M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

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Abstract

In the modern world, attempts are continuously being made to comprehensively assess and measure indicators related to the progress of the standard of living and well-being both globally and for individual groups of the population. Assessing and measuring the social condition is a complex process, because the concepts of "living standard of the population" and "quality of life" are multi-vector and difficult to calculate and evaluate.

The assessment and measurement of the social progress of each state, individual social groups and territories (states, regions, etc.) with sufficient accuracy is an important factor in determining the indicators of population inequality. It should be the basis for implementing effective social policy through the principles and approaches of the state's social policy, individual groups of the population (especially socially vulnerable), effective management of the population's incomes and expenses. The basis for the formation of such a policy is the identification of social problems and the identification of ways to solve them. Socially oriented programs can be implemented both in the short term and in the long term. The formation of problems of population income distribution and state regulation and the search for tools to achieve it should become one of the key components of the policy implemented by the state. Taking into account the difficulties of social policy implementation and the use of appropriate tools during the development of that policy, the identification and characterization of the general trends in the formation and distribution of incomes of the population becomes a topical issue. As a first step, it is necessary to study the experience of countries with advanced free market relations and analyze the possibilities of their localization in Armenia for the selection and expansion of social policy tools. It is also necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the tools used to fight against poverty and the implemented policies, comparing the relevant indicators of Armenia and neighboring countries.

Keywords: Income distribution inequality, income concentration coefficient (Gini index), social progress, social index, social groups.

Introduction

M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

Issues of social equality and justice, according to some researchers, threaten people's quality of life. One of the bearers of this view is Thomas Malthus, who considers poverty to be the inevitable result of a mismatch between population growth and the supply of resources necessary for people's existence, and above all, the ever-decreasing food supply. According to him, the population grows exponentially, and the means of existence with arithmetical progression, which gives birth to poverty, inequality and social disasters [1]. With the development of economics, Malthus's view was refuted. At the same time, he raised an important problem of regulating population growth, which requires control over population growth, which India, China, and a number of other countries are currently trying to overcome.

Karl Marx also had his views on the elimination of inequality and poverty. He criticized Malthus, who extended the biological laws of the struggle for existence directly to social relations and failed to justify the social nature of inequality and poverty. Karl Marx considers inequality and poverty to be inevitable satellites of capitalist society, which are oriented not to increase the welfare of workers, but to achieve maximum profit. He predicted that inequality and poverty would increase over time, the poor would get poorer and the rich would get richer [2]. However, that hypothesis was also not fully justified. Businessmen, based on the differences between the conflicting classes, were able to draw some conclusions and direct part of their super profits to improve the condition of workers, including pensions, health care and other social needs. This was mostly done purely out of economic expediency. Widespread trade union movements, strikes and demand clashes forced employers to make concessions in setting wages and indexing them to inflation.

In economics, inequality is a function of the level of consumption expenditure. It is customary to set a minimum material security index (it is often called the minimum subsistence level). It is different in different countries. Population groups whose standard of living is below that line are considered poor. To calculate the minimum standard of living, the concept of consumer basket is considered, which includes the most necessary and essential set of goods and services for the population. The value of the consumer basket is a time-varying quantity. For this reason, it is important to monitor how the composition and prices of the products included in the consumer basket change over time.

Over the years, the concept and structure of inequality is gradually changing. In some countries, the feminization of poverty is taking place, that is, the number of families headed by a woman is increasing, which is due to the increase in the dominance of the volume of services in the GDP (it is enough to note that more than 60 percent of the world GDP is formed by services) , with the mechanization and automation of production processes (especially requiring heavy physical work), increasing the volume of remote work (which does not require the physical presence of the employee at the workplace). It should be noted that a few days ago, the National Assembly of Armenia discussed the possibility of teleworking in the labor code and the fact of the dominance of women's work in the management system.

Inequality is not evenly distributed between different age groups of the population either. Families consisting of elderly spouses and single elderly people are usually classified as poor. However, it should be noted that in recent years, the number of poor young families has also increased in the United States, who, unlike most retirees, do not have their own

houses and apartments, and have to spend a significant part of their salary to rent an apartment.

Conflict Setting

The purpose of the research is to identify the reasons for the uneven formation, distribution and use of the population's income, to develop and propose an economic policy toolkit that will enable a fairer distribution of the population's monetary income, ensuring solidarity and social harmony between different social groups of the population, which is one of the key conditions for the formation of a stable society. . In order to achieve the set goal, the identification of social equality standards and indicators within the society, the analysis of income distribution and use indicators for a long period of time, the evaluation of the implemented social policy and the nomination of effective state management structures based on them is a priority task.

Research methodology

In the study, the approaches and principles of scientific abstraction, statistical groupings, statistical analyzes according to individual countries, international comparisons, as well as combinations of individual groups of countries and indices and their rating were applied.

Over the past decades, the increase in economic inequalities has been largely driven by increases in income and wealth, which have largely accumulated at the top of the distribution. However, household surveys, the data sources traditionally used to observe the dynamics of inequality, do not adequately reflect these changes. Surveys cannot adequately measure the income and wealth levels of the richest people.

The World Inequality Database (WID.world) overcomes this limitation by combining different data sources (national accounts, survey data, fiscal data and wealth rankings) [3]. This makes it possible to follow more precisely the evolution of all levels of income or wealth, from the bottom up. The main innovation here is the systematic use of data that allows comparisons between countries over a long period of time. To achieve this goal, the database is based on research on long-term inequality trends developed by an international group of scientists over the past 15 years [4].

The assessment and effectiveness of the economic policy of a unique state is determined not only by the rates of economic growth and their acceleration, but also by the progress of social indicators. The meaning and purpose of the state's socio-economic policy is to solve social problems and raise the standard of living of the population and its individual (especially vulnerable) groups. In this context, the improvement of the living standards of the poor strata of the population is emphasized, which is proposed as a key to the success of the implemented social policy for any state. As evidenced by both the international and Armenian experience of more than 3 decades, when there is a large number of poor people and people with a standard of living not much higher than the poor in society, the society degrades, a dangerous gap appears between the rich and the poor, as a result of which the state is divided into two parts: "state of the poor" and "state of the rich", which becomes the cause of social instability. Therefore, it is important to neutralize poverty as a social evil and the causes of inequality in society, and to alleviate inequality between different social groups.

M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

One of the most important issues of the social policy of the state is the regulation of the employment of the population, the provision of social protection of the population and the implementation of measures and programs aimed at justice.

It is the poor who bear the heaviest burden of epidemics in the world. It is the poorest who face the main difficulties of the setbacks in health care and education.

The crises of recent years have pushed the world further away from the global goal of ending extreme poverty by at least 2030, according to some projections.

Given current trends in global economic change, 574 million people (almost 7% of the world's population) will still live on less than 2.15 US$ a day. It should be noted that extreme poverty is concentrated in conflict-affected regions of the world [5].

Research Results
The role of the state in the redistribution of the population's income.
The market mechanism of distribution, apart from the solvency of consumers, does not take into account the capabilities of consumers and the necessity and characteristics of their demand for products.

The market gives a simple answer to the three economic questions: what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce, to produce for those who can afford the product. It is obvious that based on the principles of humanism, such an approach to income distribution in the market system needs adjustment and changes. As a result, there is a problem of redistribution of income, which each state solves in different ways and sizes. Different approaches to state intervention in income redistribution can be observed, from radical (Sweden) to conservative (USA).

The income inequality created in the market economy, which intensifies especially in the period of production decline and high inflation, should be weakened and to a certain extent compensated for the less well-off groups of the population through a system of measures, programs and laws aimed at social protection. All developed countries that have transitioned to a market economy currently have such programs aimed at easing social tensions.

Through appropriate policies, the state levies taxes on profits and personal incomes and enables less protected groups of the population (pensioners, unemployed, low-income families with many children, etc.) to pay transfers.

Attitudes toward remittance payments differ between the rich and the poor. The rich find the high-tax culture reminiscent of Robin Hood, who robbed the rich and gave their wealth to the poor. The poor believe that the high incomes of the owners of capital, land and real estate are obtained through dubious means, therefore, they are obliged to take a share of the income from the poor.

The state can directly influence the market mechanism by setting maximum prices for essential goods, as well as minimum wages. In addition, the state can give compensations to important vital branches of the economy (for example, agriculture). Despite some resistance from the more secure class, the use of transverts makes it possible to maintain the minimum standard of living of the population.

From the point of view of economics, the standard of living, first of all, is determined by the degree of satisfaction of material requirements (food, clothing, housing, basic

necessities, as well as a number of public services: health care, education, work and leisure conditions).

The development of the educational system, the continuous improvement of the qualifications of workers, the growth of the cultural level and the satisfaction of spiritual requirements are mostly related to consciousness. However, their provision is conditioned by material possibilities (social and personal income level). Economic policy at the macro and micro levels seeks to find methods of comparison and evaluation of the measurement of living standards.

The standard of living of the population can be characterized based on the analysis of statistical averages. However, it is not possible to determine the level of quality of life in such a way, because it depends on many indicators of material and spiritual nature. This quantity cannot give an idea about the incomes of individual citizens, but is an average indicator characterizing the well-being of the country's economy and population. However, this indicator is essential for analyzing and comparing the level of economic development of different countries.

The level of per capita income of the population depends on the volume and structure of the gross domestic product, GDP, the number of the population and demographic changes. GDP growth in developed countries depends to a significant extent on labor productivity (for example, 70% in the USA). Demographic growth in developing countries is less dependent on the level of the economy. Per capita income in these countries is significantly lower than in developed countries, while at the same time, the population in these countries is growing faster than labor productivity.

In developed countries, there are also some problems due to declining birthrates and aging populations. Due to this, the share of the working population is decreasing and the number of pensioners and people in need of social protection is increasing. In the post-Soviet countries, the transition to market relations of the economy is combined with high inflation, and the problems of income regulation and social protection are gaining special importance. In a number of post-Soviet countries, this led to a sharp increase in income inequality. The number of people living below the poverty line continues to rise, despite the fact that wage increases and indexation measures have been implemented in recent years.

Number of people living in extreme poverty living on less than 2.15 US$ per day worldwide by 2020 was decreasing (Fig. 1).

But that trend was disrupted in 2020. As a result of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of people in extreme poverty increased by 70 million, crossing the 700 million mark. The level of global extreme poverty reached 9.3%, compared to 8.4% in 2019 [7].

The international experience of social protection of the population, ensuring employment and stabilization of the economy can be applied in Armenia with certain adjustments.
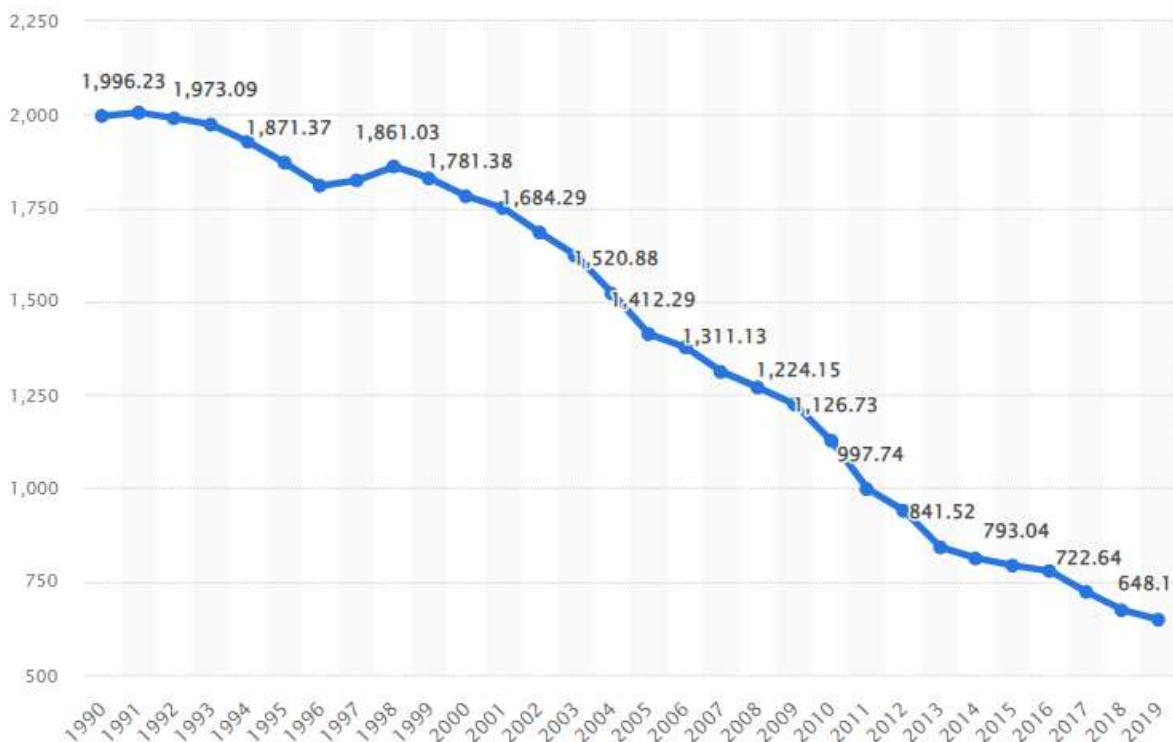
The system of social protection measures, programs and laws is based on the principles of the Declaration of Human Rights, where human life is considered the highest value for society [8].

After the Second World War and the recovery of economies, all European and Eurasian countries saw a trend of increasing spending on social protection of the population.

M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

In the post-Soviet countries, these expenses were carried out mainly at the expense of the budget. Currently, the legislation of a number of post-Soviet countries envisages receipt of social protection expenses from business activities, but they remain quite small, and the majority of allocations for this purpose are made by the state budget and pension fund.

Fig. 1 The number of people with an income of less than 2.15 US$ per day in the world in 1990-2019, (million people) calculated by the purchasing power equivalent of 2017 [6]

In Western countries, the participation shares of the state, entrepreneurs and welfare recipients are also not equal. In France, Sweden, and to some extent in the USA, more than half of social protection funds are placed on entrepreneurs, in Great Britain, recipients of state assistance provide 1/5 of social spending for these purposes, the exception is Switzerland, where this figure is only 1%.

When solving the problems of social protection in the transitional conditions of the market economy, it is necessary to take into account the features of the market formation in the post-Soviet countries, which should ultimately be based on the analysis of international experience.

Let's discuss the American social protection and Swedish full employment models.

The American social protection model relies on two sources of funding: public and private.

By encouraging private entrepreneurship, the American government through tax levies affects the redistribution of national income, reducing inequality between the rich and the poor (Fig. 2).

"Causes and Consequences of Income Inequality: A Global Perspective" published by experts of the International Monetary Fund emphasizes the idea that widening income inequality is the defining challenge of our time.
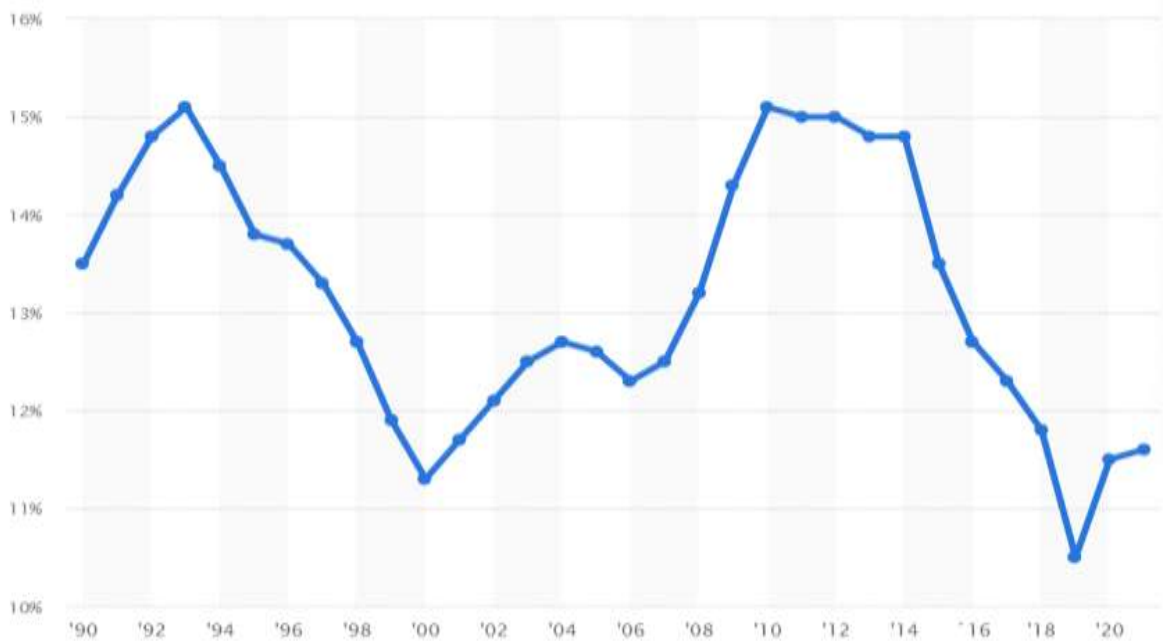
M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

Fig. 2 The number of families living below the poverty line in the USA
in 1990-2021, (1000 families) [9]

The gap between the rich and the poor in developed economies has reached its highest level in recent decades. Inequality trends have been more erratic in emerging markets and developing countries, where some countries have seen a decline in inequality, but widespread inequalities in access to education, health and finance persist.

Fig. 3 Poverty rate in the United States 1990-2021, as a percentage
of the total population [11]

M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

Therefore, it is not surprising that the extent of inequality, its motivations and the question of "what to do" about it remains very relevant in the development and implementation of socio-economic development programs of the governments of both developed and developing countries. The issues of development and solution of this problem are also urgent by both policy makers and researchers [10].
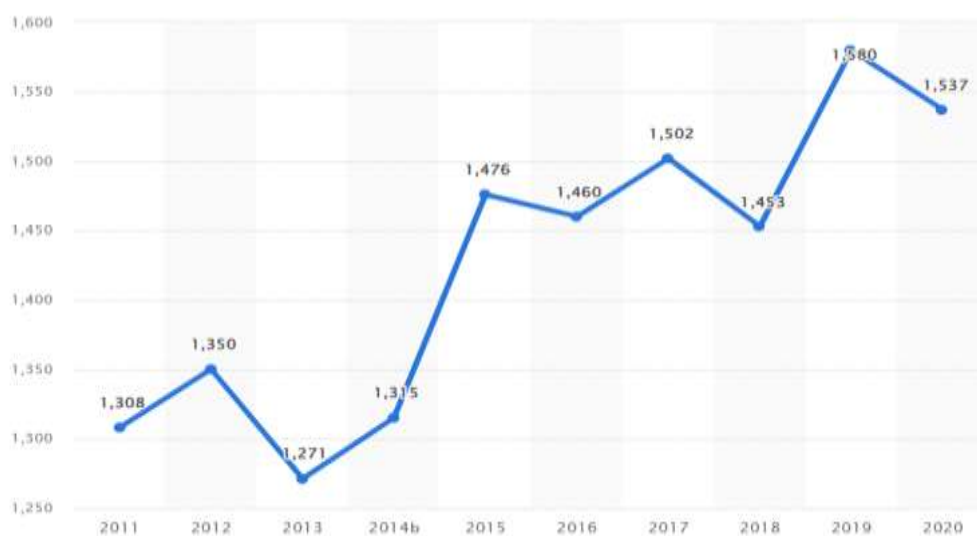
Although the poverty rate in the US in 1993-2000 had a decreasing trend, from 15.1% to 11.3%, but in 2000-2010 it increased again, from 11.3% to 15.1%. In 2010-2019, it decreased from 15.1% to 10.5%, then an increase was observed in 2021. reaching 11.6%.

In the United States, the state bears the brunt of the costs of social protection. It includes not only monetary benefits but also material assistance in the form of grocery cards, school breakfasts and lunches, special meals for pregnant women and infants, etc. In this sense, the USA is recognized by many as a "caring state", especially for children and the elderly.

The state aid fund for the unemployed is also financed by the state in one-third part.

Private social assistance is provided in various forms, such as the provision of individual sponsorship, private social insurance, and benefits paid by businesses to their employees in the event of retirement, injury and illness at work. However, this aid is not mandatory, especially in the conditions of a general decline in production.

Switzerland's experience deserves special attention in the process of programs and measures to ensure the employment of the population and reduce unemployment. Thanks to the training of the workforce, the improvement of the qualifications of specialists, the use of advanced methods of securing employment, Switzerland was able to reconstruct the industry as quickly as possible. Although structural unemployment occurs under such conditions, it was significantly reduced thanks to certain measures implemented by the Swiss government. The training of specialists in Switzerland is carried out through special organizations for 18 weeks. As a rule, people who have completed training courses later get a job. The implementation of policies aimed at ensuring full employment and reducing unemployment is accompanied by a coordinated combination of measures of the government and local self-government bodies (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4 Number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Switzerland,
2011-2020. (thousand people) [12]

M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

About 3/4 of the funds aimed at ensuring employment in Switzerland are spent on creating jobs, training employees and specialists, and implementing other measures that contribute to the professional growth of personnel. It is noteworthy that the growth of labor productivity, and therefore the economic growth of the country, depends on it.

In Switzerland people with certain physical disabilities are not forgotten. Special so-called protected jobs are created for them.

Conclusion

In the modern world, meeting the living standards and social needs of the population continues to be one of the important issues of the policies conducted by the states. In the current difficult geopolitical situation, a significant increase in food and energy prices is observed in some regions, which hinders the improvement of the population's standard of living. Especially the study of the experience of the formation and distribution of the income of the population of the advanced countries of the present world, such as the USA and Switzerland, and especially the tools used in this field can be very useful for developing countries, including Armenia, taking into account the features of the republic and the nuances of the tool's application and localization and apply them in socio-economic programs and in raising the standard of living of individual groups of the population, in solving both short-term and long-term problems.

The states are trying to solve this problem by applying various tools that can be useful for implementing an effective social policy in Armenia.

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ԲՆԱԿՉՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԵԿԱՄՈՒՏՆԵՐԻ ԲԱՇԽՄԱՆ ՀԻՄՆԱԽՆԴԻՐՆԵՐԸ ԵՎ ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ԿԱՐԳԱՎՈՐՄԱՆ ԳՈՐԾԻՔԱԿԱԶՄԸ

Մ. Ա. Մարկոսյան
«Քաղաքագիտական, իրավագիտական և տնտեսագիտական հետազոտությունների և կանխատեսումների» ՀԿ

Աշխարհում շարունակաբար փորձեր են ծեռնարկվում բազմակողմանիորեն գնահատելու և չափելու ինչպես գլոբալ առումով, այնպես էլ բնակչության առանձին խմբերի կենսամակարդակի և բարեկեցության առաջընթացին վերաբերող ցուցանիշները: Սոցիալական վիճակի գնահատումը և չափումը բարդ գործընթաց է, քանի որ «բնակչության կենսամակարդակ» և «կյանքի որակ» հասկացությունները բազմավեկտոր են և դժվար հաշվարկելի ու գնահատվող:

Յուրաքանչյուր պետության, դրա բնակչության առանձին սոցիալական խմբերի և տարածքների (նահանգներ, շրջաններ, մարզեր, այլն) սոցիալական առաջընթացի բավարար ճշգրտությամբ գնահատումը և չափումը, կարևոր գործոն է հանդիսանում բնակչության անհավասարության ցուցանիշների որոշման համար: Այն պետք է հիմք հանդիսանա պետության սոցիալական քաղաքականության սկզբունքների և մոտեցումների, բնակչության առանձին խմբերի (հատկապես՝ սոցիալապես խոցելի), բնակչության եկամուտների և ծախսերի արդյունավետ կառավարման միջոցով սոցիալական արդյունավետ քաղաքականություն իրականացնելու համար: Այդպիսի քաղաքականության ձևավորման հիմք է հանդիսանում սոցիալական հիմնախնդիրների բացահայտումը և դրանց լուծման ուղիների բացահայտումը: Սոցիալական ուղղվածության ծրագրերը կարող են իրականացվել ինչպես կարճաժամկետ, այնպես էլ երկարաժամկետ կտրվածքներով: Բնակչության եկամուտների բաշխման և պետական

M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

կարգավորման խնդիրների ձևավորումը և դրան հասնելու գործիքականգմի փնտրտուքը պետք է դառնա պետության կողմից իրականացվող քաղաքականության առանցքային բաղադրիչներից մեկը։ Նկատի ունենալով սոցիալական քաղաքականության իրականացման դժվարությունները և այդ քաղաքականության մշակման ընթացքում համապատասխան գործիքականգմի կիրառումը արդիական խնդիր է դառնում բնակչության եկամուտների ձևավորման և բաշխման ընդհանուր միտումների բացահայտումը և բնութագրումը։ Որպես առաջին քայլ անհրաժեշտ է կատարել առաջավոր ազատ շուկայական հարաբերություններ ունեցող երկրների փորձի ուսումնասիրություն և վերլուծել Հայաստանում դրանց տեղայնացման հնարավորությունները՝ սոցիալական քաղաքականության գործիքականգմի ընտրության և ընդլայնման համար։ Անհրաժեշտ է գնահատել նաև աղքատության դեմ պայքարի կիրառվող գործիքականգմի և իրականացված քաղաքականության արդյունքայունությունը՝ համեմատելով Հայաստանի և հարևան պետությունների համապատասխան ցուցանիշները։

Բանալի բառեր. եկամուտների բաշխման անհավասարություն, եկամուտների համակենտրոնացման գործակից (Ջինիի ինդեքս), սոցիալական առաջընթաց, սոցիալական ինդեքս, սոցիալական խմբեր

ФУНДАМЕНТАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ РАСПРЕДЕЛЕНИЯ ДОХОДОВ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ И ИНСТРУМЕНТЫ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО РЕГУЛИРОВАНИЯ

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ОО по политологическим, правовым, экономическим исследованиям и прогнозированию

В мире постоянно предпринимаются попытки комплексной оценки и измерения показателей, связанных с прогрессом уровня жизни и благосостояния как в глобальном масштабе, так и для отдельных групп населения. Оценка и измерение социального состояния – сложный процесс, поскольку понятия «уровень жизни населения» и «качество жизни» многовекторны и сложны для подсчета и оценки.

Оценка и измерение социального прогресса каждого государства, отдельных социальных групп и территорий (штатов, областей и т.п.) с достаточной точностью является важным фактором определения показателей неравенства населения. Оно должно стать основой реализации эффективной социальной политики через принципы и подходы социальной политики государства, отдельных групп населения (особенно социально уязвимых), эффективного управления доходами и расходами населения. Основой формирования такой политики является выявление социальных проблем и определение путей их решения. Социально ориентированные программы могут реализовываться как в краткосрочной, так и в долгосрочной перспективе. Формирование проблем распределения доходов населения и государственного регулирования, поиск инструментов для их достижения должны стать одной из ключевых составляющих политики, реализуемой государством. Учитывая трудности

M.A.Markosyan
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION INCOME DISTRIBUTION
AND STATE REGULATION INSTRUMENTS

реализации социальной политики и использования соответствующих инструментов при разработке этой политики, выявление и характеристика общих тенденций формирования и распределения доходов населения становится актуальным вопросом. В качестве первого шага необходимо изучить опыт стран с развитыми свободными рыночными отношениями и проанализировать возможности их локализации в Армении для выбора и расширения инструментов социальной политики. Также необходимо оценить эффективность используемых инструментов борьбы с бедностью и реализуемой политики, сравнивая соответствующие показатели Армении и соседних стран.