

SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract. This paper aims to define the concept of rural modernization in Romania. The complexity of this reality called "modernization" is reflected in the diversity of definitions and concepts that exist. The concept of urbanization support the process of rural modernization, which is one of the most important phenomena in the contemporary Romanian and European society.

Keywords: Rural development, urbanization, rural space, modernization.

INTRODUCTION

The sociological analysis of rural development is necessary to start from the following premises:

- a) fundamental goal of any rural development must be improved quality of life at the societal level, the default quality of life areas;
- b) rural development must be accepted not only as a natural process thus slowly, but it requires social action, development programs, depending on local conditions. In agrarian problems there is no uniform recipe for all countries or all areas within countries;
- c) actions taken to rural development should not be limited to developed areas because, in fact, this process is continuous, regardless of the development zone;
- d) rural development programs should not be limited to those national or international, but according to them, action can be taken at regional, zonal and local levels.

Set in front of European integration, the Romanian village and rural space present a something contradictory: shortfalls in relation to the European reality in terms of agricultural production. But, it is noted that most subjects see particular benefits (these as immediate), and too little hardships and risks posed by the integration process and, the final result, the modernization of rural space and rural society. The factors explaining the situation, yet precarious of Romanian village and rural space are:

- A) In the economic field, the excessive small parceling of land - the process started long ago (as a landmark of agrarian reform of 1921), the process stopped (but brutal) during the centralized economy and resumed now, after 1989;
- B) The difficulty, and in many cases impossibility of using technology and modern working methods;
- C) The return of technical tools and traditional work, somewhat ethnographic (plow, harrow and hoe, the carriage etc.)

MATERIAL AND METHOD

To achieve the objectives of this article, the method used was the analysis of the documents done in the past and who treated this subject. Document analysis is a fundamental source of social research in social sciences and, thus, in sociology and rural sociology. To not skid down the slope interpretations and simplistic explanations sociology should not confine only topical subjects, but it should not ignore past experiences practice.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Some use the concept of modernization synonymous with development, others as a way of achieving this, and the very frequent cases of urbanization. In general, the process can be defined as "all changes and transformations that have occurred in the system or social subsystem, which provides a connection to the structural and functional at the level reached by other system or subsystem social whose condition It is regarded as desirable, ways to change the subsystems less evolved, with low autodynamism and restructures under the impact of more advanced subsystems "(I. Mihăilescu *Modernization. The Dictionary of Sociology*, 1993, p. 368). Mircea Bulgaru believes, based on the current state of Romanian agriculture crisis, the options farmers and specialists, as more important following findings:

a) The "need to identify new farms" and reconsider their new conditions of development and modernization of agriculture. " Among other things it requires restoration of property rights over land, reducing the phenomenon of lots of them etc.;

b) The "rational exploitation of the lands" which must be made urgently "protected by law";

c) The "National Capital Formation Fund for development of agriculture and rural infrastructure";

d) "Reconsidering the concept of rural development, rural development Code";

e) The "Development and improvement of agricultural markets by creating associative mechanisms of farmers" to purchase agricultural equipment, "the gradual demopolization of trade in agricultural products";

f) The "Improvement of state mechanisms concerning rural economy, food production" etc.

g) The "unitary coordination of scientific research related to the rural economy" etc;

h) "Reconstruction protection role and significance of agriculture" which means protection of economic, social, environmental, tax and customs at the border;

i) "The need to develop realistic programs to revive the agriculture and rural development";

j) "Organisation of pilot stations" to "individual households 'model' associative model units", "pilot villages and communes," "pilot micro-areas" (M. Bulgaru, *Dreptul de a mânca*, 1996, p. 548-550.)

Rural Urbanization is a global social process through which a complex social structures and professional transformation, the restructuring of rural forms of existence after the urban models. Thus, the process of urbanization, but not confused with upgrading, is a factor of modernization implicitly development.

Urbanization is a result of a double process: on the one hand there is a diffusion irradiation characteristics in urban areas increasingly stronger, with improved communication lines; on the other hand, radiation intensity varies from city to city, depending on the degree of urbanity of the city. Complementary occurs another process: proliferation in rural areas of elements of urban, is formed and develops rural life forms of urban favorable to adapt urban migrants. Closely related to urbanization is urbanism, which means all components of the organization of the material (the natural, economic resources, human resources, etc.) of the territorial units of housing (or village, city, area).

The concept of "rural-urban continuum" highlights the similarities between the rural world and the city, highlighting changes and the gradual change between the two communities.

Rural Urban Continuum exclude human polarity between the two communities established by Tönnies („*Gemeinschaft*” and „*Gesellschaft*” – *Community* and *Society*) or the weberian perspective (rural – traditional, urban - rational). Today, in general, rural communities are closer to “*Gesellschaft*” (urban). "Starting from the small village, reaching the metropolis, they represent different types of communities that can be considered a continuum that is the defining features of each type of location, extent or the Countryside urbanity. Rural and urban are not two sides dichotomous, but segments of a scale, where the smallest settlement Farm is located at one end, and the largest, most diversified and complex industrial, trade and communications, locates the other. Most communities combine rural and urban features in different proportions. The vast majority of sociological research showed that rural residents are increasingly close to those in urban areas, between urban and rural areas there is an organic link. Opening outwardly the peasant renounced at the village's specific economic, social and cultural autarky. In many areas they have proliferated urban elements which led some sociologists (Henri Mendras) began to assert that the disappearance of peasants. But rural modernization is possible without sacrificing the traditional values of the village. It can take as a synthesis between tradition and the new realities. In fact, for centuries over existing traditional values have always put mark new cultural models. The traditional is reshaped, but the Romanian village and rural space keep, still alive, a number of relics of the past, folklore, traditions, ethnography.

No rural modernizes evenly. Depending on local conditions there following forms:

a) modernization by urbanization, that of extending the city into the system peri (localities on the outskirts of cities, a phenomenon accompanied normally "ex-urban migration" In this case the transformation of settlements around towns in "areas peri" appears new "style" and "lifestyle" differently so both rural and urban;

b) by the urbanization of rural areas at a relatively large distance from the city. Do not forget that a large part of today's cities more or less developed rural settlements were. Moreover, the rural character of some urban areas remains today. Whatever the form, entering in specific urban areas is visible, the architectural aspect. The vast majority of rural buildings, except those in traditional rural and mountain areas, imitated city. New housing construction as the system is very close to urban. But the interiors of homes were dotated with moderns elements like furniture, or technique such as refrigerators, washing machines, radios TV, internet etc.

CONCLUSIONS

We can not compel villagers, however must be appreciate traditional architecture, living in homes built hundreds of years ago and many secular practice the same culture. The idea of creating "rural reserves" is a utopia. However, following the example of creative solutions can provide models of traditional architecture involved in contemporary architecture. Without consulting the works of architecture or rural sociology, villagers from different parts of the country have carried out the synthesis of special local traditions and modern urban architecture. It is the example of many houses made in Maramureș (North-Western Development Region of Romania) or in the south, in the sub-mountainous rural regions (Gorj, Vâlcea) containing modern constructions, in Brancovan national traditional architectural style. Just in the interior, the decoration of homes, or the clothing are modern. There is, indeed, a serious problem represented by the "disappearance" of the traditional village and its traditional spirituality, but it is important as well, to see the rural space adapting and transforming in accordance with new requirements of modern society. As well,

the *European Charter of Rural Space* recommends preserving and promoting "cultural and historical particularities of the countryside" respecting "community identity" (*Guideline 1*); "Protection and development of traditions and cultural expression" (*Guideline 11*).

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