ISSUES ON QUALITY OF MATERIAL LIFE OF DWELLERS IN BARU RURAL COMMUNITY (HUNEDOARA COUNTY)

ASPECTE PRIVIND CALITATEA VIEȚII MATERIALE A LOCUITORILOR COMUNITĂȚII RURALE BARU (JUDEȚUL HUNEDOARA)

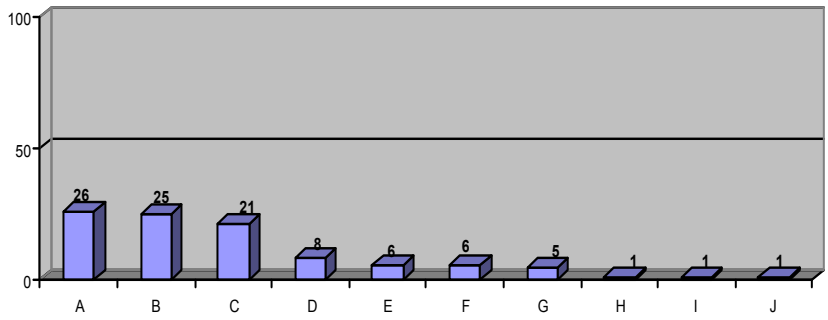
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Abstract: *This sociological research was carried out in rural community of Baru in Hunedoara County during the month of July 2010 on a group of 248 subjects aiming to highlight the materials and financial conditions of the inhabitants of this area.*

Keywords*: quality of material life, needs and resources, budget revenue and expenditure, rural development.*

The concerns of the investigated subjects on the most serious problems facing the residents of Baru rural community are focused on financial and material aspects, more than three-quarters of respondents giving them prevailed.



A –unemployment/ lack of workplaces;
B - poverty / financial problems;
C – economic instability;
D – price rocketing;
E – corruption ;
F – possible new layoffs;
G – medical problems / inadequate healthcare;
H – increased number of abandoned children;
I – lack of dwelling places ;
J – juvenile delinquency / crime.

Fig. 1 - Most serious problems facing the residents of Baru community (%)

The main indicator showing the financial situation and mostly, the quality of material life of the inhabitants of a community is the average income per family member.

Figure no. 2 shows that the traditional rural family - type i.e. the extended family (family, which includes in addition to spouses and children, a greater number of blood relatives / several generations) has lost its significance, the predominant family being the nucleus type family (husband, wife and their underage children). Baru community has about a third of the families investigated composed of two people, usually the married couple, and only about one-fifth is made up of more than three persons. There is one person living alone under a fifth of cases. Of course, this situation is influenced by the migration of young people to find a job.

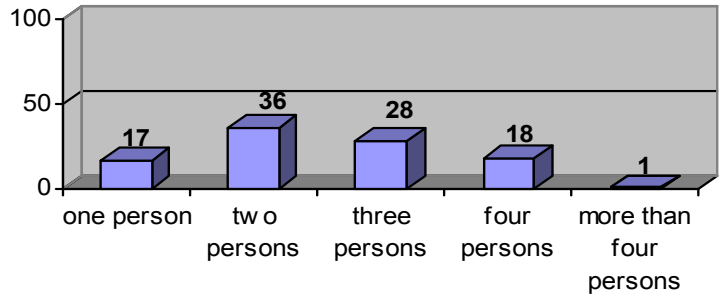


Fig.2 - Number of family members of subjects (%)

The income of the families of the investigated subjects does not show significant variations between income categories; moreover, almost two thirds of them have a budget exceeding 1,000 lei, which under current conditions may be considered positive.

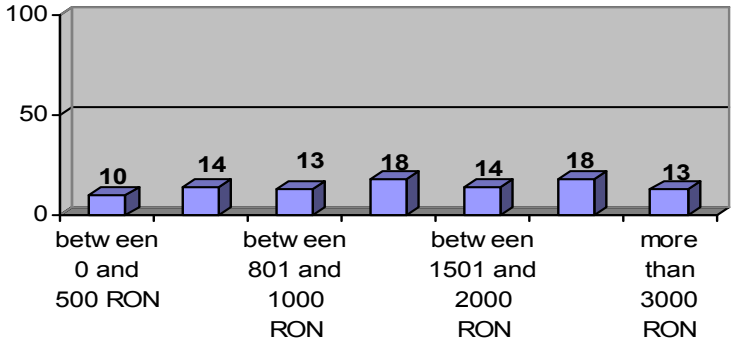


Fig. 3 – Family income (%)

The indicator of monthly average income per family member was calculated as the average of the extreme values of intervals except the first and last interval, where that amount was considered as being 500 and 3,000 lei. This average was divided by the number of family members, giving the situation shown in Table 1, which concludes the following:

Table 1 - Correlation between family income and number of persons in family (income per family member**)**

Income / Families		Up to 500 lei included	Between 501-800 lei	Between 801-1000 lei	Between 1001-1500 lei	Between 1501-2000 lei	Between 2001-3000 lei	More than 3000 lei	Total
1 person	%	37,0	34,0	12,0	15,0	2,0	--	--	41=100
	average income per family member lei	500	650	900	1250	1750	--	--	
2 persons	%	7,0	14,0	22,0	17,0	15,0	15,0	10,0	89=100
	average income per family member lei	250	325	450	625	875	1250	1500	
3 persons	%	1,0	8,0	6,0	23,0	19,0	20,0	23,0	70=100
	average income per family member lei	170	216	300	416	583	833	1000	
4 persons	%	7,0	2,0	7,0	16,0	20,0	30,0	18,0	44=100
	average income per family member lei	125	163	225	312	438	625	750	
5 persons	%	--	--	--	--	--	75,0	25,0	4=100
	average income per family member lei	--	--	--	--	--	500	600	
Total		25	34	32	44	36	43	34	248=100
		10,0	14,0	13,0	18,0	14,0	17,0	14,0	

- over two thirds of people living alone in the house situate in roughly equal proportions within the ranges of up to 500 lei and between 501 and 800 lei and income per "family", with an average income per person of 500, respectively of 650 lei.
- families consisting of two people are better placed than the first category considering income ranges per household, but also in terms

of average income per family member, more than half of the investigated family members benefits from the minimum income of 625 lei .

- normally, the income of families with three or more persons is higher, since there can many of those with an income, but if the income of each persons is small, then the average income per family member falls.

It follows that, in general, family income and the average monthly income per family member are, roughly speaking, relatively modest.

This assessment is supported by the fact that 10% of families have a monthly income of up to 250 lei, and 45% - up to 500 lei. But consideration should be taken to that this income is calculated from the "gross" income of the family, which is greatly diminished if we consider that a good part is intended to pay utilities, taxes etc. Authoritative opinion argues that a daily average income of less than 3 € a day means absolute poverty, which means that about one quarter of the inhabitants would be in this situation.

The evaluation of subjects on the income in relation to family needs (Figure 4) is enlightening on the precarious material and financial situation mentioned above. Thus, almost one fifth of families are unable to meet even the basic necessities, while 60% is below the level of a decent living.

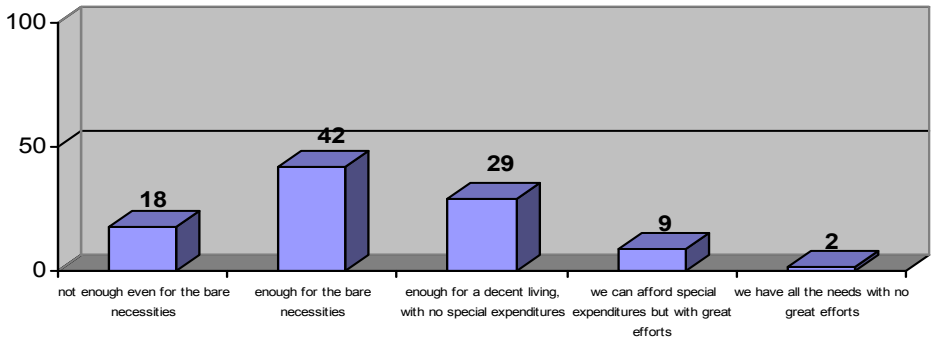


Fig. 4 -Evaluation of subjects on the income in relation to family needs (%)

The precarious situation of incomes of families subjected to investigation is also reflected by the fact that three-quarters of them cannot save money. (Figure 5). The effort to make savings by a quarter of families is determined

primarily by the "worries in relation to future" (so as to overcome special circumstances and be able to have some decent medical care) and by the wish / hope to buy some goods of higher value. (Figure 6).

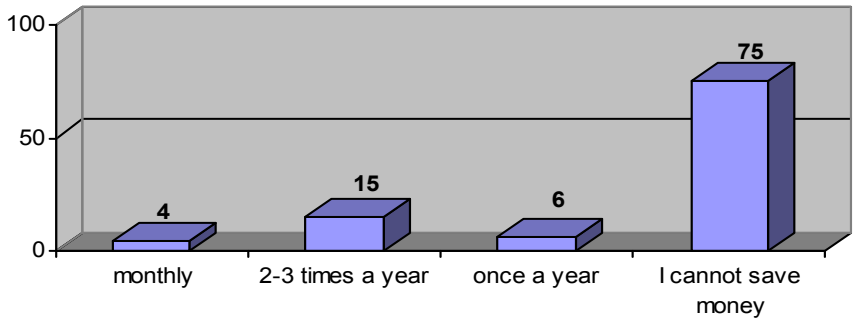


Fig. 5 – Possibility to save money (%)

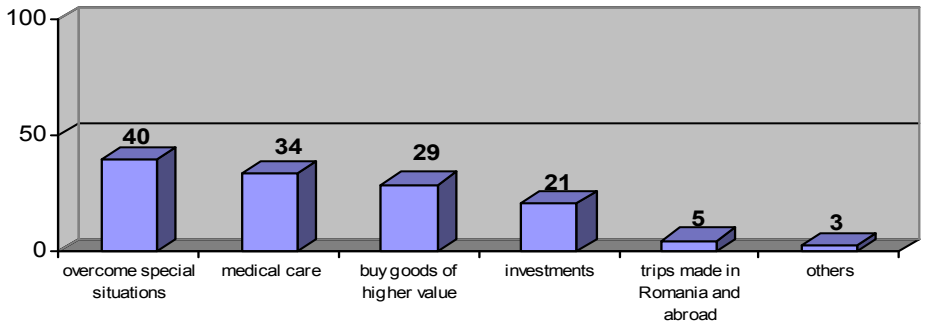


Fig. 6 – Destination of savings (%)

It is undeniable that in terms of expenditure family budget, the lower revenues are, the higher is the proportion for food / nutrition. At an income to ensure a decent living, food gets about 30% of revenues.

Table 2 comprises percentages for food; they show that almost two thirds of the population Baru community does not fall into the decent living standards, just over one third allocating for food up to 30% of budget revenues. The fact that over one quarter of the families investigated spends

more than 50% for food and about two thirds more than 30% reflects the insufficient income of these families.

The hierarchy of expenditures to meet different needs, after meals and housekeeping expenditures, ranks maintenance / health care with more than one-fifth, with more than 10%.

It is normal that a modest income budget should have a reduced amount spent on alcohol and tobacco, only 12% of families spending more than 10% of the budget for this purpose.

Percentage spent on clothing and footwear is also quite modest, similar to the one for house maintenance, in both cases amounting to only 14%, more than 10% of the budget, and the percentage intended to fit out home with household goods or durables is confined almost entirely to 10%.

Normally, the amounts for transportation and telecommunications are quite low, given that, one probably spends more on telecommunications than on transportation as it is a small rural community. Transport costs consist of few travels to town.

Culture, education is also suffering, only 15% of the investigated families considering over 10% of the family income and those mostly for children education / school.

Table 2 - Percentage of monthly family income provided to the following products and services (%)

	Answer options								
%	between 0 and 5%	between 6 and 10%	between 11 and 20%	between 21 and 30%	between 31 and 40%	between 41 and 50%	between 51 and 60%	more than 60%	Total
food and nonalcoholic beverages	2,0	3,0	12,0	19,0	18,0	18,0	11,0	17,0	248=100
household maintenance	14,0	43,0	29,0	9,0	4,0	1,0	--	--	248=100
medicines and medical care	46,0	31,0	17,0	4,0	1,0	1,0	--	--	248=100
alcoholic beverages and tobacco	69,0	19,0	9,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	--	--	248=100
clothing and footwear	53,0	33,0	10,0	3,0	1,0	--	--	--	248=100
fit out home with household goods	70,0	22,0	5,0	2,0	1,0	--	--	--	248=100
culture, education and recreation	60,0	23,0	14,0	2,0	1,0	--	--	--	248=100
transportation and tele-communica-tions	52,0	37,0	10,0	1,0	--	--	--	--	248=100

The information reveals that the life quality of Baru community is close to subsistence level which, to their opinion, will come down in the future.

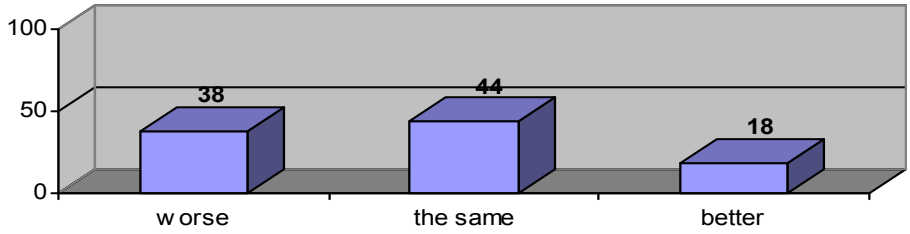


Fig.7 - Evaluation of those interviewed in relation to the living standard in the near future (%)

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