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N. P. Lutchny, O. S. Hrynkevych

Life quality and a factor of education in the focus of regional population survey in Ukraine

The paper reflects on the assessment and analysis of life quality using objective and subjective indicators. The methodology the authors' research is based on the theoretical study of scientific approaches to understanding the concept of «life quality», the conceptual bases of its measurement and on the Polish experience in empirical studies on relevant topics as well.

Using a special questionnaire survey the authors make clear the subjective assessments that reflect the individual perception of life quality by the adult population in Lviv region and are based on respondents' personal values and perceptions. It is found out that on a 5-point scale, the average point of the satisfaction with life quality by the residents of the region is 4.07. Based on non-parametric methods of the analysis of relationships it is determined that the main factors of the overall satisfaction with life quality in Lviv region (Ukraine) include marital status, living conditions (accommodation) and a way of spending free time.

The results of the authors' surveys and the others indicate that the level of education and its accordance with individual expectations is one of the main factors of increasing objective and subjective indicators of life quality at both the individual and regional and national levels.

Keywords: *life quality, subjective evaluation, education, education and inequality, Ukraine (Lviv region).*

Introduction. Life quality is an indicator of the country's sustainable development and its regions, its competitiveness in world markets, the dynamics of qualitative changes in society. That is why the life quality theme is a study subject of not only scientists, but also the object of special attention of politicians, state and local government representatives and public opinion.

Unlike foreign scientists the issues of evaluating life quality and its components have been studied by Ukrainian scientists for not a long time. The study of life quality in Ukraine largely means an objective assessment which is measured by statistical indicators of household costs and resources. However, domestic scholars and experts pay much less attention to the subjective evaluation of life quality, which reflects personal understanding and experience.

The aim of the authors' research is a comprehensive description of life quality in Lviv region (Ukraine) based on the subjective assessments of the population in the region taking into consideration the international experience of such research in European countries, including Poland. According to the study aim the following major objectives are set and implemented:

- 1) the basic methodological approaches to the evaluation of life quality given objective and subjective characteristics and their information support are summarized;
- 2) the influence of various life quality aspects/factors on the overall self-evaluation by the residents of Lviv region is defined;
- 3) the impact of an education factor on socio-economic indicators of life quality at the regional and national levels is assessed.

The research is based on the generalization of theoretical approaches of domestic and foreign scientists to the quantitative and qualitative analysis of life quality. The empirical research of the life quality in Lviv region is conducted using statistical and sociological methods in the development of tools and design of a respondent sample.

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The conclusions on the main factors of life quality, including an education factor are formulated based on non-parametric methods of the analysis of relationships and also the methods of variance analysis.

The article begins with a theoretical study of scientific approaches of domestic and foreign authors to the essence of a life quality concept, the conceptual principles of its measurement in Ukraine and the generalization of Poland's experience in empirical studies on relevant topics. Based on theoretical research the methodology of a life quality survey in Lviv region (Ukraine) is developed and implemented, which is based on the self-evaluation of the respondent sample – adult population. The final part is devoted to the factor analysis of life quality main factors, including the impact of education on socio-economic indicators of people's welfare in Ukraine and its regions.

1. Life quality: definition and measurement objects. Life quality is a sign of the success of the state's policy and its government in particular, that is – directly felt by ordinary citizens. The research of scientific works indicates that the term «life quality» first appeared after the Second World War and concerned only material well-being [1]. This concept was deposited in the human mind in the 1960s after the political speech of the 36th US President L. Johnson.

Deep theoretical research of life quality selected components originated in the middle of the 20th century. Among the studies of Western economists and sociologists of that time the works of A. Campbell [2] hold a key position. He was one of the first ones to offer the concept of subjective evaluation to study life quality [3].

Among the European countries bordering on Ukraine, the research of life quality based on objective and subjective assessments/indicators is held in Poland. The Central Statistical Office of that country conducts the research of social cohesion (*Badanie spójności społecznej*) [4], which provides a subjective assessment of life quality in Poland. The scientific works of Polish economists, such as Rogala [5], Borys [6], Kaspzyk [7] are well-known in studying these issues.

The works of such Ukrainian researchers as Libanova [8; 9], Kovtun [10], Kushnariov [11], Nykyforenko [12], Sadova [13] and others are dedicated to the research of the essence of life quality, its main components and relevant inter-regional and international comparisons. However, most works of Ukrainian scientists are dedicated to the issues of the objective evaluation of life quality, whereas the methodology and practice of subjective evaluation are considered much less rarely. The selected aspects of a subjective assessment of life quality in Ukraine can be obtained on the basis of a sample survey of household living conditions (accommodation), including income self-evaluation, health status, the availability of certain types of medical care and Internet accessibility. Such surveys in Ukraine are conducted by the State Statistics Service, but as for the self-evaluation of all the life quality components the survey is not a complex one.

The results of the generalization of theoretical approaches to understanding the concept of life quality, which are published by the authors in [14], give reasons to believe that the most comprehensive definition of «life quality» in Ukraine is given in the monograph edited by V. H. Nykyforenko «Life quality of the region's population: analysis, forecasting, social policy» [12] and in the analytical report «Measuring the life quality in Ukraine» [9]. The authors of the analytical report [9] define life quality as «a complicated, multi-component phenomenon that depends both on objective factors (in particular, the possibility to meet human needs and interests) and on various subjective factors (social, psychological, socio-cultural and others)». On the basis of the methodologies for evaluating life quality by the international and foreign national institutions (The Economist Intelligence Unit; European Statistical System Committee; International Living; EU: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions; OECD: Better Life Index) [15; 16; 17], domestic

scientists ground conceptual approaches to measuring life quality in Ukraine and offer to evaluate life quality based on objective and subjective indicators taking into account four major components of the environment (ecological, natural, political and social) and the areas of human life: social, labor, family and personal [9, p. 24-25].

The empirical research of the indicators that characterize the life quality in Ukraine and its regions is implemented by means of a sample survey of household living conditions (accommodation) (State Statistics Service of Ukraine), the methods of calculating the Human Development Index (Ptukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of NAS of Ukraine). These methods are based primarily on objective statistical indicators of the socio-economic development of the region and the country, namely, the income and expenditures of households, their economic activity, accommodation, the access to education, health care and other social services. The program of annual statistical surveys of household living conditions provides a separate block of characteristics, which are the result of self-evaluation of income, health and household living conditions (accommodation); however, this list of indicators is not of complex nature.

The bodies of government statistics, scientists and experts of Poland have a long-time practice of implementation of the methodology of life quality complex evaluation [18]. The methods of Polish researchers are based on the consideration of both objective and subjective assessments of life quality. The objective evaluation of life quality in Poland lies in building synthetic indicators based on official statistics data; subjective evaluation is based particularly on the definition of happiness, meeting needs and is measured by means of quality indicators [6, p. 13-15].

The qualitative indicators of the subjective assessment of life quality in Poland are obtained through the research of social cohesion (Badanie spójności społecznej) [4]. The main components-objects of this self-evaluation include marital status, relationships with friends and family, the amount of free time, the way of spending free time, a place of employment, health, living conditions (accommodation), education and financial situation. Note that these survey objects correspond to the conceptual approaches that are offered by the Ukrainian scientists [9] in order to distinguish public, labor, family and personal sub-systems of life quality.

Given the lack of practice of empirical comprehensive evaluation of the life quality in Ukraine at the regional level, which is based on subjective assessments and also their importance for the development and analysis of the regional social policy, the authors ran a special survey of the residents of Lviv region on life quality. The survey tools are based on the consideration of the above-mentioned methodological developments of Ukrainian and foreign scientists and the Polish experience of similar surveys on social cohesion and involve subjective evaluation of the quality of different life aspects by the respondents.

2. Survey on the life quality in Lviv region (Ukraine) – methodology, results, analysis

2.1. Research methodology

In the authors' research, the comprehensive description of the life quality in Lviv region (Ukraine) is given by means of a specially organized survey of the region's population and is based on the self-evaluation of different quality components. The subjective assessments reflect the individual perception of life quality and are based on each respondent's personal feelings and values.

While preparing the methodology of a sample survey of the life quality in Lviv region the authors considered international principles and methodological bases of sample formation to study household living conditions [19]. It is taken into account that the objective characteristics of sample surveys of household living conditions depend on the type of settlement: «city», «small town» and «rural areas». For

example, due to the technical task to carry out government statistical surveys of the households in Lviv region for 2014-2018 it is provided to survey 561 households, including 196 (34.9%) – in cities, 162 (28.9%) – in small towns, 203 (26.2%) – in rural towns [19].

Given the structure of the above-described sample of the households in Lviv region for carrying out a survey of regional population in order to define subjective assessments of life quality, the authors form a sample represented by a settlement type («cities»; «towns» cities and the rural areas of the region).

The entire sample volume is defined as the sum of theoretical sample volumes for each stratum, calculated taking into account the need to ensure the reliability of a survey key indicator – the average level of satisfaction with life quality and its selected aspects on a five-point scale at the level that does not exceed 5% (coefficient value of CV variation).

Given the adopted level of the reliability of error variation coefficient of 0.05 or 5% ($V\mu = CV$; $VD = t \times CV$), the probability of the result guarantee of 0.9545 ($t = 2$) and approximate estimation (based on the results of the preliminary pilot surveys) of the quadratic coefficient of variation $V_o(\sigma / x^-) = 0.444$, the minimum stratum size is calculated by the formulae as specified in [19, c. 25; 20, c. 263] without design effect

$$is\ 79\ (n = \frac{100^2 v_{\sigma}^2}{CV_{\%}^2} = \frac{t^2 V_{\sigma}^2}{V_{\Delta}^2} = \frac{2^2 * 0.1975}{(2 * 0.05)^2} = 79).$$

The characteristics of the respondent sample are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Main characteristics of the respondent sample in the life quality survey in Lviv region

Survey object	Life quality
Target signs / parameters of the survey	The average value of the overall self-assessment of life quality and its selected aspects (in a five-point scale)
General population	The population of Lviv region is over the age of 18. The total number of permanent residents over 18 years old in 2016 was 2,059,878 people.
Survey unit	A person over 18 years old, resident in Lviv region.
Signs of stratification of the general population	Type of settlement: «big cities», «small towns», «rural areas».
Type and size of sample	Stratified sampling. The total sample size is 274, including in big cities – 96, small cities – 79, rural areas – 99 people
The accepted sampling error for estimating the target signs (CV)	Less than 5%
Probability of guaranteeing survey results	0,9545
Inspection period	September–November 2016
Method of data collection	Questionnaires using the Google form on Internet

Source: own, partly based on Methodology for the formation of sample for conducting surveys of the households [19], and Database of Statistical Office in Lviv Region (2017).

The main task of the survey is a subjective assessment of life quality in general and in the context of its selected components by the respondents in Lviv region. Given similar surveys conducted by CSD in Poland, a 5-step ordinal scale [21, c. 319] with the following options of self-evaluation is used in the authors' research: very satisfied (rank 5); satisfied (4); neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3); unsatisfied (2); very unsatisfied (1).

2.2. Research findings of Lviv region (Ukraine)

The survey results in Lviv region show that 84.6% of the respondents, in general, are satisfied with life quality. On a 5-point scale the average point of the respondents satisfied with life quality is 4.07 (Fig. 1).

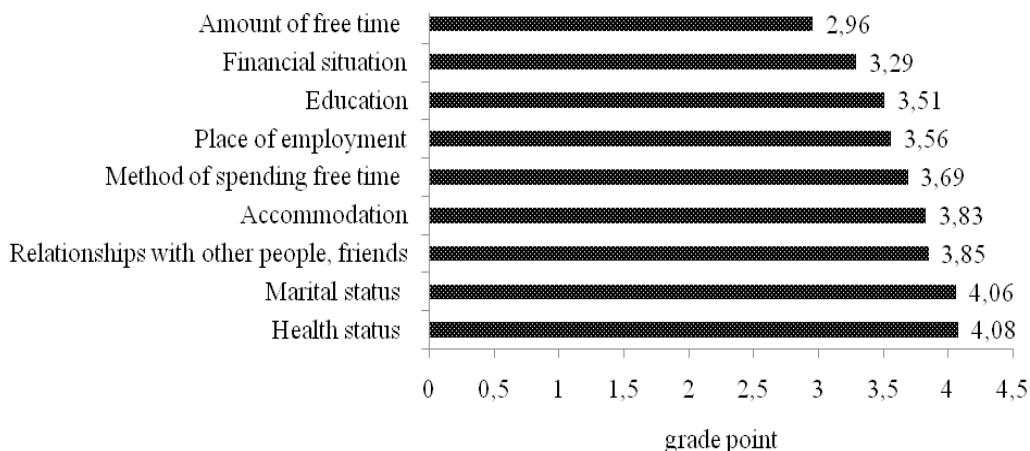


Figure 1. Distribution of the population of Lviv region in 2016 by the overall self-evaluation of life quality, % of the total number of respondents

Source: The results of the survey of a respondent sample in September-November 2016.

This result indicates that Ukraine (Lviv region in particular) is in the situation of adaptation when objectively worse socio-economic conditions (compared with other European countries) are perceived subjectively as good ones, that is the individual adapts to conditions («happy poor people») [9].



Figure 2. The degree of the satisfaction with various life aspects of the population in Lviv region in 2016, % of the total number of respondents

Source: The results of the survey of a respondent sample in September-November 2016.

The respondents' self-evaluation of the life quality selected aspects, namely, marital status, relationships with friends and family, the amount of free time, a way of spending free time, a place of employment, health, living conditions (accommodation), education and the financial situation turned out to be different. Figure 2 illustrates the survey results.

According to the results of a resident survey in Lviv region the number of people satisfied with their health is 87.5%, relationships with others – 79.4%, marital status – 76.3% and accommodation – 74.4%. The respondents are dissatisfied with the amount of free time (41.3%) and financial situation (17.5%) most of all.

On a five-point scale, health and marital status are among the highest respondents' self-evaluation preferences. The respondents evaluate financial situation and the amount of free time as the lowest. Figure 3 illustrates the average values of self-evaluation of the life quality selected aspects in Lviv region, and also the relative errors of sample estimates.

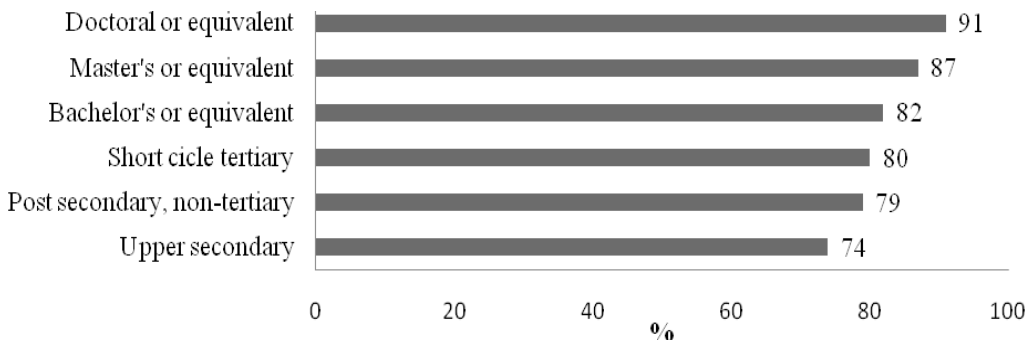


Figure 3. Average self-assessment (on a five-point scale) of life quality selected aspects in Lviv region in 2016 and the average relative error, %.

Source: The results of the survey of a respondent sample in September-November 2016.

The obtained values of average self-assessments of life quality various aspects have the value of relative errors not exceeding 5%, which gives reasons to draw a conclusion about the high level of reliability of sample evaluation of the research major parameters.

3. Life quality factors

3.1. Impact of different life quality aspects on its overall self-evaluation

To identify the impact of partial aspects of life quality self-evaluation on its overall self-evaluation, the authors used non-parametric methods of the analysis of relationships, namely, plotting of mutual contingency tables. Based on them, the criteria of Pearson and Chuprov, the value of which characterizes the relationship between general self-evaluation of life quality and self-evaluation by its selected aspects, are designed (Table 2).

Significance test was carried out on the basis of the Chi-square distribution. For a 5% test the 0,95 quantile from a Chi-square distribution with 16 degrees of freedom yields a critical value of 7.962. Estimated values for all aspects of quality of life are given in Table 3.

As for all aspects of quality of life, the estimated value is higher than critical, we can state the significant relationships.

According to Table 3, the determining factors of the overall satisfaction with life quality include marital status, living conditions (accommodation) and the way of

Table 2

Coefficients of the mutual contingency of the overall self-evaluation of life quality and its self-evaluation by selected aspects

Life quality aspects	Pearson's contingency coefficient	Chuprov's contingency coefficient
Marital status	0,613	0,388
Accommodation	0,612	0,387
Method of spending free time	0,593	0,368
Relationships with other people, friends	0,531	0,234
Financial situation	0,520	0,305
Education	0,419	0,231
Amount of free time	0,354	0,189
Health status	0,335	0,177
Place of employment	0,279	0,146

Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey results of a respondent sample in September-November 2016.

Table 3

Pearson's chi-square statistics by selected aspects

Life quality aspects	Pearson's Chi-square statistics
Marital status	96,27
Accommodation	95,96
Method of spending free time	86,86
Relationships with other people, friends	73,92
Financial situation	59,35
Education	34,02
Amount of free time	22,91
Health status	20,16
Place of employment	19,98

Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey results of a respondent sample in September-November 2016.

spending time. However, the results of the analysis of the relationship of life quality selected aspects show that an education factor has a significant impact on the way of spending time, health and financial situation.

3.2. Impact of education on employment and income

3.2.1 Regions of Ukraine

Whereas in the regional survey conducted by the authors in Lviv region (Ukraine) there is an average level of the correlation between the self-evaluation of satisfaction with life quality and education, empirical research, conducted at the national and international levels indicates a more significant correlation of the studied characteristics.

Statistical data of household annual surveys on the issues of economic activity in Ukraine's regions allow carrying out a comparative analysis of the employment and unemployment rate of population aged 15-70, depending on educational achievements [22]. The results of variance analysis of the relationship of the population employment rate and their educational level (Table 4) give reasons to believe that 89.2% of the employment rate variation in Ukraine's regions can be explained by the variation of its educational qualification. The excess of the actual value of F-test (228.0) over its critical value F_{crit} (2.28) points to the essentiality of the detected tight connection between the studied features.

Table 4

Results of variance analysis (ANOVA) of employment rate and educational level in Ukraine's regions (2016)

Populations groups in regions of Ukraine by educational attainment	The number of regions in group	Average employment rate in the group, %	Variance employment			
Complete higher	24	70,6	14,0			
Basic higher	24	50,6	75,2			
Incomplete higher	24	62,0	26,3			
Vocational	24	62,9	21,7			
Completed secondary school	24	43,3	40,4			
Basic secondary	24	17,8	50,4			
ANOVA						
<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Between Groups	43329,4	5	8665,8726	228,0	0,0	2,280
Within Groups	5245,28	138	38,00924819			
Total	48574,6	143				

Source: Authors' calculations based on the data of State Statistics Service of Ukraine [22, p. 71].

In the factor analysis of social indicators of population welfare in Ukraine's regions there is a much lower level of population employment with a bachelor's degree (50.6%) compared to the same indicator among those with incomplete higher and vocational education (62.0 and 62.9 %). This situation in the labor market in Ukraine is caused, in the authors' opinion, by the two main factors: firstly, by the mass character of higher education in Ukraine and as a result – a deficit of staff with professional working qualification, and secondly, by the poor training of bachelors at Ukraine's universities, particularly in terms of practical professional training. However, it is important to note that the problem of unemployment among young people under 25 years is urgent not only in Ukraine but in developed countries too. According to the Eurostat data, the unemployment rate of young people under 25 at the end of 2016 in Euro-zone countries was 20.2% [23]. In Ukraine, the indicator calculated by the similar methodology (International Labour Office (ILO)), on average in 2016 was somewhat higher – 23.0% [24, p.10].

3.2.2. OECD countries

According to the results of labor market international surveys (National Labor Force Surveys: Labor Market and Social Outcomes of Learning), conducted in Ukraine by the ILO methodology as well, in the member-countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD), the unemployment rate among adult population with the education lower than secondary in 2015 was 12.4%, whereas the same indicator among persons with higher education – two and a half times lower (4.9%) [25]. Similar trends are noticeable by population employment indicators: the growth of educational qualification gradually increases employment prospects in the labor market (Fig. 4).

The increase in educational qualification significantly reduces gender differences in employment indicators in developed countries. In labor markets of OECD countries the differences between men and women in terms of employment with education below upper secondary level, general secondary and post-secondary – not higher (upper secondary, post-secondary non-tertiary education) and higher education (tertiary education) decrease from 20% to 14% and 9% respectively. There is a

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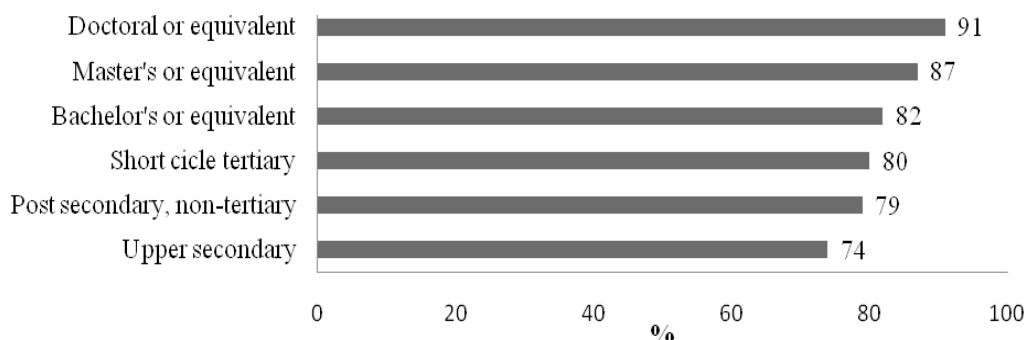


Figure 4. The employment rate among 25-64 year-old persons throughout OECD countries, by educational achievements, % (2015)

Source: Own elaboration on the basis of OECD Indicators [25, p. 90; 103].

significant reduction in economic inactivity (inactivity rate) among women with higher educational qualification [25, p. 95]. The increase in educational qualification in developed countries leads not only to the reduction in unemployment risk, but to the revenue growth of economic activity. The average income of adults with the degree of «Doctor» and «Master» is twice as high as those with secondary education; bachelors and those who studied by the short-cycle of higher education earn respectively 48% and 20% more than those who received secondary education [25, p. 125].

Conclusions

Life quality of the population in the country and its regions is an indicator of sustainability, competitiveness in world markets and shows qualitative changes in society.

The issues of improving life quality are the most important social policy objectives of the government in each country. These issues are particularly urgent in Ukraine at the regional level, where life quality guarantee is not always considered either comprehensively or on the basis of the research of both objective and subjective development indicators.

The conceptual principles of life quality measurement are developed in Ukraine. They are based on the experience of international and national surveys on relevant topics and also consider various components of the life quality environment and its manifestation forms. However, the empirical studies of life quality in Ukraine's regions are based mainly on the statistical indicators of socio-economic development and subjective evaluation of only some welfare aspects. In the surveys conducted annually by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine separate blocks of indicators – subjective assessments of household living conditions, including self-evaluation of income, health and accommodation are provided.

Based on the population survey in Lviv region, which was held by the authors using the international experience of similar research in European countries, the article provides summaries and statistical analysis of subjective assessments of the life quality in Lviv region. It is found that on a 5-point scale the average point of the satisfaction with life quality of the region's residents is 4.07. Marital status, living conditions and the way of spending free time are among the determining factors of overall satisfaction with life. The analysis results of the relationship of life quality selected aspects show that an education factor significantly affects the way of spending free time, health and financial situation.

The survey results of the authors and other statistical surveys indicate that the quality of education and its level of compliance with individual expectations are among the determining factors of improving life quality at both the individual and regional and national levels.

The authors believe that adding blocks of indicators to the methodology of observing household living conditions in Ukraine's regions, which comprehensively characterize life quality and are based on the self-evaluation of households will provide a better conception of actual public moods in Ukraine's regions and the level of social tension and social security.

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Лутчин Н. П., Гринькевич О. С. Якість життя і чинник освіти у фокусі регіональних обстежень населення України.

Якість життя є індикатором сталого розвитку країни та її регіонів, їх конкурентоспроможності на світових ринках, динаміки якісних змін у суспільстві. Саме тому тематика якості життя є предметом дослідження не лише науковців, але й об'єктом особливої уваги політиків, представників державної влади і місцевого самоврядування, громадської думки.

На відміну від зарубіжних науковців, проблематика оцінювання якості життя та її складових досліджується українськими вченими порівняно недавно. Вивчення якості життя в Україні здебільшого зводиться до об'єктивної оцінки, яку вимірюють статистичними показниками витрат і ресурсів домогосподарств. Однак значно менше уваги вітчизняні науковці й експерти приділяють суб'єктивним оцінкам якості життя, які відображають її індивідуальне розуміння і відчуття.

Метою авторського дослідження є комплексна характеристика якості життя у Львівській області (Україна) на основі суб'єктивних оцінок населення регіону та з урахуванням міжнародного досвіду подібних досліджень у європейських країнах, зокрема у Польщі. Відповідно до поставленої мети у дослідженні реалізовані такі основні завдання: 1) узагальнено основні методичні підходи до оцінювання якості життя з урахуванням об'єктивних і суб'єктивних характеристик та їх інформаційного забезпечення; 2) визначено вплив різних аспектів / чинників якості життя на його загальну самооцінку мешканцями Львівської області; 3) оцінено вплив чинника освіти на соціальні та економічні індикатори якості життя на регіональному та національному рівнях.

Дослідження базується на узагальненні теоретичних підходів вітчизняних і зарубіжних науковців до кількісного та якісного аналізу якості життя населення. Емпіричні дослідження якості життя населення Львівської області проведені з використанням методів статистики і соціології у розробці інструментарію та дизайну вибірки респондентів.

На основі анкетного обстеження населення Львівської області, яке проведено авторами з урахуванням міжнародного досвіду подібних досліджень у європейських країнах, у статті здійснено узагальнення та статистичний аналіз суб'єктивних оцінок якості життя населення Львівської області. З'ясовано, що за 5-бальною шкалою середній бал задоволеності якістю життя серед жителів області становить 4,07. Серед визначальних чинників загальної задоволеності якістю життя є сімейний стан, умови проживання і спосіб проведення вільного часу. Результати статистичного аналізу взаємозв'язку окремих аспектів якості життя показали, що чинник освіти має помітний вплив на спосіб проведення вільного часу, стан здоров'я та фінансовий стан.

Результати авторських та інших статистичних обстежень вказують на те, що якість освіти, а також рівень її відповідності індивідуальним очікуванням, є серед визначальних чинників підвищення якості людського життя як на індивідуальному, так і регіональному й національному рівнях.

Автори дослідження вважають, що доповнення методики обстеження умов життя домогосподарств у регіонах України блоками показників, які комплексно характеризують якість життя і базуються на самооцінках домогосподарств, забезпечить більш повне уявлення про реальні суспільні настрої у регіонах України, рівень соціальної напруженості та соціальної безпеки.

Ключові слова: *якість життя, чинники якості життя, обстеження населення, суб'єктивна оцінка, об'єктивні індикатори, освіта, нерівність, Україна (Львівська область).*

Лутчин Наталія Павлівна – кандидат економічних наук, доцент кафедри статистики економічного факультету Львівського національного університету імені Івана Франка (e-mail: nlutchyn@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0727-0842>).

Lutchyn Nataliya Pavlivna – Ph.D. (Econ.), Assoc. Prof., Associate Professor of the Department of Statistics of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

Гринькевич Ольга Степанівна – кандидат економічних наук, доцент, докторант кафедри статистики економічного факультету Львівського національного університету імені Івана Франка (e-mail: ogrynkevych@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8646-8119>).

Hrynkevych Olha Stepanivna – Ph.D. (Econ.), Assoc. Prof., Doctoral Postgraduate of the Department of Statistics of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

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