative index of mean values, cumulative index of wellbeing, infant mortality rate, migration attractiveness.

THEORETICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CATEGORIES, STUDIED IN THE ARTICLE.

In the modern world, in a constantly changing environment, it is quite difficult to assess the effectiveness of the state's activity. The main problem lies in the selection of a universal methodology for assessing the effectiveness of government, as well as finding a model that would be able to consider the maximum possible number of factors. One of these categories, which covers the maximum satisfaction of people's lives, social relationships, environment, and describes the structure of needs and importantly, has a strong dependence on the activities of public authorities, is the category of quality of life. In recent years, this category is paid great attention among scientists, different approaches to defining the essence of the theoretical and methodological quality of life are given. One such approach that best characterizes the category of quality of life is presented in the works of authors Anisimova E.A.[1]; Peach N.D.a.[2]; Wei X.ab.[3]. In their view,

the concept of quality of life must be interpreted from broad and narrow points of view. The term "quality of life" in its broad sense is understood, as mentioned above, as the population satisfaction with their lives in different needs and interests. This concept covers: characteristics and indicators of the standard of living as an economic category, conditions of work and leisure, housing, social security and guarantee protection of the rights of public, climatic conditions, indicators of environmental conservation, the availability of free time and the possibility to use it well, finally, the subjective feeling of peace, comfort and stability.

The second meaning of the term "quality of life" is narrower (for example, the phrase "the level and quality of life of the population"): it covers the factors mentioned above without proper living standards in its economic sense (income, cost of living, consumption)[4].

In our study the interpretation of the term "quality of life" in a broad sense most fully characterizes the essence of the categories, studied in the article. Obviously, the set of characteristics and quality of life indicators represented by Nikolaev B.[5] and Madans, J.H.[6] reflect the efficiency of public administration.

The methodological approach of evaluating of the quality of life of the population used in our study is a modernized methodology based on the one proposed by Glebova I.S.[7] the essence of which is to determine the cumulative index of the integral quality of life.

ANALYSIS OF THE EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY OF LIFE VFD REGIONS.

The definition of good governance, as has been previously stated, should be reflected in a positive change in the characteristics and quality of life indicators of the population. The methodology used for the assessment and ranking the regions in terms of quality of life, implies the existence of a significant set of the indicators, divided into 7 units (level of income, level of development of the consumer market, the availability of housing and the quality of their housing conditions, availability of basic material goods, the level of health and education development. Environmental conditions, the state of the labor market and migration attractiveness). Each of them has its own weighting factor. (Table. I)

Table I. Index of influence of weighting factors in the quality of life integral index

Block	Name of the block	Index of influence
Block № 1	Income level	36,77224
Block № 2	level of development of the consumer market	6,34753
Block № 3	availability of housing and the quality of their housing conditions	17,57142
Block № 4	availability of basic material goods	10,16589
Block № 5	level of health and education development	18,79989
Block № 6	environmental conditions	3,754989
Block № 7	state of the labor market and migration attractiveness	6,588043

These weights were obtained according to the survey conducted by a pairwise comparison of the importance of these blocks, the results were averaged and entered in the matrix of pairwise comparisons of T. Saaty, in accordance with the hierarchy analysis method [8].

The composite indices of each block are indexed according to the link type:

$$\text{direct link: } \frac{X_i - X_{\min}}{X_{\max} - X_{\min}} \quad (1);$$

$$\text{feedback: } \frac{X_{\max} - X_i}{X_{\max} - X_{\min}} \quad (2).$$

After indexing the parameters, it is necessary to calculate the consolidated integral index of life quality per the formula (3):

$$QL_{it} = \frac{\sum_1^z x_{zit} k_{zt}}{\sum_1^z k_{zt}}, \quad (3)$$

QL_{it} - combined (integral) index of the population quality of life (QL - cont. from Eng. quality of life) of the i -th subject of the Russian Federation in the t -th time, comparable with the average level taken 1;

x_{zit} - summary index of the z -th component (unit) of the quality of life of the population of the i -th subject of the Russian Federation in the t -th time; (a composite index of the average values of the unit);

k_{zt} - the weight of significance of the z -th component (unit) of the quality of life of the population in the t -th time; (weighting unit);

z - the number of the components (units) of the quality of life of the population included in the calculation of the integral index of quality of life (for the proposed set of indicators = 7).

This analysis was conducted for 2014 the results are presented in Fig. 1.

Integral index of quality of life

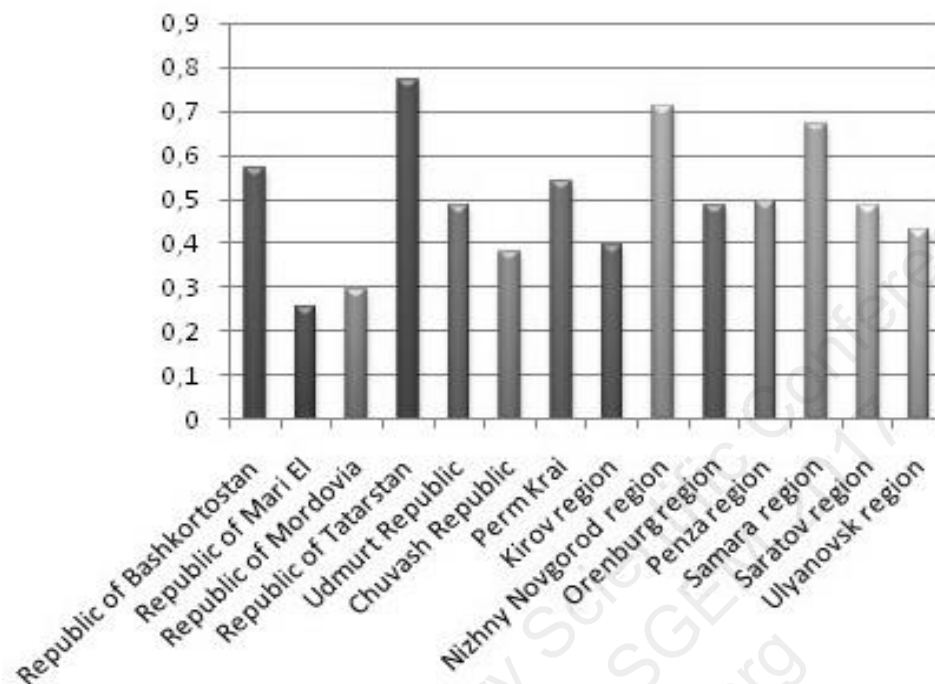


Fig. 1. The results of the calculation of the consolidated (integral) index of quality of life of regions of the Volga Federal district in 2014.

Based on the consolidated indicators (integral) index of quality of life of population of regions of the Volga Federal district, as reflected in figure 1, we can draw several conclusions. At the end of 2014, the leaders in terms of the quality of life of the population are the Republic of Tatarstan (the final index for all 7 units in 2014, equivalent to 0.77), Nizhny Novgorod region (0,71) and Samara region (0.67). Regions with a very low level of quality of life are the Republic of Mari El (0,27) and the Republic of Mordovia (0,29). These figures indicate that there are problems even in the leading regions, because the indicators are not ideal. In order to identify these existing problems, it is necessary to analyze directly the compound factors of quality of life, i.e. the units themselves.

Table II. Summary table of the composite indexes of average values of the units for 2014.

Volga Federal District	Block №1	Block №2	Block №3	Block №4	Block №5	Block №6	Block №7
Republic of Bashkortostan	0,796 656	0,842 305	0,2902 01	0,5559 53	0,317 704	0,5708 77	0,499 369
Republic of Mari El	0,030 777	0,094 570	0,3819 59	0,2786 00	0,452 521	0,7594 79	0,387 082
Republic of Mordovia	0,052 845	0 0	0,5704 21	0,2176 99	0,545 116	0,8390 17	0,292 766
Republic of Tatarstan	0,985 842	1 1	0,7598 44	0,5512 46	0,454 082	0,3105 69	0,879 666

Udmurt Republic	0,530 554	0,295 879	0,2062 27	0,7893 80	0,566 191	0,4985 74	0,437 771
Chuvash Republic	0,180 775	0,173 954	0,4870 42	0,1	0,758 971	0,9577 03	0,441 660
Perm Krai	0,723 561	0,796 883	0,3192 76	0,7247 78	0,299 017	0,4654 10	0,305 926
Kirov region	0,359 764	0,313 828	0,2767 85	0,4316 17	0,520 002	0,7381 88	0,385 673
Nizhny Novgorod region	0,855 521	0,689 411	0,7054 02	0,5838 69	0,502 493	0,4255 20	0,888 888
Orenburg region	0,522 750	0,381 507	0,5968 40	0,7	0,315 022	0,4111 31	0,270 970
Penza region	0,464 849	0,258 264	0,7195 51	0,4130 73	0,391 316	0,8240 93	0,510 660
Samara region	0,675 026	0,724 372	0,7232 14	0,6874 89	0,644 370	0,3213 64	0,719 155
Saratov region	0,253 801	0,218 965	0,7311 35	0,6576 02	0,642 654	0,9039 39	0,398 706
Ulyanovsk region	0,429 878	0,309 277	0,5554 02	0,5056 31	0,274 893	0,7546 95	0,340 289

The structure of the assessment of quality of life of the population is constructed in such a way that all the units are highly correlated, which is an important factor in the analysis of efficiency of public administration, because one incorrect decision can lead to a significant decline in figures of some units, and the entire level of quality of life of the population of a region.

The analysis of quality of life in the context of the units gives us an objective assessment on existing problems in the regions of the Volga Federal district [9]. The main problems with a high level of differentiation on the indicators of the composite index of the average values are the state of the labor market and migration attractiveness. It is logical that these problems are interrelated, so, in the regions with a high rate of unit No. 7 we can see a developed infrastructure of the labor market, which is a major factor in the migration attractiveness. In addition, another important factor, confirming the high level of correlation with the migration attractiveness is the level of income where the Republic of Tatarstan is the absolute leader. A high level of income and the infrastructure of the labor market makes the region one of the most attractive for migrants in the Volga Federal district. But even this region has its own problems, such as the unsatisfactory state of the environment and the natural environment and level of development of health care and education. The first problem is a consequence of high level of socio-economic development of the region, this trend can be traced on other developed regions of the Volga Federal district, such as the Samara and Nizhny Novgorod region. Poor

environmental conditions cause some problems with health of the population, as evidenced by high infant mortality rates. But these factors do not greatly affect large migration streams.

The problem of excessive migration in these regions entails a reduction in general level of education of the population, i.e. the reduction of the share people with higher education, who just dissolve in the total number of ever growing population. The same problem can be observed in the development of the health care system. Overcrowded hospitals, lack of doctors, insufficient number of medical institutions with high-tech equipment are just a part of the problems existing in the regions of the Volga Federal district. If we try to find the positives in the development of the regions in terms of quality of life, it can be said that the least differentiation on the indicators the composite index of the average values is observed for units 3 and 4, "Providing housing and housing quality" and "Providing of basic material goods. A major role in the reduction of the differentials belongs to the Federal target program "Housing" for 2011-2015. It is also important to mention such subprograms as "Providing housing for young families", "Modernization of the utilities infrastructure" and others.. The growth of the providing basic material goods to the population can be explained by active state policy in the field of competition development, which involves the creation of conditions for efficient and effective competition, the elimination of flaws in the legal field, as well as implementation of active antimonopoly policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE OF POPULATION OF THE REGIONS OF VOLGA FEDERAL DISTRICT

Starting with the problems listed earlier, it is possible to offer several recommendations to improve the quality of life of population of the regions of the Volga Federal district. To solve the identified problems more effectively, it is necessary to implement a comprehensive approach [4]. Its essence lies in the simultaneous use of a specific set of measures. Only this way it is possible to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness of state management in the sphere of quality of life.

The main activities are the following:

- creation of a socially oriented infrastructure, based on the experience of foreign countries;
- unemployment reduction by stimulating the demand for labor;
- small and medium business development by reducing administrative barriers, introduction of additional benefits, guarantees, subsidies and implementation of transparent system of state orders;
- constant monitoring of the effectiveness and efficiency of activities of state authorities, monitoring of the indicators the composite quality factors of the population;
- tougher penalties in the field of environmental pollution and introduction of mandatory annual reporting of emissions of polluting substances into the atmosphere and surface water bodies;
- creation of a modern educational infrastructure for the implementation of distance education. This event will help to raise general level of literacy of the indigenous and immigrant population.

However, these measures should be legally regulated and specified in some Federal program. Therefore, creation of a long-term concept of constant growth of the quality of life of population in the regions should be set as the main priority task.

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