

Overcoming of Poverty and Inequality as Condition of Steady Social Development of Regions



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Abstract. For maintenance of economic security steady dynamic development of the system, permanent height of standard of living of population, is needed in a country, regardless of affecting her unfavorable external and internal factors. The basic problem of steady social development of regions is an unsolved to present tense problem of poverty and inequality. The aim of the real article is research of social development of Russia in a dynamics by realization of comparative analysis of quantitative indexes of level of poverty in a country and in her separate regions, level of inequality, exposure of reasons of decline of standard of living of population and development of recommendations on overcoming of poverty and inequality, height of welfare of population. The dialectical method of research of processes and phenomena, analysis of the systems and comparative, method of expert estimations, methods of groupment, tabular, abstractly-logical method, synthesis, is in-process used. As a result of undertaken a study of social development of Russia it is educed the method of expert estimations a standard of living of population is at low level and is the serious threat of economic and social security of country. 10 is educed the most poor regions of Russia, where the level of poverty makes the fourth of population of these regions practically, and in separate regions he makes a to 40% population from 30%. The problem of social inequality, that arose up after disintegration of the USSR and remains extremely actual for modern Russia, is certain major reason of falling of standard of living of population. On results an analysis drawn conclusion about the necessity of structural alteration of economy, changing of economic model of development of Russia on the whole. Recommendations worked out by an author on overcoming of inequality and poverty, driven to work, will assist perfection of socio-economic regional development of Russia, and also steady social development of regions.

Keywords: standard of living of population, development of regions, level of poverty, social development, threat of economic security, remuneration of labour, real incomes of population, size of living wage.

I. INTRODUCTION

The economic security of the system, according to many experts, implies the preservation of sovereignty, sustainable dynamic development of the system, a constant increase in the standard of living of the population under the influence of adverse external and internal factors.

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For example, Abalkin L.I. [1] considered economic security as a state of the economic system that allows it to develop dynamically and efficiently, as well as successfully solve social problems, the most important of which is the fight against poverty.

Social protection of the population is one of the priority areas of social policy in Russia, which includes, first of all, "getting rid of absolute poverty" [2]. At the same time, the share of budget expenditures for the article "Social Policy" over the past two years has been reduced compared to 2017 from 5.08 trillion rubles and amounted to 4.962 trillion rubles in 2018, and 5.054 trillion rubles in 2019 [2].

The work devoted to the improvement of living standards and the fight against poverty has been the subject of the work of many academic economists and sociologists [3-7]. Domestic and foreign scientists have also been studying economic security issues, increasing and assessing the welfare of the population in the regions [8-17]. Many scientists emphasize that the effective development of the national economy, and hence economic security, is impossible without a sustainable increase in the living standards of the country's population [8]. Overcoming social inequality and smoothing out the contradictions caused by it should be one of the main missions of the public administration system in Russia [4, p.10].

Thus, the effective management of the social development of society, including social protection of the population, overcoming poverty and social inequality throughout the country and in its individual regions, is the most important state function that ensures the country's economic and national security.

II. AIMS AND TASKS

The purpose of the article is to study the social development of Russia in dynamics by conducting a comparative analysis of quantitative indicators of the poverty level in the country and in its individual regions, the level of inequality, identifying the reasons for reducing the standard of living of the population and developing recommendations for overcoming poverty and inequality, and increasing the welfare of the population.

The following tasks are aimed at achieving this goal: to analyze the extent of the poverty level in the country by comparing and analyzing this indicator in different regions of the Russian Federation; compare neighboring regions in the Southern Federal District with the Republic of Crimea in terms of poverty; identify the reasons for the decline in living standards; develop recommendations to overcome inequality and poverty, increase the welfare of the population.



As the main indicator of the study of the social development of the population of Russia, the indicator of poverty level was adopted as the recognized main social problem of Russia, the solution of which is relevant today. So, in 2003, the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin noted that poverty is the country's main social problem and the task was set to overcome it by 2010. Despite the adopted social programs for the development of health care, education, housing and demography in 2016-2017, the problems of social development, in particular, the growth of living standards of the population, have not yet been resolved. The problem is aggravated by the fact that the increase in poverty in the regions occurs, including due to the working population, that is, the level of well-being of labor resources is declining.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

As an object of study, selected regions of Russia with the highest poverty levels were selected. The subject of the study is the factors and conditions that affect sustainable social development in the regions of Russia, in particular, to reduce poverty, increase well-being and increase the standard of living of the working population. The methodological basis of the study is the totality of a number of methods, among which the main is the dialectic method of studying processes and phenomena. Also used a system and comparative analysis, a method of expert assessments, grouping methods, tabular, abstract-logical method, system synthesis.

As an information base, we used materials from statistical data of Russia (Federal State Statistics Service). The length of the time series is 2000–2019, and for the analysis of the Republic of Crimea - 2014–2018, which is determined by the period of the Republic of Crimea joining the Russian Federation as its subject, and the imposition of economic and financial sanctions on the Russian Federation, which entailed an economic crisis and a decline in living standards in the country.

The scientific contribution of this work can be defined as the expansion of the number of publications on the social development of regions. A feature of the work is the identification of 10 constituent entities of the Russian Federation with the highest poverty level as of 2018, a comparative analysis of the poverty level using the example of Moscow (as the region with the lowest poverty level) with the regions of the Southern Federal District, including with the Republic of Crimea for 2018. A comparative analysis of the poverty level of Moscow and the subjects of the Russian Federation with the highest poverty level in 2018 was also carried out. The dynamics of the poverty level in the Republic of Crimea for 2015-2018 was assessed, the dynamics of real disposable cash incomes of the Russian population for the period 2000-2017 was analyzed, the stratification of the Russian population by income level in 2015 was investigated in comparison with 1905. The reasons for the decline in living standards in the regions are identified, real threats to the country's economic and social security are substantiated; recommendations have been developed to overcome poverty and inequality, which will

contribute to the sustainable social development of the regions.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to paragraph 1, article 7 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, Russia is a social state, however, as a result of the economic crisis of 2014. and the imposition of sanctions on our country, the growth of wages and pensions has slowed and practically stopped, pensions and wages have not been indexed for several years, and the funded pension fund has been frozen.

In particular, in 2016 the average wage in Russia amounted to 36.7 thousand rubles, while at the same time, according to the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation, 4.9 million people work in the domestic economy at the minimum wage (minimum wage) level¹. In the first quarter of 2017 the number of Russian citizens living below the poverty line increased by 2 million people and amounted to 22 million people, which is 15% of the population². According to Rosstat in 2016. the proportion of people earning income below the subsistence level was 13.5% of the population³.

The poverty level in Russia in the first quarter of 2018 accounted for 13.9% (20.4 million people). The number of Russians with incomes below the subsistence level in the first quarter of 2019 increased to 20.9 million people and reached 14.3% of the population.

From May 1, 2018 the minimum wage (minimum wage) in the Russian Federation rose to the cost of living and amounted to 11163 rubles. At the same time, the subsistence level in the Republic of Crimea as of 2018 for a non-working pensioner amounted to only 8530 rubles. In 2019 The minimum wage was increased by 117 rubles and amounted to 11280 rubles, from 2020. The minimum wage was 12130 rubles. Russia spends only 0.4% of GDP on supporting the poor.

To understand who should be classified as poor, you need to understand the concept of "middle class". There are many different methods for determining the "middle class." For example, the Analytical Credit Rating Agency (ACRA) in its study defines the middle class as a category of people who receive decent wages that allow them to own real estate, a car, go on vacation abroad, not have problems with current consumption and be able to save. ACRA analysts, conducting a study in 2018 calculated that the salary of the middle class in Russia should allow a person to pay without delay: mortgage, car loan, expenses for current consumption, vacation and savings. Thus, the minimum income for this category of citizens amounted to 60 thousand rubles. On average, in Russia this indicator reached 69.1 thousand rubles, and in the largest megacities - Moscow and St. Petersburg - it grew to 121 thousand and 85 thousand rubles, respectively. In general, the share of the population that can be attributed to the middle class in Russia is about 8–9% of the population.



An increase in this category is observed only in financial centers: Moscow, St. Petersburg and the mining regions.

Given that the number of poor and those living below the poverty line is only growing from year to year, we can conclude that the social protection system is ineffective in terms of overcoming poverty.

At the same time, there has been an increase in prices for goods, products and services. For comparison, in the EU countries, citizens are considered poor whose income is less than 60% of the average per capita income in the country. If this method of assessing the level of poverty is applied to Russia, 35.8 million people will be among the poor or over 29% of the population.

Thus, all who have incomes at the minimum wage level and below automatically fall into the category of people living below the poverty line. In the first quarter of 2018 the poverty level, according to the Rosstat calculations according to the updated methodology for estimating the

cash incomes of the Russian population, was 14.2% or 20.8 million people. Let us analyze the population with cash incomes below the subsistence level in Russia as a whole for the period since 2011 to 2018 in figure 1.

The results of the study showed that, starting in 2014, the percentage of the population with cash incomes below the cost of living in Russia as a whole is growing. So, for 2018 the poverty indicator is higher than in 2014 by 1.7%, and 2011 - by 0.2%, i.e. poverty level since 2011 not only did not decrease, but rather increased, which indicates a decrease in the sustainability of the social development of the regions.

To study the poverty level in the regions by means of a comparative analysis, the subjects of the Russian Federation were selected where the highest level of poverty is observed. The results were ranked in descending order and are listed in table 1.

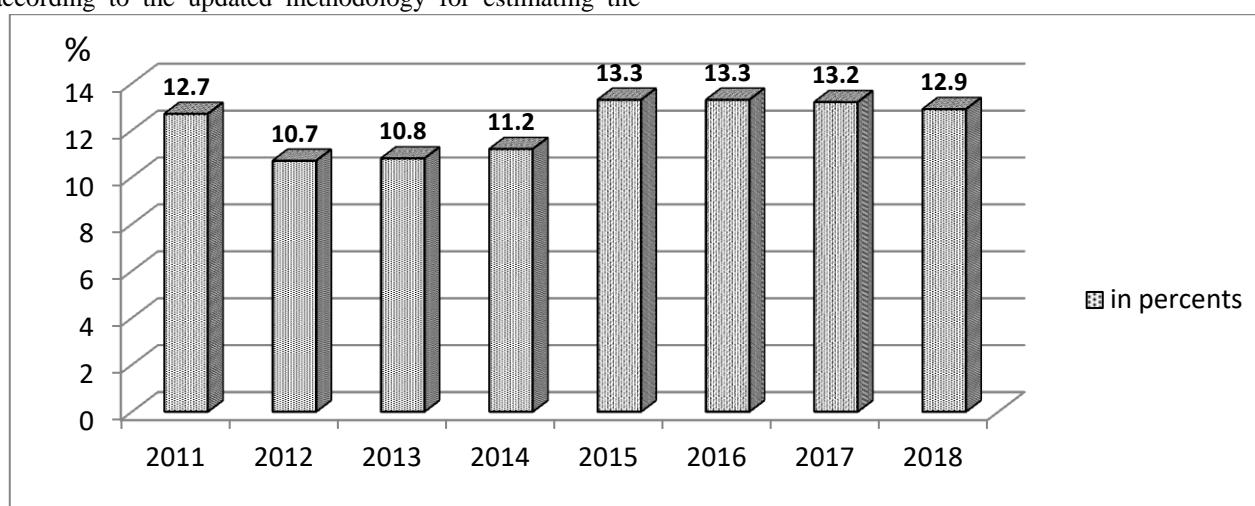


Fig. 1. The population with cash incomes below the subsistence level in Russia as a whole for the period 2011-2018. (as a percentage of the total population of the subject of the Russian Federation) Compiled by the author based on: Statistics: Population with cash incomes below the cost of living in Russia as a whole and in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://ruxpert.ru/> (accessed: 12/02/2019).

Table 1. Subjects of the Russian Federation with the highest poverty level in 2018

No	Regions	Poverty rate for 2018, %
1	Tyva Republic	40,1
2	The Republic of Ingushetia	31,9
3	Jewish Autonomous Region	24,6
4	Karachay-Cherkess Republic	24,5
5	Kabardino-Balkarian Republic	24,2
6	Republic of Kalmykia	24,2
7	Altai Republic	24,0
8	Mari El Republic	21,5
9	Zabaykalsky Krai	21,0
10	Chechen Republic	20,5

Compiled by the author based on: Statistics: Population with cash incomes below the cost of living in Russia as a whole and in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://ruxpert.ru/> (accessed: 12/02/2019).

The analysis shows that out of 85 constituent entities of the Russian Federation, 10 constituent entities, i.e. in almost 12% of the country, the standard of living is extremely low,

where the poverty rate is between 20% and 40% of the population. The Republic of Tuva, in which the poverty level makes up 40% of the population, is almost a half of all residents of this region, is particularly notable for the serious decline in living standards. In the remaining regions represented, almost a quarter of the population is classified as poor, which poses a serious threat to the country's economic security and affects the growth of tension in society.

In carrying out the study, the task was to analyze the level of poverty in the Republic of Crimea in comparison with neighboring regions. Therefore, to conduct a comparative analysis, the regions of the Southern Federal District, which includes the Republic of Crimea, were selected. The task was also to compare the results of the poverty level obtained in these regions with the most prosperous region, where the poverty level is minimal. An independent subject of the Russian Federation, Moscow, was chosen as such a region. The results of the study are listed in table 2.



Table 2. Comparative analysis of the poverty level of Moscow and the regions of the Southern Federal District with the Republic of Crimea

No	Regions	Poverty rate for 2017,%	Poverty rate for 2018,%
1	Moscow	8,3	7,2
	Southern Federal District		
2	Republic of Adygea	13,5	13,3
3	Republic of Kalmykia	27,3	24,2
4	Republic of Crimea	19,1	17,3
5	Krasnodar region	11,1	10,9
6	Astrakhan region	16,0	15,9
7	Volgograd region	14,4	13,9
8	Rostov region	13,9	13,4
9	Sevastopol	13,9	12,9

Compiled by the author based on materials: Rosstat. Statistics: Inequality and poverty. The population with cash incomes is below the subsistence level as a whole in Russia and in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. [Electronic resource]. URL: http://old.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat_main/rosstat_ru/statistics/population/poverty/# (accessed: 12/02/2019).

For greater clarity, the results of table 2 will be presented in Figure 2.

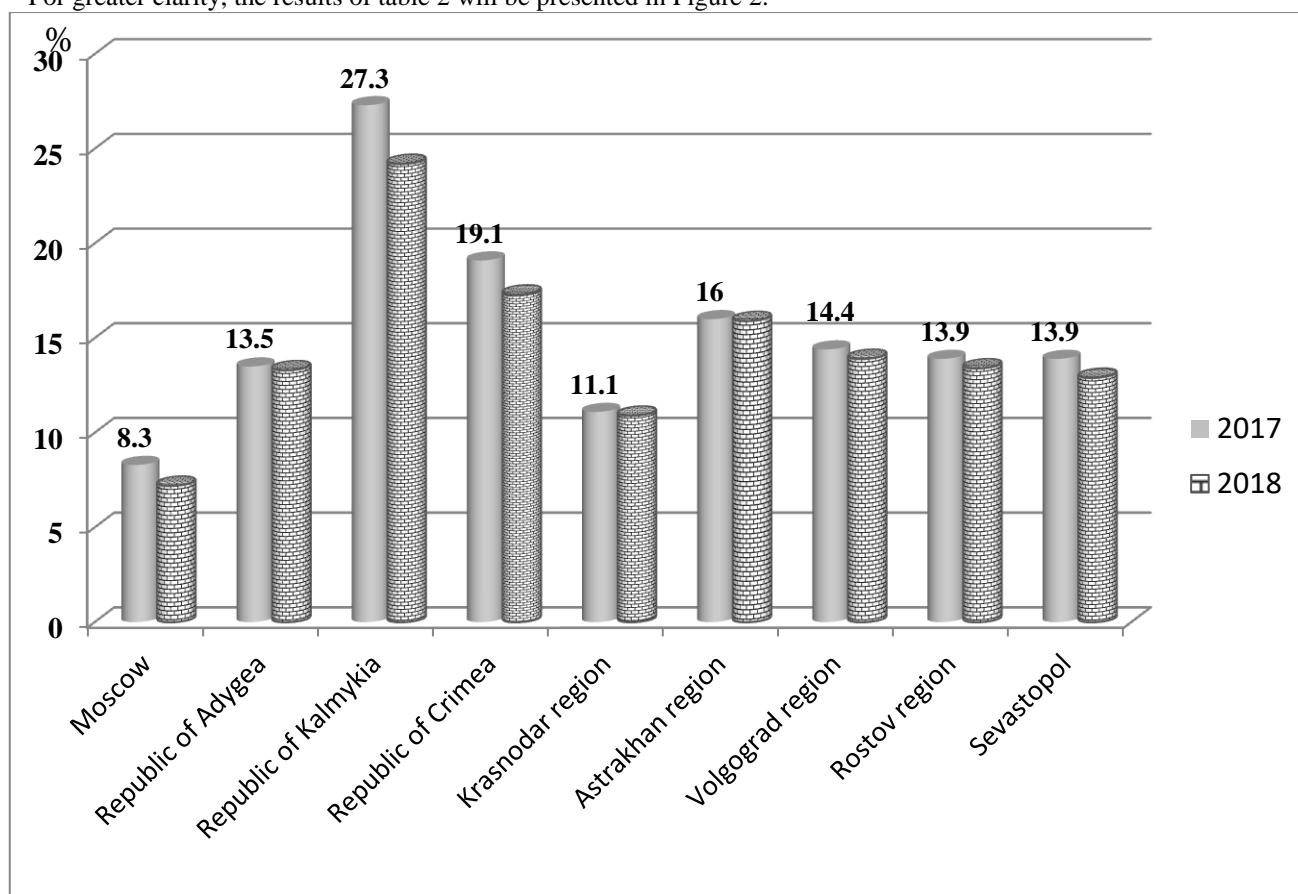


Fig. 2. The poverty level of Moscow and the regions of the Southern Federal District for 2017-2018, in percent

A comparative analysis shows that in Moscow the poverty level is minimal - 7.2%. And the Republic of Crimea, in comparison with the neighboring regions of the Southern Federal District, has practically the lowest level of social development, the poverty level is almost two times higher than in the Krasnodar Territory - 10.9%, higher than other regions, including the city of Sevastopol - 12, 9% and is 17.3%. Thus, the Republic of Crimea occupies the

penultimate place among all regions of the Southern Federal District in terms of poverty, the standard of living is lower only in the Republic of Kalmykia, where the poverty rate is 24.2%.

We also compare the poverty level in Moscow, as a subject with the lowest poverty level, and the subjects of the Russian Federation with the highest poverty level in 2018 in figure 3.

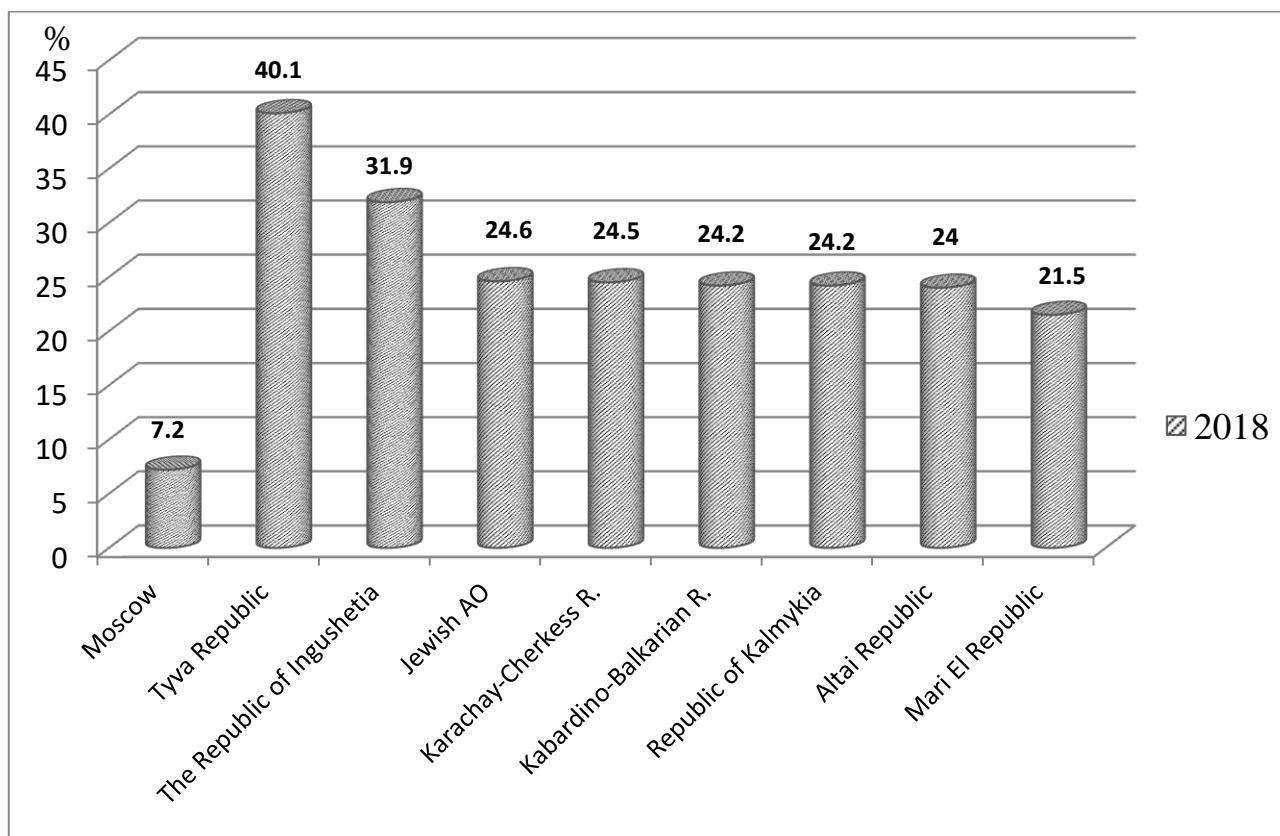


Fig. 3. The poverty level of Moscow and the constituent entities of the Russian Federation with the highest poverty level in 2018, in percent

The Republic of Tuva exceeds Moscow in terms of poverty level by 5.6 times, Ingushetia - by 4.4 times, other subjects - by more than 3 times. Those living standards in different regions of the country differ on average 3-4 times. However, in reality, this interval may be even larger. Of course, the different capacities of each region should be taken into account. However, it is necessary to strive for the most efficient use of the potentials of the regions and the equalization of such sharp imbalances in the standard of living of the population.

Let us analyze the dynamics of the poverty level in the Republic of Crimea for 2015-2018 in table 3.

Table 3. Dynamics of the poverty level in the Republic of Crimea for 2015-2018.

Region	Poverty rate by years, %			
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Republic of Crimea	23,1	23,0	19,1	17,3

Compiled by the author based on materials: Rosstat. Statistics: Inequality and poverty. The population with cash incomes is below

the subsistence level as a whole in Russia and in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. [Electronic resource]. URL: http://old.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat_main/rosstat/ru/statistic/s/population/poverty/# (accessed: 12/02/2019).

Analysis of the dynamics of the poverty level in the Republic of Crimea for 2015-2018 showed that the percentage of poverty decreases from 23.1% in 2015 to 17.3% in 2018, which indicates an increase in living standards and a decrease in the number of poor by 5.8%. The Government of the Republic of Crimea needs to strive to improve the quality of life and real incomes of the population in order to compare these indicators even with the city of Federal significance Sevastopol. And also make every effort to narrow the gap in living standards between the Republic of Crimea and the regions of the Southern Federal District. Of course, it should be taken into account that the Republic of Crimea, as a subject of the Federation, has been a part of Russia recently, starting in 2014.

To assess the sustainability of the social development of the regions, we analyze the dynamics of real disposable cash incomes of the Russian population for the period 2000-2017 in figure 4.

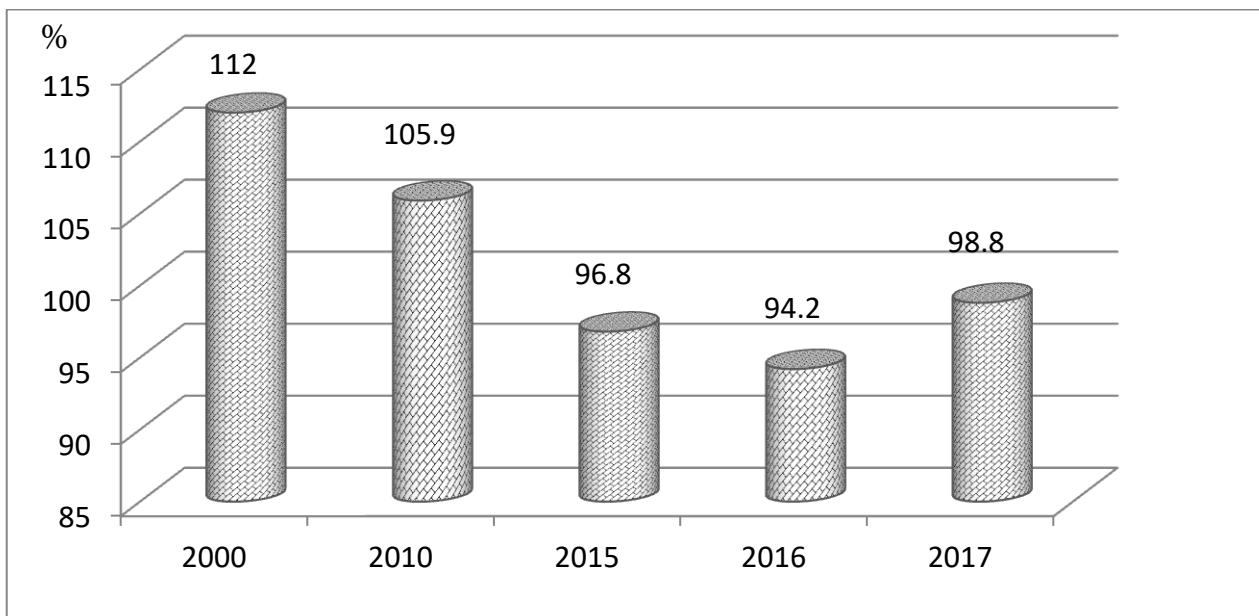


Fig. 4. Dynamics of real disposable cash income of the population of Russia for the period 2000-2017, in percent. Developed by the author based on materials: Russian Statistical Yearbook. 2018, p.142

It is noteworthy that, starting in 2015 to 2017, there was a sharp reduction in real cash incomes of the population of Russia, there is a dynamics of a steady decline in real incomes of the population, which leads to increased poverty and a drop in the standard of living of the population.

In the May Decree of 05.07.2018. The President set one of the country's most important national goals - by 2024, to achieve a 2-fold reduction in poverty, i.e. the goal is to reduce poverty to 6.4%. In 2019, according to the government's plan, the poverty level was supposed to decrease to 12%. And according to the official forecast of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation for 2019, real income growth will be 0.1%, salaries will grow by 1.5%. Such a low growth rate of real incomes of the population indicates a serious stagnation in the economy, a decrease in the stability of the social development of regions and a threat to the economic and social security of Russia.

Given the forecast of socio-economic development of Russia, GDP growth and industrial growth for the period from 2019. to 2021 no more than 2% is planned, but for 2019. GDP growth forecast - at 1.4%. In this case, the Presidential Decree of May 7, 2018, according to which Russia must make a serious breakthrough (jerk) in the economy and enter the top five world powers by 2024, is hardly achievable.

V. REASONS OF HEIGHT OF POVERTY AND FALLING OF STANDARD OF LIVING

The most important reason for the decline in living standards and, consequently, the increase in the poverty level of the population is the problem of social inequality that arose after the collapse of the USSR, which was and remains extremely relevant for modern Russia. The growing social inequality since the 1990 means the preservation of the "dominance of" capitalism for one's own people in the system of state administration "[4].

The problem of social inequality in the Russian Federation as of 2015 compared with the level of 1905. reflected in table 4 [9, p. 4].

Table 4. Stratification of the Russian population by income in 2015 in comparison with 1905

Indicators	Income level		
	maximum	middle	minimum
Population of Russia	10%	40%	50%
Share of revenue in 2015	45%	40%	18%
The share of income in 1905	45%	35%	15%

Source: compiled by the author based on materials [4].

In 2015 as in 1905 the share of income 10% of the richest people in Russia was 45%, 40% of national wealth have 40% of the population with average income and only 18% (in 2015). and 15% (1905.) all resources accounted for 50% of Russian citizens with a minimum level of income.

Many scientists attributed the sharp decline in living standards with the emergence in Russia of big business in the mid-1990s with the advent of "so-called "new Russians", who carried out a rapid seizure of power and property, with extensive use of power non-economic methods of redistribution" [5, p. 590, 591]. This specificity of the Russian large business is the fact that "under-utilization of business resources of the population, because business is carried out only 2.9% of the population [10, p. 8], John. K. Galbraith [11, p. 52, 53] noted that large companies 2/3 define the main spheres of economic life, controlling the production and distribution of the generated GDP. For example, in Russia the share of the 400 largest companies accounted for 76.3% of the generated GDP in 2016.



Monopoly, and scale frankly an abuse of power, the price mechanism, duration, conditions and wages, as well as his anti-social activities [5, p. 592].

Studies show that the level and quality of life decline as a result of the current socio-economic system. Therefore, the society is maturing social conflict between lower and higher class, which can only be resolved by means of domestic policy [4]. Achieve economic growth, and the more of an economic breakthrough is impossible without the development of serious measures on state regulation and strategic development of the economy [12].

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS ON OVERCOMING OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

To overcome poverty and inequality, the author offers the following recommendations:

- to radically change the state social policy towards improving the living standards of the people [3], to implement a system of positive structural changes in the regional economy;

- to use national wealth Fund to address economic and social challenges, including poverty;

- to transfer the responsibility for funding the main part of social expenditures from the Federal level on level of subjects of Federation [3];

- to limit the surplus of TOP-managers and owners of large businesses, increasing taxes from 30% to 80%, part of which is directed at overcoming inequality and poverty, in particular, to increase the minimum wage (SMIC), the wages, because "the calculations show that a deliberate increase in the minimum wage could lead to economic growth" [13], and raising the minimum wage is a useful tool that allows you to carry out redistribution in favour of low-wage workers [14];

- employers to adhere to legal requirements, that the minimum wage should be equated to the potential subsistence level, because in practice we actually have a situation where the employee pay wages below the statutory minimum wage, indicating that the employee is not provided even minimal means for the reproduction of their own labor, not to mention the contents of his family, the increase in demographics, the accumulation of the leave, travel, etc. [15];

- actively solve the problems of poverty and inequality, the Companies with state participation;

- to introduce a progressive scale of taxation, as the world experience shows that the welfare state inevitably involves a progressive scale of taxation, but "in Russia, the real income tax was not even flat, and regressive, i.e. the rich taxpayers pay at the rate of 13% personal income tax, and much lower" [16].

- translate the Central Bank under state control to impose strict criminal liability for illegal withdrawal of funds from the country and to provide the Central Bank responsible for lending to the real sector of the economy;

- to carry out the development of the industry, focusing on advanced technologies (microelectronics and nanotechnology) [17] and the diversification of industrial production [18], because half of the industry production

capacity is not used because the artificial outflow of funds from the real sector of the economy [3];

- to return funds to the real sector of the economy through the growth of demand for domestically produced goods and housing that will allow you to load not loaded to the means of production [3] and, accordingly, will provide an opportunity to increase productivity growth and boost the country's GDP, which, "as a social indicator, which characterizes the formation of a favorable environment for the life and conduct of the enterprise" [19];

- annual GDP growth should be above 3%, at least 3.5-4%, while the decline in unemployment and rising incomes due to growth in industrial output and hence GDP of the country will help to solve this acute social problem of poverty that threaten economic and national security of the country [20], because poverty hides many social problems – social and family conflicts, lower level of education, literacy, lack of access to free health care, rising crime, mortality, fertility decline, "distrust of the government, declining tax revenues, reduced spending on unemployment benefits, the closure of enterprises" [21, 22, 23];

- to organize training and retraining of workers for new and existing high-tech companies in the country, increasing the number of secondary special and higher educational institutions;

- to increase the number of budget places for engineering and technical specialties with subsequent guarantee of employment;

- to create new high-tech jobs with high added value to new and existing facilities taking into account the needs of the state, distributing them in the regions, ensuring full employment of the working population;

- to compile a schedule for implementation of proposals at the state level for 3 years and continue to monitor the situation, taking proactive steps to implement. From the postulate that "the market will regulate everything" should be abandoned, returning to state planning.

All the proposed activities will contribute to increase employment, increase incomes and reduce poverty in the regions.

VII. CONCLUSION

In the study of social development of the Russian Federation for the period since 2000. by 2019. method of expert assessments revealed that the level of living of the population is low and is a serious threat to economic, social and national security. Analysis of poverty level conducted for 2018., revealed the 10 most poorest regions of Russia, where the poverty rate is almost a quarter of the population, and in some regions this figure ranges from 30% to 40% of the population is the Republic of Ingushetia and Tuva. The level of poverty among regions of southern Federal district Republic of Crimea is on the penultimate place with 17.3%, just below the Republic of Kalmykia is 24.2%. The poverty level in the Republic of Crimea for 2015-2018гг. decreased from 23.1% to 17.3% respectively, but it remains still high, exceeding the national average the poverty rate by 4.4%.



It is revealed that the difference in poverty level between the most prosperous and the poorest regions is from 3 to 6 times, for example, the Republic of Tyva, Russia exceeding Moscow's poverty rate is at 5.6 times, and the Republic of Ingushetia - 4.4 times. The dynamics of the real disposable income of Russia's population between 2000 and 2017. showed a decrease of incomes of the population in the regions of Russia starting from 2015. As the most important causes of falling living standards and poverty indicates the problem of social inequality associated with the emergence in Russia of big business.

It is revealed that the system without fundamental structural changes to make a breakthrough in the growth of the Russian economy is impossible, and these changes are the basis for solving social problems and primarily the problem of poverty in the regions, which leads to degradation of the population, rising social unrest and threaten the national security of the country. The article outlined the steps to overcoming the problems of inequality and poverty reduction in the regions.

The analysis showed that the modern economic system in the Russian Federation pushes a huge population out of the poverty line. As a result, to date, the need has ripened for a structural reorganization of the Russian economy, namely, a change in the pro-Western liberal-capitalist model of economic development, which in almost 30 years has shown its complete failure. It is necessary to create your own model of economic development with socialist elements of management, including a planned state economy, which would be suitable for our country, taking into account its climatic, geographical, national, historical and other features.

Thus, the steady growth of the economy, the dynamism of its development will help to stabilize the social sphere, increase employment, improve the quality of life, reduce the number of people whose incomes are below the subsistence level. All these factors will ensure the economic security of the regions and the country as a whole. The studies of living standards presented in the work will contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic regional development of Russia, as well as the sustainable social development of the regions.

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