

4. PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

L.N. Melnyk, I.P. Trigyb

National university of food technologies

It is difficult to view the social problems of present-day Ukraine with rose-colored glasses. Sociologists call this a complex crisis situation, which cannot be reduced simply to a political or economic problem. We will list only a few of the many signs of this crisis in order to focus our analysis:

- transformation of legitimate and just government structures into corrupt «sinful structures;» these structures are used by those in power and by the directors of the administrative monopolies for their own purposes, depriving the people of adequate means of existence and weakening their fundamental freedoms, which are formally guaranteed by the Constitution;

- the lack of a highly moral and professional national elite; this was caused in the past by systematic communist repression and today it makes it difficult to find qualified directors in the fields of economy and government and for the local organs of government;

- underdevelopment of civil society, which limits society's possibility to organize itself; this leads to such uncivil reactions to injustice as passivity and resignation, forced emigration and suicide, hopelessness and fear. The social crisis has affected the population so severely because the old Communist methods of social protection are today practically dismantled and new methods are still undeveloped. Consequently, social ministry has a great priority in the Church's activity.

The old socialist daycare programs are long gone, and there is no well-established private industry to meet this need. Therefore, when a woman is able to get a job, especially if she is single and without family, she has no way to secure child care.

Rates of alcohol and drug abuse. Unfortunately, many children are either abandoned in the hospitals by these mothers or are taken by the state when the mother fails to provide adequately for the child.

As in our own society, other social problems lead to children living in orphanages. These include abuse and neglect. Sometimes, children are taken by the Ukrainian state in order to provide them with a safe environment. Around the age of 16, orphans must leave the orphanage. There is no further funding for them to remain in the orphanage and because of overcrowding, it is not possible for them to stay longer in most cases. Sometimes, this happens even younger — children as young as 14 have had to leave our older kids' orphanage, the Internet. They are without the basic skills to protect themselves and provide for themselves. Orphans are given the option to attend some sort of further education according to Ukrainian law. They can also live in a government-run dormitory if space is available, and as long as they study — usually one to two years. The conditions in these dorms are far worse than in the orphanage — they are usually violent, dangerous and worse, these orphans spend a great deal of time alone and without encouragement and love.

When an orphan leaves the orphanage, they must secure housing, food, warm clothes and shoes and other basics for living if they are not able to go on to further education, or after that education is done. Internet directors are charged with helping these students as they leave the orphanage, but in a country with few social programs to help and where jobs are very scarce, this is a monumental, daunting task.

In summary, all post-communist societies are experiencing the same problems: renewing the understanding of the real essence and value of the human person, recognizing the true significance of freedom, providing the conditions for worthy and civilized human life in society.