

# THE CONCEPT OF POPULATION LIVING STANDARDS AND THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR ITS ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

**Fayzullayev Maqsud Abdullayevich** – Doctor of Geographical Sciences (DSc), Associate Professor, Shahrissabz State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan.

**Usmonov Akobir Baxtiyor o'g'li** - Master's student, Shahrissabz State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan.

***Abstract.** This article examines the theoretical essence of the concept of population living standards and highlights the scientific foundations for studying it from an economic geographical perspective. This research, the standard of living is considered as an important indicator reflecting the level of socio-economic development of society. In addition, the system of economic, demographic, and social indicators used to assess the population's living standards, as well as their territorial differences, are examined. The results of the study indicate that examining living standards based on an economic geographical approach plays an important role in identifying regional disparities in development, improving socio-economic policy, and drawing scientifically grounded conclusions aimed at enhancing the welfare of the population.*

***Keywords:** population living standards, quality of life, social welfare, economic geography, regional development, income level, social infrastructure, demographic factors, regional disparities, socio-economic development.*

**Introduction.** The standard of living of the population is one of the socio-economic categories that is important in assessing the development of society. This concept encompasses a set of factors that characterize the material well-being of the population, access to social services, and living conditions. The standard of living is an important indicator that reflects how the results of economic development are distributed among members of society, and provides an idea of the overall socio-economic development of the country. Therefore, this issue is widely studied within various scientific disciplines, such as economics, sociology, demography, and economic geography. In order to improve social well-being and ensure sustainable development, in-depth study of the theoretical and methodological foundations of living standards is emerging as one of the urgent scientific tasks.

The economic geographical approach allows us to analyze the standard of living of the population in close connection with regional development processes. The natural resource potential of regions, the territorial location of production, transport and communication links, and the level of development of social infrastructure have a significant impact on the living conditions of the population.

As a result, living standards indicators will have certain differences across regions. Identifying the causes of these differences and scientifically analyzing the factors that form them is one of the important areas of economic geographical research. Spatially studying the standard of living of the population is important for assessing disparities in regional development, improving social policy, and developing scientifically based conclusions aimed at the effective use of economic resources.

**Literature analysis.** The issue of the standard of living of the population is one of the most widely studied scientific areas within the framework of economic and social sciences. In scientific literature, this concept is interpreted as a complex socio-economic category that reflects the material well-being of the population, consumption opportunities, income levels, and conditions for using social services. In his work *“Development as Freedom,”* renowned economist Amartya Sen analyzes living standards as inextricably linked to human freedoms, economic opportunities, and social conditions. In his opinion, the main goal of the economic development process is to increase the well-being of society's members and expand their opportunities [1].

The issue of assessing the standard of living is also of particular importance in modern economic research. The study “Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress” prepared by J.E. Stiglitz, A. Sen, and J.P. Fitoussi substantiates the need to take into account indicators of population well-being, social equality, and quality of life in addition to gross domestic product indicators when assessing economic development [2]. Also, M. Todaro and S. Smith, in their work “Economic Development”, emphasize that economic development processes are directly related to the standard of living of the population, noting that income growth, employment levels, and the development of social infrastructure are important factors in increasing well-being [3].

The connection between regional development processes and living standards has also been widely covered in economic geography research. For example, P. Krugman, in his work "Geography and Trade", emphasizes that the territorial location of production, transport links, and the formation of economic centers have a significant impact on the level of regional economic development [4]. At the same time, R. Florida, who studied the problems of modern urbanization and regional economics, notes in his work "The Rise of the Creative Class" the increasing importance of human capital, innovation, and the creative economy in the process of economic development [5].

The issue of the population's standard of living has also been examined in national economic studies. In particular, in the textbook "*Demography*" by Q. Abdurahmonov and X. Abduramanov, the influence of demographic processes, population growth, age structure, and migration on socio-economic development and the standard of living of the population is explained [6]. Furthermore, in his textbook "*Labor Economics: Theory and Practice*", K. Abdurahmonov highlights population income, employment level, and labor market development as important economic factors influencing living standards [7]. In addition, the work "*World Economy and International Economic Relations*" by A. Vahobov and Sh. Hajibakiyev emphasizes that global economic processes, international integration, and economic cooperation have a significant impact on the socio-economic development of countries, including the standard of living and welfare of the population [8]. In recent years, several studies have also paid particular attention to examining the standard of living of the population from an economic-geographical perspective, identifying its territorial characteristics, and assessing its relationship with economic development processes [9, 10].

Thus, the analysis of scientific research shows that the standard of living of the population is a complex socio-economic process that is inextricably linked to economic development, the use of regional resources, the level of employment, and the development of social infrastructure. Therefore, studying living standards

based on an economic geographic approach is of significant scientific importance in identifying disparities in regional development and improving socio-economic policy.

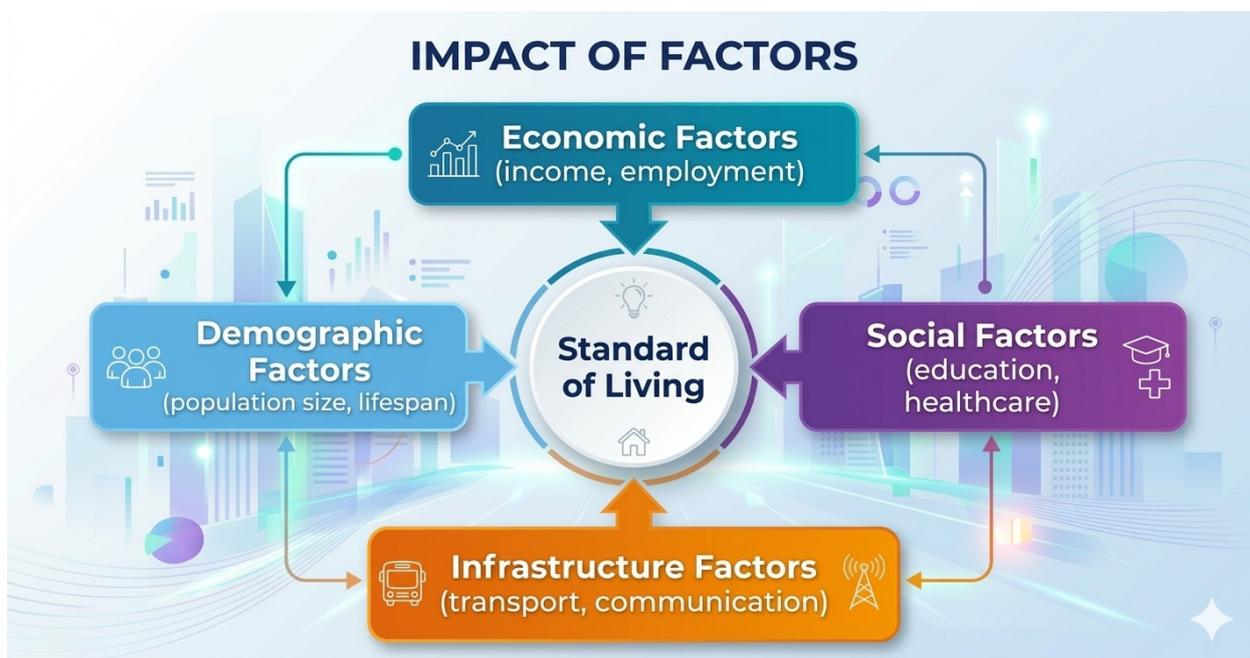
**Research methodology.** This study used a comprehensive scientific approach to study the living standards of the population from an economic geographical perspective. The theoretical basis of the research methodology is systematic analysis, economic and statistical methods, and regional comparison methods. This methodological approach allows us to determine the essence of the standard of living, analyze the economic and social factors that influence its formation, and assess its relationship with socio-economic processes. During the research, indicators such as population income, consumer spending, employment rate, and level of social infrastructure were analyzed and considered important indicators for assessing living standards.

During the scientific research, methods of statistical data generalization, comparative analysis, and regional analysis were used. Comparative analysis identifies the characteristics of the formation of living standards in different regions and the degree of their differentiation. Territorial analysis serves to study factors related to the level of use of economic resources, the territorial location of production, and the level of development of social infrastructure. At the same time, comprehensive scientific conclusions were formed by identifying the interrelationships between economic, demographic, and social indicators in assessing living standards. This methodological approach allows for an in-depth analysis of the regional characteristics of the standard of living of the population and a scientific assessment of socio-economic development processes.

**Results and their analysis.** The results of the study showed that the standard of living of the population is a complex and multifaceted socio-economic category. This concept is not limited to income alone, but is determined by a complex of many socio-economic factors, such as the population's access to education, level of access to the healthcare system, housing conditions,

transportation, and access to public utilities. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive analysis of economic, demographic, and social indicators when assessing living standards. Modern economic research also emphasizes the need to assess the well-being of the population not only by income indicators, but also by taking into account indicators of quality of life, social equality, and human development. In particular, according to the concept of human capabilities developed by Amartya Sen, in the process of assessing the well-being of a society, along with a person's economic capabilities, his social freedoms and living conditions are also of great importance [1, 2].

Economic and geographical studies show that economic, demographic, social, and infrastructural factors have a complex impact on the formation of the standard of living of the population. The relationship between these factors is reflected in the following model (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Model of factors influencing the formation of the standard of living of the population**

*Source: compiled by the author.*

This model represents a system of key factors influencing the formation of the standard of living of the population. It reflects the interdependence of economic factors (income and employment), demographic factors (population size and life

expectancy), social factors (education and healthcare), and infrastructure factors (transport and communications) that influence the formation of living standards.

Analyses show that real incomes, employment rates, and access to social services are important factors in shaping living standards. In particular, in the processes of economic development, an increase in employment levels, an increase in sources of income, as well as an expansion of production potential have a positive impact on increasing the well-being of the population. This process is also considered an important factor in economic development theories, and the effective distribution of the results of economic growth among members of society is recognized as an important condition for increasing living standards. According to Todaro and Smith's research, in the process of economic development, income growth, expansion of employment opportunities, and development of social infrastructure are among the main factors that increase the standard of living of the population [3].

Analyses conducted from an economic geographical perspective made it possible to identify regional characteristics of living standards. Due to the different levels of economic resources, production potential, and infrastructure development in different regions, the living conditions of the population also vary significantly across regions. In regions with highly developed economic activity, employment opportunities are wide, income sources are more numerous, and social infrastructure is relatively developed. As a result, a higher standard of living is formed in such areas. Conversely, in regions with low economic activity, income sources are limited and access to social services may be lower. This confirms that differences in the level of regional economic development directly affect the standard of living of the population. According to the theory of regional economics developed by P. Krugman, the territorial concentration of production and the development of transport links lead to the formation of centers of economic activity, and this process has a significant impact on the level of regional well-being [4].

Urbanization processes also have a significant impact on the formation of the standard of living of the population. Employment opportunities will be wider due to the highly developed economic activity, service sectors, and innovative infrastructure in large cities and industrial centers. As a result, income levels and access to social services in urban areas may be higher than in rural areas. According to the concept of the creative economy put forward by R. Florida, regions with developed innovative activities, human capital, and modern economic infrastructure become important centers of economic development and population well-being [5].

The results of the study confirmed that the development of transport and communication infrastructure also has a significant impact on the standard of living of the population. In regions with developed transport networks, economic ties expand, manufacturing and service sectors actively develop, and labor market opportunities expand. As a result, there is an increase in the population's income and improvement in living conditions. At the same time, the development of the education and healthcare systems is also an important factor in improving the quality of life.

In general, the conducted analyses showed that the formation of the standard of living of the population occurs as a result of the interaction of the level of economic development, the development of social infrastructure, demographic processes, and territorial factors. Therefore, taking into account regional development factors when developing socio-economic policies aimed at improving living standards is of significant scientific and practical importance. A balanced organization of regional economic policy, development of social infrastructure, and efficient use of economic resources are important conditions for increasing the well-being of the population.

**Conclusion.** The results of the study confirmed that the standard of living of the population is one of the important indicators characterizing the level of socio-economic development of society. The standard of living is a complex socio-

economic category that is inextricably linked to the population's income, employment rate, access to social services, and living conditions. During the study, the theoretical foundations of this concept were analyzed and the need to use a set of economic, demographic, and social indicators to assess living standards was scientifically substantiated. Modern economic research also shows the need for a comprehensive analysis of quality of life, social equality, and human development indicators when assessing the well-being of a society.

The conducted analyses showed that the standard of living of the population is directly related to the level of regional development. It has been found that the standard of living is relatively high in regions with developed economic activity, a well-developed infrastructure system, and widely developed social services. Conversely, in regions with limited access to economic resources, socio-economic indicators may be lower. This confirms that differences in the level of regional economic development have a significant impact on the well-being of the population.

Therefore, it is important to take into account regional development factors when developing socio-economic policies aimed at improving the living standards of the population. Developing social infrastructure, improving the transport and communication system, expanding employment opportunities, as well as a balanced distribution of economic activity across regions are important conditions for increasing the well-being of the population. Consistent measures implemented in these areas will serve as an important factor in strengthening social stability and achieving sustainable development goals.

### **List of used literature**

1. Sen A. Development as Freedom. - New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
2. Stiglitz J.E., Sen A., Fitoussi J.P. Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress. - Paris, 2009.
3. Todaro M.P., Smith S.C. Economic Development. - 12th ed. - Boston: Pearson Education, 2015.
4. Krugman P. Geography and Trade. - Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1991.
5. Florida R. The Rise of the Creative Class. - New York: Basic Books, 2002.
6. Abdurahmonov Q.X., Abduramanov X.X. Demografiya: o'quv qo'llanma. - T.: Noshir, 2011.

7. Abdurahmonov K. Mehnat iqtisodiyoti: nazariya va amaliyot: darslik. - 3-nashr, qayta ishlangan va to'ldirilgan. - Toshkent: Fan nashriyoti, 2019.
8. Vahobov A.V., Xajibakiyev Sh.X. Jahon iqtisodiyoti va xalqaro iqtisodiy munosabatlar. - Toshkent: "Voriz-nashriyot", 2015.
9. Fayzullaev M.A., Usmanov A.B. Scientific and theoretical basis of economic-geographical study of the standard of living of the population // *Eurasian Journal of History, Geography and Economics*. – 2024. – Vol. 39. – pp. 39–42.
10. Usmonov A.B. Aholi turmush darajasini yaxshilashning asosiy yo'nalishlari // *Zamonaviy geografiyada innovatsion g'oyalar: raqamli iqtisodiyot va GIS texnologiyalar*. Xalqaro ilmiy-amaliy konferensiya materiallari. - Qarshi, 2024. - pp. 373 - 375.