

THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT FROM BIHOR COUNTY

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Abstract

The village is a socio-economic community, consisting of a conglomerate of individual peasant households, agricultural labor and a certain cultural and moral life

The rural environment is polyvalent and multifunctional (Miftode V.)

Competition between towns and villages in Bihor County is in the disadvantage of the latter, which is why bihor villages try through their transformation to become an attraction for a civilized and decent life, often with the risk of losing their identity and values.

Key words: rural environment, economic development, rural population

INTRODUCTION

On the territory of Bihor County, the rural area is the oldest and most popular type of human settlement.

Over time, rural space has passed through numerous transformations that currently have effects on the development of the rural community. For example, it can be mentioned the existence of a socialist system that has had negative effects on the rural population, which is still felt today.

Changes after 1989 didn't bring a balance in the development of rural society, fact for which they are still looking for a path whose end would represent prosperity and the future.

At present, if we take into analysis many aspects of the rural environment in the county, we will notice that today's village is not the same as a few decades ago. Some transformations have had some positive effects and others although they were necessary couldn't be put into practice because the rural population did not look with good eyes at these transformations.

At present in rural areas we can speak of a "conflict" between the aging, traditional, conservative population and the young, modern, receptive to the new population.





Within the county the villages failed to keep up with the economic and social development of the cities so that in all segments the villages lost against the cities (eg the migration of the rural population to the urban environment due to the lack of jobs in the villages).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The rural settlements in the county of Bihor are well-built and comprise 91 communes and 430 villages, distributed within all the relief facilities.

To make an analysis of bihorn villages, it is first necessary to know them after the way they relate to different criteria. This knowledge is important because, depending on the profile of each village, it can be established its own ways of development.

One of the most important classification criteria is that of the size. Thus, on the territory of Bihor County we distinguish:

-  small villages with only a few hundred inhabitants (maximum 500), characteristic of mountain areas: Tomnatic, Zece Hotare, Damiş in Pădurea Craiului Mountains, Băiţa, Poiana in Bihor Mountains;
-  medium-sized villages (with between 500 and 1,500 inhabitants), spread in hill areas: Boianu Mare, Spinuş, Viişoara, Vărzari;
-  large villages (1,500-4,000 inhabitants) located in the plain and hill areas: Abram, Borod, Diosig;
-  very large villages (over 4,000 inhabitants), especially in the plain area: Batăr, Ciumeghiu.

The functions of rural settlements are conditioned primarily by the possibility of using natural resources complex.

Thus, in the plain area there are settlements of cereal crops and livestock breeding. In this category are included almost all the rural settlements on the territory of the Crişuri Plain.

In addition to the main function, there may appear some specialization trends that contribute to a better use of human and natural potential. For example, in Cefa, a secondary occupation is pisciculture, practiced in the hatcheries in this area.

In the hilly and mountainous areas, the character of the settlements also changes. There are tendencies of specialization in pomiculture and viticulture, especially in the field with the hills contact area; in the mountain area thanks to the relief the basic specialization consists in animal breeding.

The rural environment in Bihor County faces the same problems existing in other villages located in different regions of România. Thus, the villages of Bihor County located in the mountain area (Zece Hotare, Poiana, Damiş) face serious problems related to: very low communication potential (lack or poor existence of access routes, lack of telephone communication

network, lack of TV network transmission or radio), the lack of facilities of public interest, the existence of an aging and feminised population, low natality, the existence of unused land due to the lack of young labor, etc.

As we descend to the inferior steps, some of these problematic situations find their solution, but not always entirely (for example, there are even in the plain area villages that doesn't benefit from the existence of the sewerage network, or villages in the hill area that don't own electricity or a drinking water network in all households).

The existence of the aging population in the mountain area will determine over the years the predominance of abandoned households, which will eventually lead to the disappearance of these rural settlements.

The most important component part of rural life is the population.

In Bihor County there are many villages where the population has values such as: goodness, purity, wealth, simplicity, values that are kept with holiness by the elderly population and young people who grew up in traditional families. Besides these values, the most important elements in the rural community are *earth, faith and family*. Such villages are especially situated in the Beiuș depression, the Vad-Borod depression and the villages of the Apuseni Mountains.

The rural community in the county places a special emphasis on preservation and conservation of traditions given the fact that the young population tends to modernize. There are two ways through which they try to keep traditions at the current odds. The first one involves the stimulation of artistic creation and the second one refers to the introduction of popular craftsmen in the national tourist circuit (eg Vadu Crișului, Roșia, Budureasa). As a result, the Bihor rural environment is favourable to the development of rural tourism and especially agrotourism.

The economic activity in the Bihor rural area highlights a number of aspects of which we mention:

- people in rural areas are in a low proportion in economic activity;

- Bihorian people are not very interested in personal development;

- rural people are more interested in professional achievement.

The rural environment is an area where the activities of the primary sectors (agriculture, forestry) play an important role. For the harmonious development of this space, it is necessary that these primary activities intertwine with activities specific to the urban environment, such as: processing activities and services.

The struggle for economic development is not in favor of Bihorland villages. The fact that is practiced a subsistence farming, the aging population, the migration of young people to cities, the lack of qualified

labour are just some of the elements that make the rural area a non-interested market for investment.

CONCLUSION

The rural community for its development must benefit of the elaboration of some economic, social and cultural strategies.

Economic strategies must be based on sustained funding for agriculture, timely grant of subventions - subsidy amounts should be more consistent - rural infrastructure development and local initiatives stimulation.

Socially, particular attention should be paid to vulnerable people, such as the elderly and young people up to 18 years of age. At community level, support should provide human living conditions, care for public health care and food safety.

The existence of a decent living standard and an active social life will also determine a cultural plan for the development of artistic creation.

The solution for the survival of the bihor villages is a process of modernization which unfortunately hasn't started everywhere - with a few exceptions Vadu Crișului and Vârciorog.

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