# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE OF SĂLAŞU DE SUS (HUNEDOARA COUNTY) RURAL COMMUNITY POPULATION

# ASPECTE ECONOMICE ŞI SOCIALE PRIVIND VIAȚA LOCUITORILOR COMUNITĂȚII RURALE SĂLAŞU DE SUS (JUDEȚUL HUNEDOARA)

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***Abstract:*** *The sociological investigation was carried out in Sălaşu de Sus rural community, Hunedoara County, in July 2011, on a batch of 247 subjects, with the objective of highlighting the principal aspects regarding life quality of the respective area population.*

***Key words:*** *quality of material life, economic standard, income and expenditure budget, rural development*

Definition of life condition of any segment of population can be achieved by getting acquainted with a significant number of parameters; some refer to economic support of existence, and others to everyday life conditions, etc. Within these parameters however, the important role is played by the economic support.

Economic support, which sustains the life of any family, includes in fact the income, mobile and immobile goods possessed, as well as the sums of money deposited in banks. Income, mainly what is regularly obtained along a year, play an important part in satisfying the population's need of consumption.

Analyzing Fig. 1, we notice that the only one fifth of the families have more than Lei 2000 income, which in the existing social economic conditions in our country means a relatively modest financial level of resources.

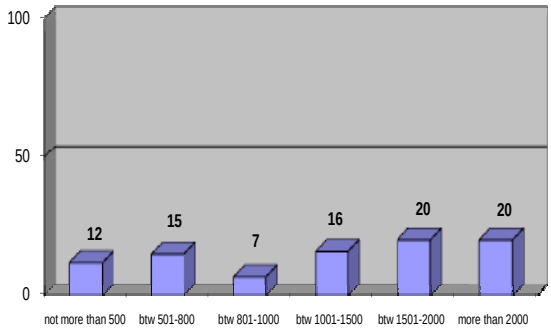



**Fig. 1 Family income (%)**

Appreciation of the budget of income versus family needs by the subjects (Fig. 2) is edifying regarding the poor material-financial situation mentioned above. Thus, one fifth of the families cannot satisfy their strictest needs, and approximately 60% are below the level of a decent life.

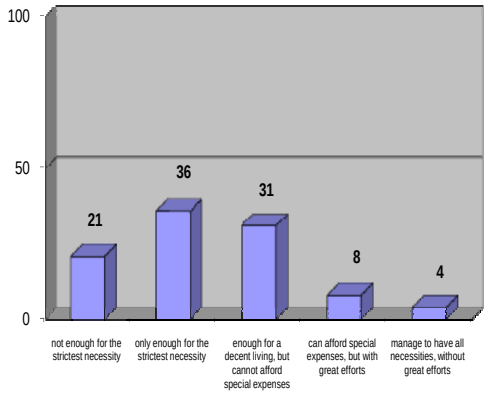



**Fig. 2 Subjects' appreciation of the family income (%)**

The poor situation of the income of the investigated families is also reflected by the fact that three quarters of those are unable to save money. The effort made by one quarter of the families is determined, in the first place, by the "consideration for tomorrow" (to overcome special situation and medical care) and the desire/hope to procure more expensive possessions. (Fig. 3).

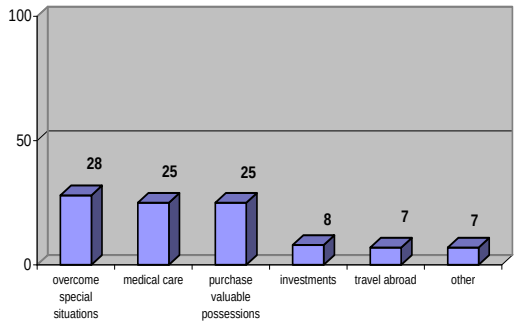



**Fig. 3 Destination of the subjects' economies(%)**

In the families' budget of expenditures, the order of priorities is food, utilities - so-called social expenses – medication, and medical care. It is obvious that the smaller the income, the larger is the share intended to food. For an income providing for a decent living, approximately 30% of the income goes to foodstuff. Half of the population of Sălaşu de Sus fall into the category of decent living, with 30% of their income allotted to victuals. The fact that more than one third of the families investigated assign more than 40% for foodstuff reflect the insufficient revenues of those families.

The characterization of the lifestyle from a material point of view in the periods after 1989, 1990-1999, 2000-2009, and 2010, is shown in Fig. 4, where the worsening of the quality of life after 1989 is manifest, the year 2010 being the worst.

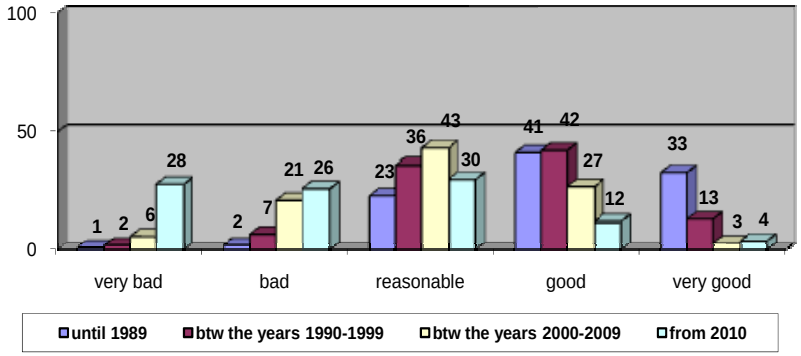



**Fig. 4. Life style characterization from material point of view in certain periods (%)**

Merging the variants very bad with bad and very good with good, the following situation occurs:

| | very bad+bad | good+very good |
|---|---|---|
| before 1990 | 3,0 | 74,0 |
| between 1990-1999 | 9,0 | 55,0 |
| between 2000-2009 | 27,0 | 30,0 |
| in 2010 | 54,0 | 16,0 |

Even if it might be about a deformed perception, nostalgia for the elderly, or "hearsay" for the younger generation, the situation can be considered dramatic. If for the years 2009 and 2010 one can claim the degradation of the living conditions as a result of the economic crisis, what is the explanation for the previous years?

The prospect of the immediate evolution (2-3 years) is more sombre, both at the level of the Romanian society, and of the Sălaşu de Sus community (Fig. 5). The respondents however, appreciate the degradation of the living standard at the level of the entire society sooner, than at the level of their community. Thus, half of those consider that the situation will be worse and much worse in Romania, and only approximately one third

consider that the worsening of the situation will affect their village. The pessimism of the investigated subjects regarding the possibility of social-economic comeback at the two levels is shown in the rather low percentage of the optimistic ones(better+much better situation), 16% and 27%, respectively.

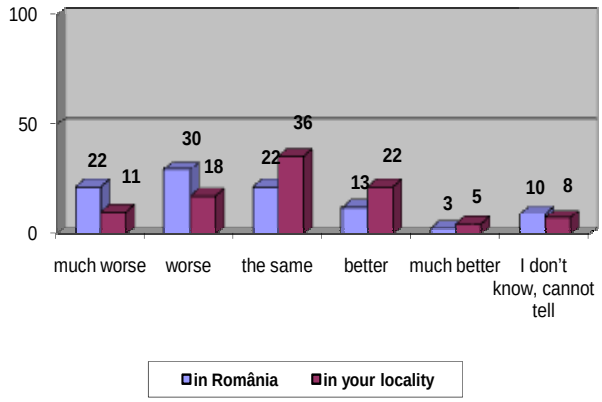



**Fig. 5. Subjects' appreciation of the social-economic situation in 2-3 years (%)**

A higher rate of optimism is seen in the appreciation of the social-economic situation over a longer period – 10 years – when the situation is seen as being worse and much worse by 29% at national level, and 18% at local level, whereas 24% and 30%, respectively, appreciated that it would be better and much better. The position of the disoriented is not without significance, more than a third(36% and 34%, respectively) cannot tell what would be happening, what to be expected (Fig. 6).

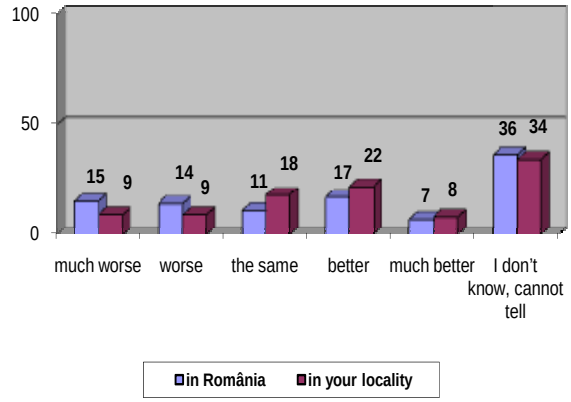



**Fig. 6. Subjects' appreciation of the social-economic situation in 10 years(%)**

Figs. 7, 8, and 9 show the degree of satisfaction of Sălaşu de Sus community, regarding various social-economic aspects influencing their lives.

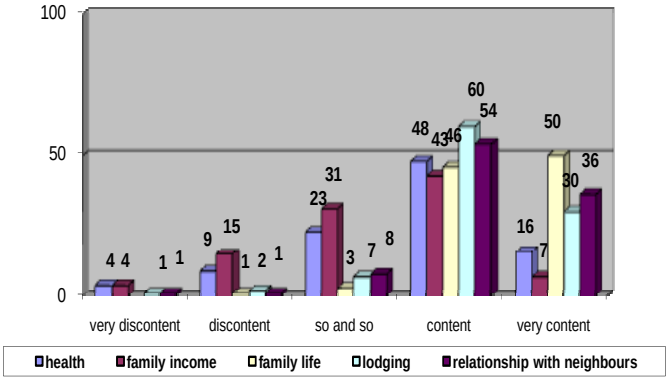



**Fig. 7 Subjects' satisfaction with the following aspects(%)**

Fig. 7 shows that out of the aspects presented, the degree of satisfaction with a certain significance is family income, which for

discontent and very discontent collects one fifth of the expressed options. At the positive extreme value, the first place is satisfaction with family life, with 96%, followed by satisfaction with the lodging and relationship with the neighbours, with 90% each.

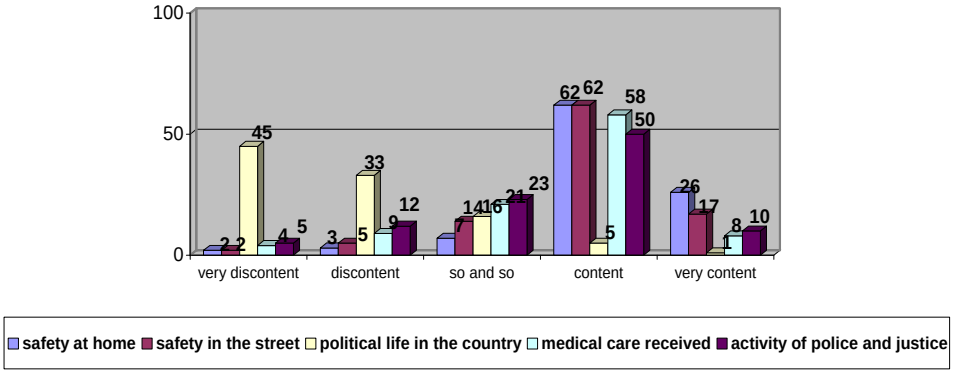



**Fig. 8 Subjects' satisfaction with the following aspects(%)**

By merging the two variants, as in the previous figure, Fig. 8 shows that out of the aspects presented there, but not only but for the other aspects presented in Figs. 7 and 9, the political life in the country reaches the highest level of discontent by far, with more than three quarters of the opinions. The highest degree of discontent in this representation is manifest in a proportion of three quarters regarding what the respondents and their families succeeded to achieve in their lives, in the difficult conditions that Romanian society endured. Similarly, significant percentages of satisfaction were recorded by environment quality and leisure time. Consequently, two thirds of the respondents declare themselves satisfied and very satisfied with everyday life.

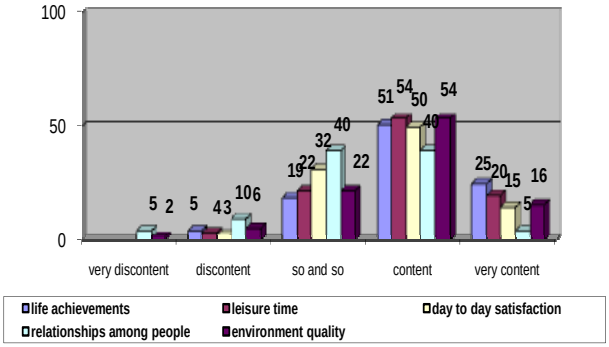



**Fig. 9 Subjects' satisfaction with the following aspects (%)**

The community peacefulness is limited to family level and to the hope that the local leaders will go on with their good intentions to help them, naturally within the limits of their possibilities.

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