

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND ACTUAL GLOBAL PROBLEMS (CASE STUDY)

Adrian GORUN*
Horațiu Tiberiu GORUN**

ABSTRACT: - *Human development is a high complexity process, with major implication on life level and environment, especially in the globalization conditions. The present study underlines, from theoretical and practical perspective, the coordinates of human development today – as sustainable development, as well as differentiation generating discrepancies between regions, national states, and geographical areas of the world. Underdevelopment, poverty, unequal rhythms of modernization etc, are factors stopping human development, sources for globalization crises. Correct management of risks and distributing values by main public politics is one of the modalities to attenuate the effects of underdevelopment and pauperization. This paper presents an application (an important one in comparisons and social-economical analyses) for Romania, member state of the European Union, the diagnosis representing support for formulation of the politics for development/modernization, able to attenuate the shock of globalization crises and crises globalization.*

KEY WORDS: *human development, sustainable development, eco-development, human development index, underdevelopment, poverty, modernity, modernization, globalization.*

JEL CLASSIFICATION: *K 0*

1. PRESENT GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. CONCEPTS

There are already known the major problem that human kind faces presently, their area being subdivided into two great categories, depending on the origin of the factors (nature of generation): *natural disasters* and *disasters – effects of human activity*. In the first subgroup are included, generally, processes beyond the control of the individual and the human community, being produced in the area of the absolute objective, of the immanent and of ineluctable: earthquakes and other orogenic movements, hurricanes, devastating flooding, prolonged droughts, ecc. Such disasters are produced independently of human kind will; the human cannot retain or cancel its production, but only through knowledge and diminish their impact on life conditions by well-elaborated and applied strategies,

* Associate professor PhD, Faculty of Public Administration and Comparative Political Studies, "Constantin Brancusi" University of Targu-Jiu, ROMANIA.

* Associate professor PhD, Faculty of Public Administration and Comparative Political Studies, "Constantin Brancusi" University of Targu-Jiu, ROMANIA.

strategies able to eliminate the fatalist attitudes. Correct management of the risks would be reflected in an efficient management of effects.

The subgroup of disasters – effects of the human actions indicate a series of factors – consequence, factors derived integrally or partially from designed actions and developed in a voluntary manner by human. It should be taken into account that disasters-effects of the human activities are not integrally identified within purposes – defined as ideal projections on the finality of those actions.

Purposes can be centered in an ideal, but conflicts between axiological systems existing in the world, the improvidence (in the best case) of concurrent effects, identification of good cu relative utility etc, lead to disasters provoked by human. Some of them, with general character, other with regional or local character. For instance, the contamination of the planet, irrational exploitation of resources, degradation of the environment, fauna and flora are effects of the human actions, everywhere. These do not have barriers, having a general –universal impact on human nature. These aspects like: underdevelopment of numerous human societies (from which derives the sub nutrition status, poverty, illiteracy, subculture, lack of access to education, etc), subversive wars, zonal conflicts between religious and cultural values are effects delimited either territorial, or at the level of some population categories. Such delimitations are on short and average term as, on long term, effects enlarge there are, many of them being transformed in global problems of the actual world (for example, the prolongation of poverty endangers peace and safety on world level, regional terrorism gains valences of the world terrorism, etc). These coordinates, appeared from the continuous extension of multiple effects of the human actions, lead inevitably to globalization of disasters provoked by human, to a return of the nature against human nature.

In what extent such global problems lead today consequence on the *human development*?

The concept of *human development* – approached pluri-disciplinary (from philosophical, anthropological, economical, psychological, geopolitical perspective etc.) indicated, in its quintessence, the degree (extent) in which human options on economic, social, cultural, political, ecological, axiological plan are realized, the degree in which these defines really the *way of life* of some person/community.

The concept has a series of methodological functions, like:

a). *indicative* function – gives indications on some opportunities of accomplishing human options on a real potential and real/virtual;

b). *explicative* function – indicated the causal determinations of settlements and laws manifested at the level of investments realized at human capital from different areas on the globe, the motivation of the behaviors and human actions, sustained by the need to cover some fundamental requirements of the human development (*longevity, life standard, education, etc.*);

c). *prospective* function – substantiated the prediction capacity in respect to the medium and long term evolution of processes ensuring access to resources that are necessary for a decent living, for a long and healthy life, gathering knowledge and the potential of their usage, an improved life environment;

d).the *axiological* function supposes reporting the human attitudes, behaviors and actions to values and ideals, detecting the favorable and unfavorable senses of human and

its condition, comparing existing status and stages with desirable, ideal but inherent possible statuses;

e). *normative* function – the concept does not aim only the economical increase but also an imperative distribution of values, a reasonable – equilibrate distribution of incomes on the ensemble of a society. The concept aims crystallization of some norms of human actions, having a practical finality materialized in the contribution to foundation of some decisions and strategies regarding human development, requesting solutions for the life improvement, establishing strategies for prevention and stoppage of human condition degradation.

It is generally known the fact that human development dimensions are expressed by *human development index* (H.D.I.), this index accepting values between zero and 1000. As synthetic indicator of human development, this index human development is calculated depending on the following indicators:

- *Longevity* – measured by the life expectative at birth, namely the average number of years that a person has to live;
- *Education level* – evaluated as a weighed arithmetic mean between the degree of alphabetization and the degree of comprehension in different forms of education ;
- *Income on inhabitant* – Gross Domestic Product/inhabitant, expressed in dollars at the parity of the purchase power, as measure of life standard.

Starting with the year 1990, the human development index has been computed annually, being realised classification at level of states and regions of the world in the perspective of human development, to issue an improvement policy in this field: „ ... specialist of U.N.D.P. (United Nations Development Programme– n.n.) realised a rapport each year (from 1990), named *Human Development Report*, where they have presented, among others, the thesis that not the absence of financial resources is, necessarily, the one leading to the depreciation of human life (individual, national and global), but the modality to form national budgets and economical, social and cultural development politics”. As such, human development depends on the possibilities offered to individual realization “accent being on those conditions of possibilities which, together, offer humans the possibility to achieve a decent life level – by increase of longevity, by assimilation of basic knowledge (in a society where information plays an essential role to assert the individual personality) and by ensuring access conditions to material goods and cultural values of their lives”.

Being observed the incomplete definition of human development only based on three indicators (*longevity, education level, income per inhabitant*), based on which human development index is computed, from the year 1997 has also been introduced the *human poverty index* (H.P.I.). In case H.D.I takes into consideration *the general evolution of elementary component of human development*, H.P.I. aims short aspects or scarcity.

The factorial imposes not a focusing on disparate factors, but an unifying approach, integrating for these factors, being used relevant sets of indicators, as well as those of geographic, demographic, economical, social, cultural type (surface of that country, structure of the relief, climate, hydrological net, totality of population, percent of increase of demographical factors, weight of urban population, fertility, life expectation, impartial mortality, occupied population, income/inhabitant, access to education, weight of population in different forms of education from the total of population, etc.). As a matter of fact, the complexity of problems correlated to human development lead to the

definition of new, correlative concepts like that of *sustainable development* (through which is detected and expressed an optimal function of interaction of the economic, human, ambient and technological) and that of *eco-development*.

The concept *sustainable development* defined in the Rapport of Brundtland Commission „Our common future” – is correlated to those two essential problems identified by this commission, founded at 1972 in Stockholm:

➤ Development does not implies exclusively higher incomes and increased life standards for a restricted number of population, but the increase of life standard for everyone;

➤ Development should not involve the degradation and irrational exhaustion of our human resources, neither the environmental contamination.

As a result, sustainable development is that type of development having as purpose satisfying the needs of the present, without diminishing or cancelling the possibility and the opportunity of future generations to satisfy own needs. Sustainable development imposes a temporal coordination in which future should not be sacrificed in favour of the present, the present having double responsibilities: from the perspective of diminishing negative effects of a past in which exacerbation of incomes for restricted groups (state actors, individuals) degraded the life environment of everybody, from the perspective of preserving a potential capable of ensuring opportunities of existence for future generations. To this extent, we consider as being necessary the following clarifications:

➤ The concept of human development indicates, by excellence, social development (individual development - of the social and socialized individual, communitarian development, development at the level of the state, sustainable rural development, etc) as a tendency and opportunities to realize human option on economic, social, cultural educational, political plan, etc. The investments in human capital and in the social capital validates the degree of capitalization, exclusively at the life level and the life environment for persons in different areas of the globe;

➤ The attribute „sustainable” attached to development involves a set of characteristics, which today is immanent to every type of human/social development (global, national, regional, local) and in any type of environment (rural, urban, individual, communitarian etc.) The attribute „sustainable” does not separate but involves, *does not separate sustainable social development from eco-development*, but allows understanding the functionality of complex relation between society and nature, between economic activity and natural environment as immanent relationship for the development. Definitive marks of human/social development are circumscribed by the attribute “sustainable” and the ecological component of development represents the essence of process. In other words, we can’t speak about sustainable social development, making abstraction of the eco-development, because human/social development represents, in every moment and *eco-development and durable development*, not endangering future; *human development is by excellence durable*.

2. UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY – PHENOMENA IN EXPANSION

Analyses due to human development cannot make an abstraction of the chronically underdevelopment of some geographical areas or states of the world, of the phenomena of poverty characterising numerous populations from developed countries, as well as from

weakly developed and underdeveloped countries. Of course, the effects of these phenomena cannot be felt in a uniform and equal manner by all categories of population, but these do not represent by far marginal problems. Defining poverty, in *World Development Report 2000-2001*, the World Bank stated: „To be poor means being hungry, not having clothes and dwelling, to be sick and not having access to social assistance, to have a precarious level of education or to be illiterate”. The panel of poverty is correlated necessarily with the one of underdevelopment: precarious incomes, malnutrition, exacerbated unemployment, illiteracy, school abandon, social exclusion, social failure, infractions, precarious school assistance, vulnerability to different diseases or epidemic, drugs traffic or consumption, infant mortality, accentuation of social cleavage, political instability, continuous degradation of rural environment, low life hope, frequent economical crises accompanied by sacrifice curves are modalities to manifest poverty, generated by underdevelopment. Underdevelopment increases vulnerability and effects of natural disasters provoked by irrational activities of human kind.

An analyze of the rapport between underdevelopment and poverty indicated a biunique vector: *genetic*, underdevelopment produces and reproduces poverty, *functional* poverty maintains or accentuates underdevelopment. Poverty is, from the geographical perspective an universal phenomenon; the amplitude (spheres of containing and degrees of manifestations) are different. Generated by underdevelopment, by prominent factors having an unequal access to resources, poverty is not a process containing, uniform, all social categories. Nowhere (in no country, in no community) we can speak about positioning all social categories and individuals under the threshold of poverty. Only things should be seen in their diversity. So, the reality of facts proves that there are poor social categories and individuals living under the poverty threshold, including in the developed countries, but from numerical point of view and from the perspective of gradualism and duration, the coordinates of the phenomenon are much more restricted than in underdeveloped states. As such, the type of criteria used – in evaluation – statistic criteria – lead to relativization.

To this extent, it is difficult to equal a poor person from a developed country with a poor person from an underdeveloped country. Differences are of quantitative order, but also of important qualitative order, being important to detect how much it represents the percentage of poor population from the total demographical potential of a country, how values are distributed and redistributed (including the Gross Domestic Product) how efficient are politics for weighing poverty, etc. That is why impoverishment can be relative or absolute, temporary or chronically, etc

And here is necessary a question: Are efficient the measures to weight and improve since the number of persons living in external poverty conditions increased on the globe, only in the interval 1996-2000 with over 200 millions? And assessments, at least for the population living in underdeveloped countries (where the percentage of the ones with a average income of less than an American dollar per day is between 24 and 28% from the total population of these countries) are grave until 2015 (due to the demographic increase, the rapport would be maintained). So, demographic estimation until the end of the year 2011 indicates reaching 7 milliards inhabitants on the globe, and for the year 2050 - 9 milliards inhabitants. In the absence of some rigorous and systematic applied in the management of resources for sustained human development is certain that poverty would be extended on the vertical and horizontal. What is indicated in a double polarization: a

polarization in the interior of each state, with stages and different amplitudes at the level of each pole, depending on the level of development for that country and a polarization of the population on the globe, the pole of poverty being amplified also by the demographic explosion from poor areas. How grave is situation, results from the Rapport of UNDP (United Nations Development Programmes) identifying an alarming disproportion regarding the access to resources: about 1/5 from the total population of the planet uses 3/4 from the richness of the world and of natural resources. The Cleavage North – South (between industrialised countries and “Third World” accentuates the instability and migration. And the fact that the in the interval 1980-2000 politics promoted by international financial organisms die not provoked, in poor countries, an increase almost indistinguishable of the income per inhabitant represents a significant index.

3. ROMANIA AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. CASE STUDY

Any country facing underdevelopment and poverty needs serious internal and external impulses to fight against the mantrap of restoration. Romania is not an exception and cliché and myths have been necessarily abandoned or revised after the crush of the command systems, specific for the totalitarian – communist system, as in the long period of transition. Propagandistic commitments from the period of Ceaușescu’s regime, concerning the rapid reduction of the transit between Romania and developed countries proved rapidly their irrationality, even if in the period 1956-1985 have been realized investment for the improvement of the indicators specifics for the synthetic indicator of the human development. Besides, modern history proves that are rare cases of reduction of these inequalities (in Europe, only Ireland– after 1980 and partially Spain and Portugal can be taken as examples, and in the world economy only several Asiatic states).

Concerning „reaching from behind” developed states, we must say that the probability aims the development of the process on long term, but only in normality conditions. So, admitting as example that UE might increase, in average, with 25 per year, and the economical increase of Romania would be, in average, of 5% each year, Romania might need 21 years to reach 50% from the average of UE and over 35years to reach 75% of the average of UE (income/inhabitant in Romania was in 2002 of 26-27% from the average of UE). The thesis according to which modernity supposes stability, and modernization leads to instability must be seen with maximum attention as not modernization contains the germs of instability, but the irrational rhythms, imposed by administrative decision generating dysfunctions in economic and social plan. After that, crises affecting structural and on extended periods the underdeveloped states and those in process of modernization, so that inequalities can be accentuated. Admitting that the reduction of the inequalities does not remain in the desired stage, it should be also indicated that higher rhythms can be easier supported with life levels relatively high than the ones living in the area of the poverty threshold.

A significant aspect that should be taken into consideration in the evaluation of the development potential is the one indicated in the third rapport of the Club from Rome, referring to the crisis of the international structures from the period of Cold War, crises that accentuated after 1990, proving that neither fast economic aids, nor other marginal changes solve the problem of underdevelopment, especially in the conditions of the globalization ascension. Remedies through politics of rational development should start from accepting development as unequal process and in bounces, with different

particularities and effects for the states-nations. In these conditions, the management of the resources and of politics for development represents actionable coordinates for each state, searching to solutions not to generate the transforming of the advance on economical and social plan, possessed by developed countries in inequalities and chronically cleavages in rapport with the underdeveloped countries.

Romania's case is one at least paradoxical. Before 1990, the excessive centralization and maximum coercion lead to effects prolonged for better than 20 years, the shock could have been felt also today, in a dramatic manner. Forced industrialization by use of some morally used technologies, transforming state in the owner of the resources and the possessor of the absolute monopoly of the economic, political and social monopoly, useful and unavailable investments with enormous costs (Channel Danube – Black Sea, „People's House”, luxurious residences for the family of the dictator in any districts of the country, state enterprises in the areas where the specific raw material does not exist, construction of social dwellings in spaces resulted from the demolition of private dwellings, so on), lack of equilibrium for the commercial balance and hunger of the population from the penury of alimentary products, establishing the independence of country's economy and reimbursement of the external debt (over 13 milliards \$ in less than 5 years etc.) represent some of the major causes that accentuated the poverty of the population.

The synthetic indicator concerning the human development in Romania after 1990 deteriorated. All types of separations, concluding 80% from the enterprises declared as profitless, without attempting their reconstruction or the opening on profitable investment to replace them, destruction of the infrastructure from the agriculture, massive dismissal and anticipated pensioning had as an effect the reduction of the active population of over 11 million before 1989, at about 405 millions today. The budget of the social insurances is almost close to bankruptcy, the life hope meets a descending curve and sectors like education, health, public administration are chronically underfinanced. This image is completed by an accentuated increase of emigrations, concomitantly with the severe reduction of the birth rate and the alarming decrease of population. So, in case in the 1990, the population of Romania exceeded 22 million inhabitants, today it merely reaches 20 millions, in case taking into consideration over 2 millions (emigrations, residents with different working contracts in developed states of EU), the real – effective population reached 18 millions. The depopulation phenomenon is manifested more pregnant in the rural environment where the living level is under the European average. The perception of the population on own life environment is, in these cases, justified over 85% from those invested by different opinion surveys stating that their life level is lower than in the previous 1990 (one example is sufficient to understand the phenomenon: in December 1989, the net income of a high-school teacher, situated at the maximum level of his professional training and with an average seniority in didactical activity of 20 years, was of 3880 lei meanwhile it merely reaches today about 2300 lei, about 766\$; in direct terms even if it should be taken in account the denomination – net salary decreased with 41%).

The horizon of expectation of the Romanian was directly connected to the adherence of the country as member with full right in UE, aspect determined also by the unidirectional modality to present the adherence as an universal remedy for underdevelopment and poverty, by governing persons. The adherence proves to be only a

sine qua non condition for the attenuation of the underdevelopment but is not responsible for the stoppage of the degradation of the human development in Romania.

Romania has the statute of peripheral /south-east-European country, with income/inhabitant at a low level and the level of life in continuous degradations. Resources fewer and fewer – are scarcely distributed, the investments and the attraction of foreign capital in stationing, the increasing school abandon, definitive country abandon by the first degree specialists, amplifies annually. Underground economy and corruption decrease dramatically the capacity of absorption of European funds (below 3%).

Such phenomena are reflected inclusively in the self-evident, discriminatory treatment to which are submitted most of the Romanians that departed temporarily to work in other states, the label of “Romanian” being an etalon for disregard, no matter the qualification and capability. The almost total responsibility for the modality in which Romanian citizens- European citizens are classified by large scale social categories as “third level” citizens, is due to the beneficiary of the main phenomena of migration: the Romanian state. But, enterprises for the protection of own citizens are almost void, meanwhile state takes major advantages of the amounts entering the country, as a result of work performed to over 2 million Romanian from abroad.

Can we speak about a policy for the human development in respect of modernization for Romania?

First of all we must say that the premise of such a politics must be based on the genetic and functional relation between underdevelopment and poverty, in the sense that poverty is a consequence of underdevelopment, and underdevelopment generates and perpetuates poverty. For a sustainable social development, structural reforms must be realized with priority, indicators like *longevity*, *level of education*, *income per inhabitant* representing priorities of increase with the purpose of reduction of the *human poverty index*. Governments alternating after 1990 in Bucharest, should take into account, in drafting politics for the development/modernization, at least of the following aspects;

- a). world economy illustrates more divergent evolutions than convergent ones;
- b). a public policy should be able to allow the development of viable investments, imposing specific rules for all financial disciplines in competition conditions;
- c). not every economic integration is advantageous; it is necessary to examine universal relations the universal relationships and on integration on the financial markets, able to allow the use of available resources and increase of productivity (not every freely commerce is advantageous and an absolute opening of the capital account can be fatal, especially by financing the majority of the investment projects would be realised with international credits on short term)
- d). starting from the conclusion of Paul Samuelson according to which private sector produces public goods in insufficient quantities, it is necessary to think again at the role of the state as tenderer of public goods to potentiate including the private sector (for public goods, D. Dăianu and R. Vrânceanu indicates: big sizes of the educational system and of the one for medical assistance, roads nets, public utilities, system of national defence and safety, system of settlements and supervision of markets, protection of the environment, system of social assurance etc.);
- e). a rational public policy should evaluate resources that are available and to reconsider the entrepreneurial spirit of private entities front the society.

Such landmarks either have been only partially taken into consideration by successive governments of Romania, after 1990, or have been unobserved. This lead to an accentuation of the poverty to the perpetuation of the underdevelopment which make from human development a simple concept, no coverage in Romania's today reality.

REFERENCES

- Dăianu, D., Vrânceanu, R., *Romania and the European Union. Inflation, payment balances, economic increase*, Polirom, 2002;
- Easterly, W., „*The Lost Decades: Developing Countries' Stagnation in Spite of Policy Reform: 1980-1998*”, Telmary, 2001, manuscript;
- Easterly, W., *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Cambridge, MIT Press, 2001;
- Maddison, A., „*Monitoring the World Economy: 1820-1992*”, Paris, QECD, 1995;
- Otovescu, D, coord. „*The Treaty of General Sociology*”, Beladi Publishing House, 2010;
- Panea, N., Otovescu, D. (coord.), *Main social problems of rural communities from Romania*, Beladi Publishing House, Craiova, 2010;

