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# Analysis of the Level of Social Development in Russia

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Abstract - The article shows a retrospective of the problem of social development and presents various forms of perception of "living standards"; "individual and social welfare"; "basic needs", et el. At the same time, the leading criterion of social development is quality of life (living standards and well-being of the population) formulated by Aristotle. The government should ensure high quality of life, and the good is a means of living and well-being. The work identifies the stages of evolution of the concept of social development from the individual well-being (preferences) to the social one. The emphasis is on the need to take into account the regulatory and distribution principle which can have an ordering and leveling effect on the financial situation of certain groups of the population, mandatory satisfaction of basic minimum needs and improvement of public services, respect for human rights. The changes in the method for assessing the level of social development from the criterion of freedom of choice to the "Human Development Index" are analyzed. The changes in the approach to assessing social development are due to the fact that for highly developed countries material security and basic needs are secondary while in the developing countries they remained relevant. In addition to expanding the number of criteria, researchers and society pay attention to cross-country comparisons to assess the development. The relevance of the study is due to the transition of assessing the level of social development from quantitative to qualitative indicators in accordance with the methodology of cross-country comparison of the main indicators of the "Human Development Index". The article analyzes the transition from the general study of the level and quality of life, measuring their characteristics, analyzing the applicability of certain groups of indicators for international comparisons and assessing socio-economic policies (International society for quality-of-life studies, ISQOLS; Organization for economic cooperation and development, OECD; International social survey program, ISSP and other) to the Human Development Index (Human Development Reports. United Nations development program) - a simple and informative picture of the state of society (ender-related development index, GDI; gender empowerment measure, GEM; income-distribution-adjusted index, IDAI; human poverty index, HPI and other). As a result of assessing the level of social

development, it was revealed that Russia can reach either the level of "Above" (Norway, Australia, Ireland, Iceland, Hong Kong and other), or "Below" (Montenegro, Bulgaria, Bahamas and other). At the same time, Russia has sufficient resources for social development in terms of life expectancy, education, fertility and mortality, marriage, etc.

Keywords – Human Development Index, welfare, indicators, quality of life, median, cross-country comparison, society, assessment, priorities, level of social development.

# I. INTRODUCTION

The problem of social development has a long history and is described in world philosophical, sociological and economic literature. When studying social development, a family of synonymous terms is used: "quality of life"; "individual and social welfare"; "basic needs"; "living standards "; "characteristics of consumption"; "needs "; "Lifestyle"; "living conditions"; "quality of population"; "social and human capital"; "human choice."

Sometimes different terms have similar meanings; sometimes the difference is fundamental. At the same time, it is necessary to observe the close interconnection of these concepts.

The problems of social development, improvement of the quality of life, living standards, and welfare of the population were studied in the ancient period. Aristotle said that the goal of the state is to ensure a high quality of life, and the good is a means of living and well-being [1].

In antiquity and the Middle Ages, the basic ideas about the meaning of life and human nature were formulated. Despite the significant differences between confessional and philosophical concepts, almost all of them considered moderate consumption of material wealth, law-abiding, spiritual improvement, and assistance as the most important prerequisites for a worthy human being.



Significant changes in ideas about social development began in Europe since the end of the 18th century under the influence of the first industrial revolution, new economic and social ideas, development of political economics which was formed as a science of wealth.

The first concepts were aimed at defining and measuring individual well-being. In the XIX century, the welfare was studiedusing the function of individual utility as a tool. Subsequent neoclassical theories of an individual choice were based on the concept of complete rationality. But the real behavior of a person striving to improve his well-being does not fit into the optimization models of neoclassical theories and depends on a number of psychological, physiological, and sociological factors that limit the rationality of choice.

The evolution of the concepts of individual well-being complicated approaches to its assessment, taking into account the impact of subjective factors. In assessing social welfare, the theoretical evolution has gone through several stages. They reflect different roles of the market and the state in shaping social welfare.

Arthur Cecil Pigou was the first to justify the possibility of increasing public welfare by redistributing income. He said that the marginal utility of income decreases as it grows [2]. The work by V. Pareto "New theory of welfare" became a fundamentally new direction. According to the Pareto criterion, if as a result of one event one individual improves his welfare and the welfare of other individuals does not worsen, such an event increases social welfare [3, 4]. With the exhaustion of all options that improve the welfare of at least one individual and do not worsen the welfare of others, there is a state of the Pareto optimum. However, this condition is a necessary but insufficient criterion for achieving a social optimum. Only using the criterion of distributive justice built on the basis of holistic considerations, an optimal choice of public alternatives to welfare is possible.

Following the Keynesian revolution in the economic theory, the theory of the state welfare (John Kenneth Galbraith, Gunnar Myrdal and others) was developed [5, 6]. It proceeds from the fact that all government activities are aimed at increasing public welfare. The search for the reasons for the failure of the state, which does not always contribute to the growth of public welfare, caused the development of the theory of public choice explaining the actions of individuals as voters, politicians, and officials rather than consumers. The theory of public choice by James Buchanan reveals the nature of mechanisms used for reconciling interests and makes it possible to make social decisions that are beneficial for all or most of the members of society [7].

The possibilities of creating a consistent mechanism for aggregating individual preferences into public ones were considered in the works by Amartya Kumar Sen [8]. His achievements include the development of one of the most widely used indexes that measure differences in income and wealth.

The definitions of living standards are based on various initial concepts: production, consumption, income, cost of

living, consumer standards. They have a complex multi-aspect nature.

There is a strong feedback between the living standards and social production. On the one hand, this is a dependence of qualitative characteristics of the workforce and labor efficiency of employees on the living standards; on the other, an increase in the employee's material interest in high-performance labor due to the growth of his consumer opportunities.

The logical conclusion of the reasoning "from production" can be the per capita value of the gross national or domestic product (its part allocated to the final consumption of the population). However, this is a general economic indicator, since when applied directly to the population, its significance is mediated by the nature of existing distribution relations, the socio-demographic structure of society, and other circumstances.

Identification of living standards as a set of characteristics of consumption is widely used both in domestic researches and by international organizations.

The living standards of the population make it possible to determine the nature and directions of changes and their social consequences for various groups of the population. The living standards form diverse needs in combination with consumption indicators according to the needs pyramid by Abraham Maslow [9], the theory of needs by David Clarence McClelland [10], and the two-factor model by Frederick Irving Herzberg [11] and others.

In assessing the level and quality of life, the concept of basic needs suggested in the 1960s became famous in Sweden, where a wide range of immediate human needs was identified: life support and protection from external influences (food, clothing, housing, household items, individual infrastructure, habitat); preservation and restoration of health; rest, entertainment; family and procreation; education, training, vocational training; movement to work; consumption of cultural goods, information, exchange and communication with other members of society, personal development.

Without distinguishing between the concepts of well-being, quality and lifestyle, some experts define their relationship in the following way: if we assume that the living standards reflect conditions and the nature of a human being in the field of consumption ("beyond production"), the lifestyle is a feature of behavior of people in all areas of its manifestation, and the quality of life is the state of the population in relation to its essential characteristics; social welfare is a synthesis of these concepts.

Ultimately, social welfare reflects the development of human needs for labor, consumption, culture, reproductive behavior, social and political life. Moreover, living conditions are determinants of living standards; along with consumption indicators, they are the basis for determining living standards.

Taking into account free market mechanisms of supply and demand which determine the living standards of the population, it is necessary to consider the regulatory and distribution principle, which can have an ordering and leveling



effect on the material situation of individual groups of the population and be used in planning living standards. Mandatory satisfaction of basic minimum needs and improvement of public services, respect for human rights and "development through participation" of people in decision-making and their implementation are envisaged. A fairly limited number of them are referred to basic needs: individual needs — minimal needs for food, clothing, housing and its equipment; public services — the provision of drinking water, sanitation of places of residence, public transport, health care and education.

In the early 1990s, the concept of sustainable development was developed. It was interpreted as a system of social organization in which the satisfaction of needs of the current generation does not prejudice possibilities of satisfying the needs of future generations. The basic principle of sustainable development is preservation of natural capital, minimization of external manifestations of effects for future generations. Recently, these two approaches have been combined as a concept of sustainable human development.

New concepts of development economics have changed approaches to the concept of welfare. The antagonism of approaches has disappeared, and now the World Bank considers welfare as a combination of consumption, human development and environmental sustainability, taking into account their quality and stability.

The fundamental difference between the concept of quality of life is in expanding the number of components that ensure well-being in the economic and broad social aspects. In addition, this is the next step compared to the concept of basic needs, in which wealth was seen as a satisfaction of primary needs. This definition reflects only the resource-based approach to assessing welfare characteristic of Scandinavian studies of living standards and based on objective indicators of welfare. The Anglo-American approach determines the quality of life based on subjective assessments — the degree of satisfaction of needs, which can only be assessed by the individual himself. The terms "well-being", "satisfaction" and "happiness" are often used to describe these approaches whose meaning is vague [12, 13].

Currently, it is believed that objective and subjective indicators should be considered equivalent, and indicators of quality of life are defined as a combination of objective living conditions and subjective perception of well-being [14].

## II. METHODOLOGY

Assessment of the level of social development in crosscountry comparisons was based only on the dynamics of GDP. It was believed that social progress is determined by the GDP growth.

In Russia, many leading economists and government officials share this view. However, the GDP indicator does not provide an adequate assessment of the level of social development, since its growth may have different qualities and is not always accompanied by the growth of human and natural assets.

The concepts of a "welfare state" and human capital are a basis for a socially oriented state policy in Western European countries, especially in the Scandinavian ones. Strengthening its impact on social development, the state wanted to assess its effectiveness [15, 16]; for this purpose, the system of social indicators was required.

The research has been intensified since the 1960s. By the mid-1970s, indicator systems appeared. The developed principles for the selection of indicators were based on an assessment of their accessibility, reliability, maximum coverage of areas of social development, and validity.

Such development criteria as freedom of choice, non-economic components (environmental, political, institutional) began to be considered more and more significant. Among the international organizations, the first one which used new conceptual approaches was the UN Development Program which has been publishing the Human Development Reports. United Nations Development Program since 1990. Later, the World Bank, which published the Integrated Development Strategy, began to share this position.

The initiators of the change in the approaches were researchers from developed countries dealing with quality of life issues. They introduced new criteria, including subjective ones assessing the degree of satisfaction with the quality of life and measuring such indicators as well-being, joy, or happiness.

The transformation of approaches to assessing the social development is due to the fact that for highly developed countries the old criteria – material security and basic needs – began to fade into the background. At the same time, in developing countries, they remained relevant; as a result, the incompatibility of priorities, indicators, and estimates increased.

As a result, the range of social development criteria has expanded so much that the principles of selecting indicators have become problematic in nature — when using new approaches, it is not possible to find regularly collected, reliable, complete and reflective changes in indicators. It is difficult to dispute the necessity of assessing the degree of satisfaction as a criterion of social development — a person can feel happy without hot water or money. But neglection of methodological and informational limitations creates conditions for incorrect, politically speculative assessments.

In addition to expanding the number of criteria, researchers and society carry out cross-country and inter-regional comparisons to assess the level of development. This is an objective trend born of the information revolution and globalization [17]. The relevance of this trend intensified research on the methodology of measurements and comparisons. Extensive literature is devoted to the study of the level and quality of life, the measurement of their characteristics, the analysis of applicability of certain groups of indicators for international comparisons, and the assessment of socio-economic policies. Researchers are united by the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS).

Currently, two main methods for assessing the level of social development are used: a system of indicators, and complex (synthetic) indicators.



International systems of social indicators were developed in the 1970-1980s. The most famous ones are the system of social indicators developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as the "Handbook of Social Indicators" by the UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs including an approximate list of social indicators classified by the types of activities.

For the OECD countries, six main target areas of social development have been identified. They cover such tasks as improving the quality of life, strengthening social cohesion and achieving sustainable development. These target areas are thematic blocks of scorecards. An important source of information is the International Social Survey Program (ISSP). Within this program, since 1985, data have been collected for cross-country comparisons.

The analysis of existing international indicator systems allows us to draw the following conclusions:

- these systems have various degrees of complexity, but a clear objective or a structural function;
- in all international comparisons, only statistical indicators are used;
- different indicators are used to assess the development and monitoring of the consequences of certain socioeconomic measures;
- the use of problematic or sectoral approaches to assessment is accompanied by a choice of various indicators:
- in multicomponent systems of social indicators, income indicators complemented by other parameters play a crucial role;
- social indicators include such demographic indicators as infant mortality and life expectancy, closely related to the level of economic and social development;
- a set of indicators can vary in different types of countries.

Complex indices (integral indicators) are rarely used in international comparisons. The choice of methods for rationing, weighing components and aggregation is determined by the research purpose. World Bank economists consider the use of the welfare function as the best approach. It includes various parameters with different weights.

Studies aimed at presenting a simple and informative picture of society or informing government representatives use simple methods which simplify the calculation of indicators and facilitate their perception. The most famous one is the Human Development Index (HDI).

The method for calculating the HDI is constantly being improved. The issues of selecting indicators taken into account during its construction, as well as the weights used, remain controversial.

The advantages of the HDI are the unity of criteria for all countries and the ability to monitor annual changes in the HDI. However, changes in the method for calculating the income index allow for monitoring the data since 1997. This indicator

does not reflect differentiation between individual population groups. New indicators have been introduced in the Human Development Reports. United Nations development program:

- the gender-related development index (GDI);
- the index characterizing the degree of gender equality in public life (gender empowerment measure, GEM).

Later, an index taking into account inequality in the distribution of national income (income-distribution-adjusted index) and a poverty index that estimates the extent and intensity of poverty using different methods for developed and developing countries (the human poverty index, HPI) were developed. None of these indices can be compared with the HDI.

### III. ANALYSIS

To analyze the social development of Russia, we will use the Human Development Reports of the United Nations Development Program which determine its rank in the world (Table 1 & 2).

TABLE I. VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. "HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX, HDI".

HDI Rank	Country	Median, 1990-2017
1	Norway	0.94
2	Switzerland	0.94
3	Australia	0.93
4	Ireland	0.92
5	Germany	0.93
6	Iceland	0.92
7	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.92
8	Sweden	0.91
9	Singapore	0.92
10	Netherlands	0.92
11	Denmark	0.93
12	Canada	0.91
13	United States	0.92
14	United Kingdom	0.91
15	Finland	0.91
16	New Zealand	0.91
17	Belgium	0.91
17	Liechtenstein	0.91
19	Japan	0.90
20	Austria	0.90
46	Croatia	0.82
47	Argentina	0.82
48	Oman	0.81
49	Russian Federation	0.80
50	Montenegro	0.81
51	Bulgaria	0.79
52	Romania	0.80

a. Source: calculated and constructed according to "United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Reports". http://hdr.undp.org/en

According to the median values (Table 1), Russia ranked 49<sup>th</sup> is included in the group "Very High Human Development." The Human Development Index is "at the level of such countries as Croatia, Argentina, Oman, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania.



TABLE II. "HDI RANK" COUNTRIES ON THE MAIN INDICATORS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HDI Rank	Country	Median
	alth expenditure (% of GDP), 2000-2015	
106	Marshall Islands	19.35
13	United States	16.40
104	Samoa	5.45
75		5.45
	Grenada	
178	Yemen	5.40
49	Russian Federation	5.35
108	Turkmenistan	5.35
183	BurkinaFaso	5.30
167	Sudan	5.30
2. Governme	nt expenditure on education (% of GDP), 1990	-2017
134	Kiribati	11.20
73	Cuba	10.60
75	Grenada	10.30
104	Samoa	3.85
130	India	3.80
65	Mauritius	3.80
49	Russian Federation	3.80
	1	
124	Nicaragua	3.75
149	Nepal	3.65
125	Guyana	3.60
	d capital formation (% of GDP), 1990-2017	
134	Kiribati	66,00
100	Suriname	54,85
134	Bhutan	52,80
45	Hungary	21,50
34	United Arab Emirates	21,50
97	Jamaica	21,45
49	Russian Federation	21,45
112	Philippines	21,35
16	New Zealand	21,20
51	Bulgaria	21,05
4. Income in	equality, Gini coefficient, 2010-2017	
113	South Africa	63,00
115	Boutin Times	05,00
129	Namibia	61,00
101	Botswana	60,50
101	Botswana	
140		
148	Myanmar	38,10
154	Tanzania(United Republicof)	37,80
83	Thailand	37,80
49	Russian Federation	37,70
138	Vanuatu	37,60
98	Tonga	37,50
51	Bulgaria	37,40
	equality Index (GII), 1995-2017	,
178	Yemen	0,83
186	Chad	0,70
168	Afghanistan	0,69
58	Barbados	0,31
57	Malaysia	0,30
56	Kuwait	0,30
49	Russian Federation	0,29
48	Oman	0,29
105	Uzbekistan	0,27
68	Albania	0,27
	ment, total (% of labour force), 1991–2017	,
80	TheformerYugoslavRepublicof Macedonia	31.20
	<u> </u>	
159	Lesotho Regional Hermonovino	27.15
77	Bosniaand Herzegovina	26.75
3	Australia	5.70
186	Chad	5.70
141	Equatorial Guinea	5.65
49	Russian Federation	5.65
39	Saudi Arabia	5.65
66	Panama	5.55
183	Burkina Faso	5.35

HDI Rank	Country	Median
	rate (per 100,000 people), 2000-2016	66.00
133	Honduras	66.90
121	ElSalvador	64.40
78	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republicof)	47.80
86	Ecuador	12.50
182	Mali	12.45
159	Mauritania	11.65
49	Russian Federation	11.40
157	Nigeria	11.25
177	Guinea-Bissau	11.10
162	Uganda	10.50
	ion rate (per 1,000 people), 1990-2015	41.00
37	Qatar	41.80
34	United Arab Emirates	34.40
56	Kuwait	19.45
29	Malta	2.95
1	Norway	2.85
31	Greece	2.75
49	Russian Federation	2.70
11	Denmark	2.65
113	South Africa	2.50
54	Bahamas	2.45
	oxide emissions, per capita (tonnes), 1990-2014	
37	Qatar	44.60
69	Trinidad and Tobago	33.90
56	Kuwait	28.50
58	Kazakhstan	14.45
30	Estonia	13.45
60	Palau	12.40
49	Russian Federation	11.80
108	Turkmenistan	11.70
10	Korea (Republic of) Netherlands	11.40
10. Old-age (6 2017 19	55 and older) dependency ratio (per 100 people ages 1  Japan	37.25
28	Italy	32.25
5		31.50
3	Germany	
		10.50
50	Montenegro	19.50
58	Barbados	19.05
6		10 77
49	Iceland	18.55
	Russian Federation	18.55
73	Russian Federation Cuba	18.55 18.35
73 7	Russian Federation	18.55 18.35 18.00
7	Russian Federation Cuba	18.55 18.35 18.00 4
7	Russian Federation Cuba	18.55 18.35 18.00
7	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)	18.55 18.35 18.00 4
7	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR) Japan	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25
7 19 28	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25
7 19 28 5	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50
7 19 28 5	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50
7 19 28 5  50 58	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05
7 19 28 5  50 58 11. Income qu	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05
7 19 28 5  50 58 11. Income qu 163	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7
7 19 28 5  50 58 11. Income qu 163 177	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00
7 19 28 5  50 58 11. Income qu 163 177 188	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau Central African Republic	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00 8.60
7 19 28 5  50 58 11. Income qu 163 177	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00 8.60 
7 19 28 55 50 58 11. Income qu 163 177 188	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau Central African Republic	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00 8.60  95
7 19 28 55 50 58 11. Income qu 163 177 188	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau Central African Republic Paraguay	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00 8.60  95 -1.70
7 19 28 5 50 58 11. Income qu 163 177 188	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau Central African Republic  Paraguay Thailand	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00 8.60  95 -1.70
7 19 28 5 50 58 11. Income qu 163 177 188 110 83 49	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau Central African Republic Paraguay Thailand Russian Federation	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00 8.60  95 -1.70 -1.80
7 19 28 55 50 58 11. Income qu 163 177 188 110 83 49	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau Central African Republic Paraguay Thailand Russian Federation Ukraine	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00 8.60  95 -1.70 -1.80 -1.80
7 19 28 5 50 58 11. Income qu 163 177 188 110 83 49	Russian Federation Cuba Hong Kong .China(SAR)  Japan Italy Germany Montenegro Barbados uintile ratio, average annual change (%), 2005/201 Benin Guinea-Bissau Central African Republic Paraguay Thailand Russian Federation	18.55 18.35 18.00 4 37.25 32.25 31.50  19.50 19.05 7 13.30 10.00 8.60  95 -1.70 -1.80

 $<sup>^{</sup>b.}\,Source:\,United\,Nations\,Development\,Programme.\,Human\,Development\,Reports".\,http://hdr.undp.org/en$ 



#### ABOVE

Norway, Australia, Ireland, Iceland, Hong Kong. China (SAR), Denmark, New Zealand, Malta, Greece, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Hungary, Oman



Montenegro, Bulgaria, Bahamas, Kuwait, Malaysia, Barbados, Mauritius, Panama, Albania, Cuba, Grenada, Thailand, Ecuador, Ukraine, Dominican Republic, Jordan, Jamaica, Tonga, Samoa, Samoa, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Nicaragua, Guyana, India, Vanuatu, Equatorial Guinea, Myanmar, Nepal, Tanzania, Nigeria, Mauritania, Uganda, Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Yemen, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad

Source: Tables 1 and 2.

Fig. 1. Russia's place in social development relative to the countries of the world.

To assess Russia's rank in the HDI, we considered the "HDI Rank" by the following indicators: expenditure on health (% of GDP); expenditure on education (% of GDP); Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP); Income inequality, Gini coefficient; Gender Inequality Index (GII); Unemployment (% of labor force); Homicide rate (per 100,000 people); Net migration rate (per 1,000 people); Oldage (65 and older), dependency ratio (per 100 people aged 15–64); income quintile ratio, average annual change (%) (Table 2).

By social development, Russia can reach the level of Norway, Australia, Ireland, Iceland, Hong Kong and other (Figure 1).

The "Below" level is much higher than the "Above" one which shows the increased competition for HDI. Moreover, the lower the country is by social development, the stronger the competition.

# IV. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

In Russia, there is a huge income inequality which correlates with the level of poverty and employment, reflecting the state of the labor market and possibilities of obtaining sufficient labor income. Income and employment are the main components of the quality of life and a condition for ensuring social development.

Belonging of Russia to the "Below" countries (Figure 1) (Montenegro, Bulgaria, Bahamas, Kuwait), has led to unequal acuteness of the problems of education and health (longevity). The level of education remains high due to the need to improve labor productivity.

In terms of health and longevity, the population of Russia does not differ from developing countries (Table 2) and attention to this parameter should be special.

In international comparisons of the level of social development, the range of basic indicators is different, but basic education, health care services, housing conditions, and infrastructure and means of communication are present. Conditions and quality of life are measured by their safety which depends on the environment. Despite its obvious importance, the environmental criterion is not always present in various indices of quality of life, since the methods for assessing it are extremely complicated.

By the level of social development, Russia, located between the countries "Above" (Norway, Australia, Ireland and other) and "Below" (Montenegro, Bulgaria, Bahamas and other) (Figure 1), concede to developing countries (Table 2).

At the same time, Russia has sufficient resources for social development in terms of

- life expectancy, level of education, qualifications, fertility and mortality, marriage;
- welfare of the population (real incomes, their differentiation, level of consumption of goods and services, infrastructure facilities, etc.);
- social security (level of working conditions, social protection, physical and property security, criminogenicity and socio-political health, etc.);
- environmental quality (pollution of air, water, soil, level of biodiversity, etc.);
- climatic conditions characterized by the composition and volumes of natural resources and climate.

# V. CONCLUSION

An analysis of the theoretical and practical experience of social development assessment helps choose the concept of quality of life as a priority when studying social development. It includes all the main substantive concepts. Within the concept of quality of life, equivalent and non-interchangeable indicators of social development can be selected in order to implement specific research tasks.

The comprehensive assessment of quality of life allows us to consider the problem of diagnosing imbalances of individual components and identify "weak links" in the social development of countries.

When choosing priority indicators for Russia, it is necessary to take into account the method and experience of assessing the quality of life in foreign and domestic studies, most of which are aimed at the most complete reflection of all components of the quality of life.

Priority justification does not remove the insoluble problem of subjectivity of choice; it is necessary to apply a comparative cross-country analysis of social development. The "Human Development Index is the most attractive for practical use since it reflects the most important components of quality of life. The limited number of criteria has great advantages, allowing use to obtain interpreted results based on a simple technique.



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