



# Scientific And Theoretical Basis Of Economic-Geographical Study Of The Standard Of Living Of The Population

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ABSTRACT

The article describes the scientific and theoretical foundations of studying the standard of living of the population from an economic-geographical perspective, the improvement of the social and economic situation of the population within the framework of the interrelationship of territorial development and economic potential, and the factors affecting the standard of living of the population through economic-geographical factors, in particular, territorial resources, industry, transport and service sectors. The article also separately examines the measurements and indicators of living standards, as well as the methodology of scientific research conducted in this area, the specific characteristics of regions, their geographical location, and the influence of natural resources on the formation of the standard of living of the population.

Keywords:

standard of living, economic and geographical analysis, regional development, socio-economic factors, geographical location, economic potential, methodology for measuring standard of living

**Introduction.** The standard of living of the population is one of the important indicators of social and economic development. It is related to the economic, social, cultural, and environmental conditions of different segments and regions of society, and plays a key role in determining the quality of life and standard of living of the population. Studying the standard of living of the population, especially from an economic and geographical perspective, requires an in-depth analysis of the specific characteristics, resources, and infrastructure development of different regions. Economic-geographical studies, on the other hand, play a key role in identifying factors that influence the standard of living of the population, demonstrating the close connection between geography and the economic and social spheres. Factors such as geographical location, natural resources, transport infrastructure, industrial

development, and social services network shape the standard of living of regions. At the same time, an economic-geographic approach can identify regional differences in living standards, opportunities for efficient resource use, and ways to increase regional stability. The main goal of the study is to analyze economic and geographical methods for studying the standard of living of the population and to shed light on the scientific and theoretical foundations in this area. This approach aims to provide a deeper understanding of the formation of living standards measures, geographical factors, economic integration, and territorial characteristics of social development. The article also examines the possibilities of studying social, economic, and environmental factors that affect changes in the standard of living of the population, analyzing their

interaction, and applying the results of scientific research in practice in the future.

**Main part.** The study of the standard of living of the population is one of the main areas of economic and geographical sciences and has been studied in depth by many scientists around the world. The standard of living, in turn, is an important indicator reflecting social and economic status and is important in studying regional development, resource use, and infrastructure conditions [7, 5, 10]. The scientific views of foreign scientists have expanded the specific factors of the standard of living of the population and the methodological approaches to assessing them.

David Harvey, one of the prominent representatives of economic geography, paid great attention to the study of the connections between economic and social systems in his work "The Condition of Postmodernity" (1990). He showed the impact of regional inequality and economic integration processes on the standard of living of the population. Harvey noted that the standard of living is not based solely on economic factors, but cultural and political factors also play a large role. He drew a connection between socio-economic conditions and territorial changes [2].

Thomas Malthus's "An Essay on the Principle of Population" (1798) examined population growth and its impact on living standards. According to Malthus' theory, the imbalance between limited resources and rapid population growth leads to a decline in living standards. This view had a great influence on economic-geographical analysis, as it showed the relationship between the territorial distribution of population growth and economic potential [9].

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, in his work "Development as Freedom" (1999), emphasized the need to take into account human capabilities and social justice, rather than relying solely on economic indicators, when measuring living standards. According to Sen's theory, the standard of living is not limited to material well-being, but also includes elements such as education, healthcare, and political freedoms. His work demonstrated the need to study economic-geographical analysis not only from

the perspective of resources and economic growth, but also from the perspective of social development and human potential [1].

Edward Ullman, in his work "Spatial Interaction" (1954), studied the impact of transportation and communication networks on regional development and the standard of living of the population. Ullman developed "location theory" to analyze economic and social interactions between populations, geographical changes, and regional differences in living standards. He put forward scientific views that help us understand the interrelationship between transport and regions [3].

Geoffrey Hewings is one of the scientists who made a significant contribution to the development of economic-geographical analysis. In his work "Regional Economics" (1991), he studies the relationship between regional development and living standards. Hewings analyzed economic differences between regions, infrastructure development, and resource distribution, and extensively covered the factors influencing changes in the standard of living of the population [4].

Paul Krugman is a renowned scholar and Nobel Prize winner in the fields of economic geography and economic development, who has pioneered new approaches to studying the territorial distribution of economic systems. Krugman made important contributions to economic and geographical studies and advanced several scientific approaches to understanding living standards [6].

➤ **Advantages of Agglomeration Economies.** In his New Economic Geography (1991), Paul Krugman emphasized the advantages of agglomeration, that is, the importance of the concentration of economic activities in one place. It focuses on the factors that influence the regional distribution of economic activity and population density. If a region has many industries and services, it is likely to have high economic growth and a high standard of living. According to Krugman, when there are many jobs and social services in an area, this in turn increases the standard of living of the population, because people can conduct their economic activities more efficiently by living close to each other.

➤ Geographical stability and economic change. Krugman introduced the concept of "geographical stability" in the development of economic-geographical analysis. According to his theory, a strong territorial location is necessary to initiate and develop certain types of economic growth. This means that economic ties and infrastructure development play an important role in ensuring the economic stability of the region and the standard of living of the population. If a region has sufficient infrastructure and resources, the standard of living of the population in that area will increase.

➤ Regional differences and economic efficiency. Another important scientific insight of Krugman is that he highlighted economic differences between regions and the importance of efficient use of resources. He believes that the regional distribution of economic sectors and industries has a significant impact on shaping the standard of living of the population. If a region has a strong industrial infrastructure and high-quality services, the standard of living in that area will be higher because the population will have more economic opportunities.

➤ Non-renewable resources and sustainable development. Krugman also emphasized the importance of sustainable regional development and efficient use of resources in economic and geographical studies. He says that development should not rely on constant and immutable resources. He believes it is important to increase economic sectors and develop efficient ways to use resources. As a result, the standard of living of the population can increase not only based on existing resources, but also through the creation of new economic sectors and innovative use of existing resources.

➤ The connection between global and local factors. Another scientific view of Krugman is that he emphasized the need to link global and local factors in economic and geographical studies. He sees changes in the global economic system, trade and investment, technology and innovation as important factors in influencing regional growth and the standard of living of the population. The pace of regional development

and the standard of living of the population are often linked to global economic processes [6].

Paul Krugman's scientific views indicate the need to take into account regional differences, the distribution of economic sectors and industries, agglomeration advantages, and geographical stability in economic and geographical studies. His work helps to shed light on the economic and geographical foundations of regional development, understanding the living standards of the population, and increasing economic efficiency [8]. Krugman's theories are of great importance in creating new approaches and practical solutions in the study of living standards.

**Conclusion:** The standard of living of the population is one of the important areas of economic and geographical study, aimed at analyzing the interrelationships between territorial development, economic potential, resource use, and social opportunities. The study highlighted the importance of economic and geographical methods, main approaches, and theoretical foundations in studying the standard of living of the population. In particular, the territorial distribution of economic activity, the efficient use of resources, the development of industrial and transport infrastructure, the system of social services, and regional differences were analyzed as key factors affecting the standard of living of the population. The scientific views of foreign scholars, including the approaches of such well-known economists and geographers as Paul Krugman, Amartya Sen, and David Harvey, have shown the interrelationships of geographical, economic, and social factors in studying the standard of living of the population. They emphasized that living standards should be based not only on economic indicators, but also on people's capabilities and social equality.

The scientific insights and methodological approaches presented in the study highlight regional differences in the standard of living of the population and the importance of efficient use of resources. Also, through economic and geographical studies, ways to increase the standard of living of the population and reduce regional inequality will be identified. In this regard, special attention is paid to the

importance of interaction between regions, economic efficiency, and social development. In general, the study of the standard of living of the population from an economic and geographical perspective determines the prospects for scientific research aimed at ensuring the sustainability of regional development and increasing the well-being of the population.

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