

POVERTY - A COMPLEX SOCIO-ECONOMIC PHENOMENON IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. A LITERATURE REVIEW

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Synopsis: Starting from the fact that destitution is a complex occurrence that requires from the administration and the local authorities continuous eradication measures, permanently adapted to the main influencing factors, the motivation of this paper is to look into the notion of poverty in the context of viable expansion. Unlike other works in the narrative review, I have explored the policy aimed at people's welfare by designing secure surroundings in which no one will be left on their own. I also researched the interaction of poor people with socio-economic life. As a scientific research method for the elaboration of this work, I used observation, by investigating theories, concepts, and strategies, but also objectives, previously stated in some other reviews in the field. The findings emphasize the influence of sustainable economic development on overcoming the condition of people who are vulnerable in the form of poverty. Thus, my research in finding out the objective dimension of the poverty phenomenon represents the support in order to develop policies meant to reduce its incidence, but also in order to develop the methods used to achieve this approach.

JEL classification: I32, I38, P46

Key words: poverty, sustainable development, vulnerability, objectives, literature review

1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a complex phenomenon that demands from government and local authorities continuous eradication measures, permanently adapted to the main factors of influence. As poverty persists in society, there is a growing need to understand its consequences for many aspects of social inclusion and sustainable development.

This paper is an exploration of the stage of scientific knowledge regarding the notion of poverty transposed in contemporary social and economic life. The key idea is that being poor requires specific protection and special measures.

The research focuses on people, in particular, and pays detailed attention to official definitions of poverty and influential constructions of the concept. I will provide a rigorous analysis of the transition to acceptance of the poor and present the possibility of surviving in poverty. I will also analyze the impact of society's daily participation in overcoming the condition of this human category. I aimed to create perspectives on the social worlds of the poor, as well as the systems and processes that govern their lives.

I chose this category of vulnerable people, because, in low-income countries and areas, as it is the case in Romania there is a significant number of people living on the

brink of poverty. (Bourguignon și Wolfensohn, 2004). Fatal consequences occur whenever their health deteriorates due to their poor nutrition or other associated illnesses. Neither medical attention nor specialised help is available for them as they cannot afford hospital transportation. Consequently, the inhabitants of remote villages all over the country are bound to travel long distances to get professional help. When jobs are scarce or job offers plummet these vulnerable people are unlikely to be hired. Education is a scarce resource for them as they are sent to school last in a group of siblings. Sometimes they receive no education at all because their parents often lack the money to provide the things needed for school such as uniforms or shoes. In the monoparental families or for those children left home with older relatives things are even much more complicated than that. Other hindrances connected to poverty or the lack of school resources can put an end to their education.

This paper is organized in three sections: presentation, literature, which includes a series of discussions on the results obtained by other specialists, and conclusions. The most valuable section of this paper is its second part, which includes arguments on the concept of poverty and the economic and social representation of poverty in sustainable development.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. CONCEPTS, DETERMINANTS AND EFFECTS OF POVERTY

Vulnerability is usually associated with poverty, as poverty can make a significant contribution to vulnerability. Pizarro (2001) covers this fact, considering that social vulnerability can often be confused with poverty. The concept of poverty expresses a condition of necessity resulting from insufficient income. Thus, poverty refers to a situation of deprivation, while vulnerability goes beyond this condition, implying the possibility of suffering it in the future, based on certain weaknesses that are found in the present.

Poverty is an intricate concept; therefore it should not be narrowed to economic measures. According to Bourguignon and Wolfensohn (2004), poverty is in fact seen as the inability to achieve certain standards. Poor people often lack adequate food, shelter, education, health care and they are poorly served by institutions of the state and society. There are three ways of considering poverty, and these are rooted in the notions of utter, general and relative poverty.

The poverty assessed by worldwide norms and differentiated across nations and population groups is called *absolute or utter poverty*. One such measure is called income per capita and “one dollar a day” is the worldwide criterion most often utilized. The World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen (UN, 1995) characterized destitution as “a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, drinking water, sanitation, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services”.

General destitution takes various forms, including an absence of compensations and profitable funds to warrant, what we call, sustainable living. Other forms of general poverty are famine and malnourishment, sickness, limited admittance or lack of it to education and other essential facilities. There is also an increased mortality due to disease, inadequate housing, unsafe surroundings and discrimination everything leading towards social exclusion. Last but not least, there has been noted that general poverty also leads towards minimal dynamic interest in civil, social and cultural life (UN, 1995).

Relative poverty is an assessment of poverty formulated on poor life standards or low revenue contrasted with the rest of the society in question. Contrary to general poverty, it does not automatically entail that palpable human requirements, such as food, health, and shelter, are inadequate, but it does mean however, that the levels attained by particular individuals, are by comparison below than what is customary in the community (Nielsen, 2009).

Poverty is associated with experiences of defencelessness, low wages, short life expectancy and last but not least with the failure to supply the fundamental requirements for survival. Destitution will give way to a low life standard such as crowded and overcrowded homes that can aggravate physical and mental health. The environment where people reside can have a crucial influence on health. Highly contaminated territories (such as air or water contamination) can represent a serious threat for health. Negative health risks and afflictions, encompassing physical idleness and respiratory issues are associated with the environment (Allen and Balfour, 2014).

To poverty and insecurity also lead the participation in education and the lack of professional qualifications. These are linked to employment prospects, meaning the lack of skills or qualifications leads to a considerable shortage of jobs. Issues related to skills and qualifications are particularly relevant for a number of vulnerable groups. Different categories are shut out or have sparse access to education. Allow us to think about individuals with more acute physical conditions, learning incapacities, youth medical issues or intolerance on accounts of ethnicity or religion. Likewise, immigrants might not have all the necessary abilities or eligibility in their new country. Moreover, they might not have the right language skills. Health and healthcare are affected in many ways by the lack of relevant skills and qualifications. These will eventually lead to poverty, which in its turn leads to stress dangerous for anyone's health. Also lack of skills can be a barrier to accessing necessary health services.

Different services can easily be accessed by literate people. However, without having reading and writing skills one finds it impossible to fill in forms or understand complex rules and instructions. Failure to respect the medical treatment provided by the medical staff leads to the denial of the services provided by them. In most of the cases these vulnerable people cannot comply with the treatment because they misunderstand the indications of the doctor or pharmacist. This is often conveyed in a way that is easily understood by people who do not have a high degree of literacy and numeracy. Differently, depending on the social protection system, it may happen that those who do not have skills can receive special treatment given the poverty or lack of appropriate social protection.

It has already been showed that destitution influences both physical and mental health, which is frequently connected to weakness. The poorest of people are far more likely to be in poorer health and therefore unprotected. Normal tasks carried out in daily life are no longer easily performed having poor or failing health. In addition, it can diminish an individual's potential to engage in the work market, public activity and safeguard good living contexts. Vulnerable experiences can also lead to poor physical and mental health (Cristea et al., 2020).

Given the issues mentioned above, people in these vulnerable situations are in poverty. There might be more than one issue involved: it might be lack of access to the work market and this in turn might happen because there are no skills or qualifications. Some people are bound to be poor due to some disability, a transient status or different forms of segregation .For similar reasons some other people may only have access to low

paid, unreliable or half-time work. These people again and again work on the black market. Unfortunately it has never provided enough income for a healthy life for themselves or their families. Income poverty and employment require action on more than a front. First of all, one must ensure a minimum wage for any work as long as it is adequately performed. However, the lowest pay permitted in relation to local living costs shifts extensively through Europe. Levels should be left at an established toll which would permit anyone, but especially those who are considered to be at risk, to acquire above the legal minimum. This kind of measure would allow them to live soundly from their revenue provided they have a full time job. Besides, for the individuals who are, for some reason or another, unable to work a full week, the social protection system should consider providing sufficient security. To put it differently, for those in these vulnerable situations they ought to be able to live healthily and this means giving them access to services. To my mind, an important thing to be solved is affordable medical care of good quality.

This area of debate had a lot of research conducted and it was likewise the subject of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2019. It was granted together to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for their exploratory way to battle worldwide neediness, according to the statement made by the Swedish Academy. The same statement claims that the research has considerably enhanced our capacity to fight global poverty. We might as well consider that these laureates have left behind a path to be followed. In only twenty years, their new experimental methodology has changed development economics. Because of them and with their help the above mentioned field is now a flourishing field of examination. Regardless of the recent impressive enhancements, mankind's most earnest goals remain to reduce global poverty in all its aspects. Unfortunately people with disabilities are often poor.

2.2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PRESENTATION OF POVERTY IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2030 Agenda is first and foremost a plan of actions. It targets people, the planet and its welfare by establishing a protected climate wherein nobody will be left abandoned. The 2030 Agenda provides and involves *17 Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG). These are indeed a set of Global Goals, for a reasonable and practical health taking into consideration everything. The planetary biosphere is taken into consideration but the local community is not forgotten. What these Global Goals mean is to set a rigorous action plan for the next period and furthermore they aim to combat poverty, fight inequality and protect the planet. The objectives are a vigorous scientific and intuitive framework and are based on progress and evolution. To incorporate the social, economic and environmental measurements into action policies there is a need for large-scale strategic coordination of the system. There is a growing belief that sustainable development needs to understand the exchange between the genuine economy and personal satisfaction. The objectives were formally embraced by all United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015, for the period 2016–2030 to address the empirical and scientific evidence that the world needs a profoundly more reasonable methodology. We were given the best chance throughout these goals to guarantee the needed collaboration and alignment around the world, as we carry out worldwide procedures to ensure a reasonable, sound and prosperous future not only for us, but also for our children and grandchildren.

The key idea is that all objectives are closely interconnected and their non-compliance as a whole will perpetuate an approach that will be extremely inefficient. It must be said however, that each and every objective is supported by targets and indicators.

Some of them approach the main starting points of poverty and the worldwide requirement for advancement that applies for all individuals. All three dimensions are covered by the objectives, covered by sustainable development, namely: social inclusion, economic growth and environmental protection.

What the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development does is to set out the vision, standards and responsibilities to a more attractive and more maintainable world for all. In order to fully understand and truly appreciate the practical and political importance of the SDGs and the difficulties related to them; first of all we have to understand what preceded them. The SDGs were implemented between 2000 and 2015.

The SDGs are collectively sending a plain message that each country should act to make progress and bring forth:

1. *No poverty* - The goal is to eradicate poverty in the entirety of its structures all over the place;
2. *No hunger* -The objective is to end hunger, improve nourishment and accomplish food security. It additionally advances practical agriculture.
3. *Good health and well-being*-The objective is to guarantee solid life and advance prosperity for all individuals at all ages;
4. *Quality training* - The point is to guarantee reasonable, quality schooling and to advance deep rooted learning open doors for all;
5. *Gender equality* - The goal is to give equal rights to all women and girls meaning gender equality;
6. *Clean water and sanitation* - The goal is to ensure the accessibility of drinkable water and sewerage for all. Ensuring universal and equitable access to this vital resource is one of the goals of the international organization, which considers it accessible to all. In addition, the aim is for Member States to ensure that the extraction of this resource is carried out efficiently and that it responds to the demand of those sectors where there is currently a shortage. In addition, it aims to reduce pollution and eliminate the option to dispose of waste;
7. *Cost efficient and clean energy* - The goal is to grant access to accessible, safe, sustainable and modern energy for all. Doubling the overall rate of energy efficiency, increasing participation in renewable energies, expanding infrastructure and improving technology are the main targets of this goal;
8. *Normal working conditions and economic growth* - This objective aims at supporting sustainable economic growth, promoting recruitment and reasonable work for all people;
9. *Industry, development and framework* - The objective is to construct adaptable foundation, promote sustainable industrialization and encourage innovation. Resilient infrastructure is focused on cities that have quality, reliable and sustainable regional and cross-border structures that enable human well-being and economic development. At the same time, sustainable industrialization aims to increase the industry's contribution to jobs and gross domestic product;
10. *Reducing inequalities* - The objective is to decrease disparity inside and among nations
11. *Feasible urban areas and networks* - The goal is to carve secure, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. This goal includes ten goals, one of which is to increase the number of cities implementing public policies to make more efficient use of resources, reducing climate change. The rest of the objectives also aim to increase sustainable urbanization, participatory planning and management capacity, improve access to transport systems and ensure that they are safe and sustainable, ensure universal access (by 2030) to protected and available green regions and public spaces, in order to reduce

disaster victims affecting cities and guarantee access to services and housing. This objective also addresses the need to protect, what we call, the world's cultural and natural heritage, and to support links between metropolitan and rustic zones through public and provincial development planning;

12. Responsible utilization and creation - The objective is to guarantee practical utilization and creation designs. The 3Rs of reduction, recycling and reuse are addressed in this objective, which has 11 sub-objectives, which aim to achieve a more efficient management and use of natural resources, reduce waste generation and reduce the release of chemical waste, either in water, air or earth;

13. Climate policies - The objective is to take an immediate action to battle environmental changes and its effects. Addressing the issue of environmental changes, strengthening resilience to the possibility of a catastrophe and implementing the Green Climate Fund is what promotes this goal. With regard to this fund, there is an accord set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and consists of raising \$ 100 million to allocate to developing countries that have not yet developed strategies to address climate changes;

14. Life beneath water - The objective is to defend and adequately utilize the seas, oceans and marine conditions, which can be harnessed for global sustainable development;

15. Life ashore - This goal aims at protecting, restoring and supporting the use of terrestrial ecosystems, the feasible use of forests, combating erosion, halting land deterioration and reducing the destruction of global biological diversity;

16. Harmony, equity and solid establishments - This objective is to develop a harmonious and peaceful society with a view to achieving sustainable development. It additionally encourages admittance to equity for all and sets up successful establishments worldwide.;

17. Associations for objectives - This goal involves strengthening the means of implementing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The new global goals cover a lot of ground, address inequalities, growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, oceans, ecosystems, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice. A key feature of the SDGs is their strong focus on the means of implementation: mobilization of financial resources, capacity building and technology, as well as data and institutions.

The presentation of maintainable advancement as a worldwide idea of adjusted improvement adds a provoking degree of intricacy to any country. There are clear commitments and obligations regarding all Member States, for which they will be considered responsible, and it is necessary to recognize that cross-border approaches to systems are needed. Romania has proposed works to support international actions to achieve the SDGs and has set a national framework for achieving the 17 objectives. Our country has assumed the main responsibility for monitoring and review, and this requires the collection of quality, accessible and timely data.

From the point of view of maintainable development, Romania, as an individual from the UN, yet in addition from the viewpoint of EU enrolment, has accepted monetary improvement by actualizing and regarding feasible standards, which makes a significant advance corresponding to a supportable future. Romania's association with the new improvement reasoning embraced by the EU and shared on a worldwide scale, focuses on essential targets in the short, medium and long haul.

To diminish advancement holes, to build the prosperity of residents and to keep a perfect climate actualizing the standards of maintainable improvement at the public level is an unquestionable requirement for Romanian pioneers. Simply by including all partners

and forcing concrete and very much focused on measures to improve markers can the nation stay on the way of maintainable turn of events. The advantages and cut off points of supportable advancement are apparent in the outcomes and progress of society. Regardless of what the setting is, supportable correspondence should be perhaps the main stride in animating the interest and responsibility of the intended interest group.

Adjusting to worldwide advancement techniques has consistently appeared to be a test for Romania, yet additionally a significant prerequisite in monetary, political, social and ecological cycles. Hence, Romania has perceived and embraced maintainable advancement systems. Thinking about its present status as an individual from the EU and an agricultural nation, Romania, tended to and actualized the SDGs as needs be. Simultaneously, as an individual from the UN, Romania joined the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015. In a similar setting, the EU Council, in light of the reception of the 2030 Agenda, embraced the "Maintainable Europe" program for all Member States on 20 June 2017. Accordingly, in December 2018, Romania received 2030 Romania's public system for manageable turn of events, to build up away from for the usage of the arrangements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Romania, just as the other 192 states, have embraced execution techniques to help the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, tending to a Global Action Plan zeroing in on destitution easing, lessening social imbalances and securing the climate by 2030. In the above setting, Romania has set up the public system for the usage of the measures in the 2030 Agenda and the execution of the 17 SDGs.

Romania has still far to go to accomplish the exhibition of the most evolved nations on the planet, which requires studies and examination of results. This must be done to distinguish the most profound and most delicate causes that are probably going to make imbalance and diminish the drawn out manageable advancement of the economy and society. Romania expects to fundamentally decrease the quantity of those living in serious destitution from the viewpoint of neediness destruction. Because of the present circumstance, techniques, plans and projects have been made, affirmed and actualized. Every one of these measures can produce fundamentally better outcomes, with immediate and significant consequences for destitution annihilation and manageable development in personal satisfaction. Among the subjects of incredible interest to Romania are dispensing with separation by making strategies that advance social consideration and equivalent possibilities, lessening incongruities between districts of the nation, just as in metropolitan and rustic territories, and particularly in the EU (Cristea et al., 2020).

8. CONCLUSIONS

Many studies published in the literature have argued that the emergence of a political, economic and social irregularity will prompt changes in the structure of the privileges of weak individuals, both human rights and those conferred by the state. This is exacerbated by the fact that the imbalance reduces the state's ability to help households and individuals develop safer livelihoods. Fragile income flows are a direct result of the stagnant macroeconomic situation in the environment. Social and political conditions are inadequate, which reduces the opportunities available to remedy life and living situations. Political, economic and social imbalance not only changes the legal rights to resources that influence a person's well-being, but also changes their availability.

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