

ESSENCE AND CATEGORY MAINTENANCE OF “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT” IN STATISTICAL SURVEY OF THE REGION

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In the article the urgency and necessity of complex statistical research of economic development of a region with complete social and ecological parameters is considered. The analysis of various approaches to the definition of the concept and essence of the category of “economic development” is carried out.

The research of the problems of interaction of economy, society and nature, and also the possible limits and consequences of such interaction has recently moved to the sphere of studying the sustainable development that provides the unity of economic, social and ecological components.

Manufacture and consumption growth, acceleration of scientific and technical progress, life pace, increase in anthropogenesis leads to numerous social and environmental problems. The current situation leads to the necessity of basic reconsideration of the existing direction of economic development and the choice of a new reference point, taking into account the accruing value of social and ecological parameters.

Now in the centre of attention of many scientists and economists there is an important problem of correlation of economic development with the quality of life of the population and the ability of the environment to accept the consequences of such development.

The connection of the economic aspect of research of development with the developed social and ecological characteristic is chosen as a new reference point by many states, including Russia.

The triune essence of components of a sustainable development represents a dialectic combination of necessity and sufficiency of all communications and dependences. Thus, in modern conditions consideration of a sustainable development of region as the difficult synthetic category accumulating in all essential to the person of a condition of existence and developments, is represented rather significant and actual. The specified circumstance demands car-

rying out of the statistical analysis of such difficult latent category.

Thereupon the important problem of statistics at the present stage is the complex estimation of status, development and forecasting of changes of interaction of economy, society and nature with application of modern statistical methods.

As the term “economic development” has various meanings, we will try to establish the essence of the concept.

The founder of the theory of economic development Joseph Schumpeter in his work “The theory of economic development” investigates the phenomenon of self-development of economic systems and the internal factors, which this development generates. Schumpeter notices, that “any development creates preconditions for the subsequent development owing to the fact, that their forms vary, and things happen differently”.

Schumpeter differentiates the process of the adaptation of the system within the limits of its turnover (simple reproduction, statics) and the development, breaking and reformatting the entire structure of the turnover (dynamics).

The usual growth of economy expressed in the increase of the population and riches is not considered as development as it does not generate the phenomena new in the qualitative sense, and only gives a push to the processes of their adaptation. New industrial combinations can be an example of such dynamic changes: new products, methods of manufacture, raw materials sources, and change of market situation as a whole, new commodity markets, etc. Thus, J. Schumpeter defines the process of economic development as the process of “creative destruction” where dynamic changes destroy the

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static system, creating something new that, in turn, gives way to the economy, transformed by innovations.

However, it is possible to identify at least four approaches to the definition of the economic development.

The first approach is presented in A.S. Bulatov, V.I. Barhatov and G.P. Zhuravlyova, G.S. Velichkanov and G.R. Velichkanova, M.Todaro's works. A.S. Bulatov, V.I. Barhatov and G.P. Zhuravlyov define economic development as the complex process covering economic growth, structural shifts in the economy, accompanied by inequality decrease in the distribution of income in the society, improvement of the quality of life of the population. A.S. Bulatov notices that economic development of a society is an inconsistent process which cannot occur rectilinearly, and development is characterized by non-uniformity, including the growth and recession periods, quantitative and qualitative changes in the economy, both positive and negative tendencies.

The second approach is based on the statement, that economic development of the region defines available economic potential. V.S. Charikov and S.I. Chaplygin notice, that "the basis of the development of a regions is its economic potential

It is difficult to agree with V.S. Charikov, S.I. Chaplygin and V.N. Geniatulin's position, since economic development can be defined not only through economic potential which simply establishes "the ability of a system to move along one of the possible trajectories of social and economic development".

In the third approach the definition of the maintenance of economic development is based on the distinction between the base definitions of the economic theory: "economic growth" and "economic development". Economic growth is considered by scientists as a quantitative category, and economic development as a qualitative one. The given point of view is presented in V.N. Tamashevich, V.I. Vidjapin, T.V. Checheleva's works.

Tamashevich V.N. defines "economic growth" as a category of quantitative kind, "reflecting mainly the growth of volume indicators of branches and economy as a whole (manufacture volumes in the industry, agriculture, construction, and also GDP, national income etc.)", and the category of qualitative kind is economic development.

Also, depending on the status of the economy and the orientation of social, demographic and ecological effect economic development can be characterized as regressive; stabilized or progressive.

To representatives of the fourth approach which is based on the sustainable development concept, are R.R. Kovalev, N.A. Flud, T.A. Vaneva and other scientists. In the centre of the attention of the scientists there is an important problem of correlating economic development with the quality of life of the population and the ability of the environment to accept the consequences of such development. The authors link the economic aspect of the research to the developed social and ecological characteristics within the limits of sustainable development.

The term "sustainable development" was introduced as an attempt to find the optimum solution to social and economic problems without damage to the environment. The modern society is focused on material riches and the standard of living which leads to the negative changes in the biosphere, concerning practically all its elements: surface and subsurface flow, ozone layer, climate, soil, forests, etc.

Growing becomes a serious obstacle for further economic development. M. Todaro says: "The irrational methods of processing damage the soil, the water and the forests can improve gross national product indicators at present, but seriously undermine the efficiency of gross national product in the future".

Natural riches of the country, quality of its atmosphere, water and soil are the property of all generations. Therefore at Conference of the United Nations on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 the strategy of Transition to sustainable development was accepted. Steady economic development is understood as the balanced solution to social and economic problems and the problems of preservation of the environmental and resource potential with a view of satisfaction of requirements present and the future generations of people.

In Russia the transition to sustainable development is marked by the Decrees of the President №236 of 04.02.1994 "About the state strategy of the Russian Federation on preservation of the environment and sustainable development maintenance" and №440 of 01.04.1996 "About the concept of transition of the Russian

Federation to sustainable development". Sustainable development principles are written in "The Ecological doctrine of the Russian Federation" (the order of the Government of the Russian Federation of 31.08.2002 № 1225-r). In the Concept of long-term social and economic development of the Russian Federation for the period till 2020 (confirmed by the order of the Government of the Russian Federation of November, 17th 2008 №1662-r) the basic directions of the maintenance of ecological safety of economic development and the improvement of the ecological environment of human life are defined.

Thus, as a result of the critical analysis of various approaches to the definition of the concept and essence of the category of "economic development", it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

1. Basic research of the phenomenon of economic development by J. Schumpeter has formed the basis for the theory of economic development.

2. Economic development is considered as "the complex process leading to radical changes in social structures, behavior of people, public institutes, and also to the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and unemployment eradication".

3. The basis for regional development is its economic potential which is defined as the potential possibility and ability of the economy to go along the set guidelines of development.

4. Economic development is the category of qualitative kind, assuming a certain orientation and stability in time.

5. Economic development should be considered in interrelation with social systems of a region, and also it is necessary to take into account the ability of the environment to accept the consequences of such development.

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