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CONCEPTUALIZATION OF APPROACHES TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DEFINITION OF "INEQUALITY", ITS TYPES, MANIFESTATIONS AND CAUSES OF EMERGENCE

ABSTRACT

The article analyzes scientific approaches to defining the concepts of "inequality", "social inequality", "economic inequality", "socio-economic inequality", "economic stratification". The main determinants and principles of the emergence of inequality and approaches to its reduction are visualized, as well as specific types and manifestations of inequality. It was established that the main criteria for assessing economic inequality are the level of income, the Gini quintile coefficient, the differentiation of wealth, the percentage of accumulation, the presence of property, the share of small and medium-sized businesses, and the level of employment. The main criteria for assessing social inequality are determined, namely: the size of the subsistence minimum, the size and composition of the population, the level of health care, the level of education, and the level of social protection.

Based on the analysis of approaches to distinguishing manifestations of inequality, the article distinguishes between regional, national and global inequality.

Generalization of the work of domestic and foreign scientists made it possible to improve the classification of approaches to types of economic inequality and specify manifestations of inequality inherent in each of its types.

It is substantiated that technological changes, which have become an integral part of the development of entrepreneurship, are important factors influencing the change in inequality in the incomes of the population over the past few decades. With this in mind, global drivers of changes in income distribution and factors ensuring such changes within the country are determined. It was determined that the causes of income inequality among the population can be the characteristics of the households themselves, and the drivers of income inequality among the population were identified.

Keywords: inequality, economic inequality, social inequality, economic stratification, income inequality

JEL Classification: I30, I32, I39, J17

INTRODUCTION

Globalization processes and general societal trends to increase indicators of socio-economic development in most countries of the world actualize the solution to the issue of reducing population inequality. Inequality is a characteristic of modern society and an important source of its development.

The modern interpretation of inequality involves going beyond purely economic parameters - economic, social, political, and ethnocultural inequality is singled out. Individual groups of the population may suffer from a specific type of inequality due to the restriction of their rights, but their combination manifests the most acutely. It is as a result of the cumulative impact that extremely negative and threatening phenomena for national security are formed, such as the exclusion of certain groups of the population from public life, polarization, and marginalization of society. At the same time, low-income sections of the population are exposed to significantly higher risks of various deprivations. And the risk of exclusion from social life is most inherent to residents of

remote settlements, socially vulnerable segments of the population (primarily, persons with disabilities, households with a large number of dependents), certain groups of immigrants, and homeless women.

Not all manifestations of inequality can be confirmed and measured using statistical data obtained from integrated or even selective observations. In some cases, inequality can be assessed exclusively with the help of experts or generally only qualitatively outlined.

The multidimensional model of inequality is the field of scientific interest of sociologists, economists, philosophers, and political scientists, who consider the essence of this category from different aspects, which, on the one hand, multiplies theoretical and methodological approaches to its study, and on the other hand, causes quite a large number of terminological inconsistencies regarding the interpretation of the definition of inequality.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The work of many domestic and foreign scientists is dedicated to the study of the phenomenon of inequality, its types and causes. Among the scientists who devoted their scientific work to the study of the problem of social inequality and believed that social inequality encourages highly productive activity, and therefore is fair and useful, it is worth noting K. Davis [1], E. Durkheim [2], U. Moore [3], T. Parsons [4].

Representatives of another approach, K. Marx [5], and M. Weber [6], on the contrary, believed that social inequality hinders the realization of human potential, and therefore is unfair.

Such well-known foreign scientists as Arnold J. Heidenheimer, Simon Kuznets, Gerhard Lenski, Peter Flora, Sarah Connolly, Alistair Munro, Franz Krause, L. Harold, and others studied economic inequality deeply in their works. In domestic science, the most significant contribution to the study of inequality was made by such scientists as O. Balakireva, V. Golovenko, D. Dmytruk [7], E. Libanova, O. Makarova, A. Gvelesiani, L. Cherenko and others [8]. It was the works of these scientists that made it possible to distinguish different types of economic inequality.

O. Balakireva notes that differentiation of social inequality according to economic criteria is one of its most studied forms. It is economic inequality, the foundation of which is wealth, property, ownership, capital, income, and economic power, that scientists who support the conflict approach call basic because they believe that all other manifestations of inequality are derived from economic inequality. The scientist notes that "inequality in access to material resources often becomes a topic for discussions and a cause of political struggle between groups. Economic inequality pushes economists in search of a "great compromise" between achieving greater equality and minimal losses in efficiency, and it is the reason for constant unrelenting debates between supporters of increasing equality and those who consider economic egalitarianism to be almost a form of mental illness, and concern with inequality - "naive and fundamentally infantile anthropomorphism" [7, p. 109]. The study of economic inequality is closely related to the study of poverty, social justice, and the formation of social policy" [7, p. 113].

For example, in the work "Inequality in Ukraine: scale and possibilities of influence" [8] the authors use the term "inequality" and initially give it a rather concise definition: "in the general sense, inequality characterizes the uneven distribution of limited resources, therefore, it will always appear in access to those resources that become limited under various circumstances. Thus, the more limited the resources in society are, especially the resources for satisfying basic human needs, the more manifestations of inequality we can observe in various planes - from status characteristics to geographical ones. And the more these manifestations are, the more difficult it is to find understanding in society for movement in the direction of progress" [8, p. 196].

At the same time, the term inequality is also used in a broad sense, practically identical to "social inequality" in its sociological interpretation: "inequality is a social characteristic of a certain social condition of individuals, certain strata of the population, which reflects their civil status, political and legal rights, attitude to means of production and its results" [8, p. 212]. And the concept of social inequality is considered "as a form of social differentiation in which individual social groups are at different levels of the vertical social hierarchy and, accordingly, have unequal life chances and opportunities to satisfy material and spiritual needs, and therefore unequal access to limited resources. The main mechanisms of social inequality lie in the plane of property, power, and division of labor, however, in transitional and unstable societies, spontaneous, uncontrolled social differentiation, which can be qualified as an economically unjustified component of inequality, may gain more importance" [8, p. 216].

UN experts [9] single out the inequality of income, wealth, education, health and nutrition.

O. Ftomova notes that this approach "made it possible to identify two main directions in the contextual understanding of economic inequality: inequality of opportunities (unequal access to employment, education) and inequality of results in various material measurements of human well-being (level of income, level of education, state of health)" [10, p. 60].

According to O. Makarova, "differentiation of population incomes is the most important characteristic of the socio-economic state of society. It indicates the degree of difference in the shares of each member of society in the total social income. The characteristics of differentiation reflect inevitable social differences by groups and categories of the population, depending on the role of each of them in social production and the assignment of its results, the nature of work, lifestyle features, etc." [11, c. 45].

As the authors note in the national report "Socio-Economic State of Ukraine: Consequences for the People and the State", "income inequality determines inequality in spending and consumption, generates poverty and social rejection. A high level of income differentiation, an excessive gap between the rich and the poor, and the fact that a significant part of the population does not have the opportunity for adequate nutrition and access to high-quality education and health care services provoke social alienation and determine the polar value orientations and behavior of certain population groups. Such a situation threatens the depletion of human capital, the emergence of aggression and instability, the intensification of protest moods and deviant behavior [12, p. 64].

E. Libanova states that "equality of opportunities can be asserted in the case when the results of life depend only on factors for which people can be considered responsible, and not on unfavorable signs that are under a person's control. Equality of results is possible under circumstances in which people have similar economic conditions. Thus, inequality, from the point of view of opportunities, concerns the provision of a common starting place, and inequality of results depends both on circumstances beyond the control and on talent and effort" [13, p. 48].

The concept of economic inequality through the prism of economic stratification was considered in his studies

by O. Ftomov, T. Bogomolov, V. Topilina, A. Varshavskiy, and O. Gurenkova. According to the points of view of the vast majority of these scientists, when it comes to economic inequality, it primarily refers to the division of society into rich and poor.

T. Bogomolova and V. Topilina understand economic stratification as a vertically ranked division of families (households) according to their financial situation [14]. The advantage of this definition is the thesis about the verticality of ranking. But at the same time, they do not clarify the concept of "material situation", which, in our opinion, leaves a wide field for variants of meaningful content.

Indirectly, it is possible to single out the essence of economic stratification, as understood by M. Weber, namely, unequal access to economic resources [15]. Let's assume that this definition most accurately highlights the essence of economic stratification but in an extremely narrow - macroeconomic - context.

Quite interesting is the opinion of A. Varshavsky, who believes that economic stratification is a process of periodic and gradual deepening of population differentiation, connected with the accumulation of wealth [16, p. 8]. In other words, in the definition, the researcher singles out a very important aspect organically inherent in the phenomenon under investigation, namely: dynamism. However, the content of the term "wealth" remains unclear.

One cannot fail to note the definition of O. Gurenkova, who believes that "economic stratification is a step on the way to wealth" [17, p. 14]. The definition really has the right to live, but its scientific correctness raises some doubts.

According to V. Anurin's view, economic stratification is stratification based on three criteria: relation to property (means of production), place in the labor organization, and the amount of income [18, p. 107].

Despite a large number of publications on the specified issue, research dedicated to the study of the phenomenon of inequality, macro- and microeconomic and social factors that influence its occurrence, and the formation of new approaches that will contribute to the smoothing of social and economic inequalities in society are still relevant today.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the article is the theoretical and methodological conceptualization of approaches to determining the essence of inequality, economic inequality, identifying the causes of its occurrence, and specification of its types and features of manifestation in society.

METHODS

When writing the article, general scientific and specific methods of scientific knowledge were used. A comprehensive approach to the definition of the term "inequality", and "economic and social inequality" is provided thanks to historical and logical approaches.

Methods of theoretical generalization and comparison were used to distinguish types of inequality and classify their specific features.

Determining the determinants and bases of the formation of inequality became possible thanks to the use of methods of analysis and synthesis, the method of graphic interpretation.

To generalize the concepts of economic stratification available in the scientific literature, the methods of ascent from the abstract to the concrete and the structural-research approach were used.

RESULTS

The phenomenon of inequality is complex in origin, nature, causes, structure, and approaches to study. In order to understand its essence, mechanisms of manifestation, and approaches to reduction, we will consider the essential and socio-economic bases of the formation of inequality (Fig. 1).

The concept of inequality is of Greek origin and is the opposite of the concept of equality ("omnes pares sumus" - inequality). Both of these concepts are related to the comparison of two objects, but if equality is characterized by the word "same", then inequality indicates the difference between the compared objects. Inequality is a relative assessment of the economies of different countries, individuals and groups in society. Therefore, the amount of inequality is a ratio between the objects of research and determines the deviation of the object of research according to certain indicators from the median value of this indicator (benchmark) [14]. As a rule, inequality is understood as the existence of people in conditions of different, unequal access to resources.

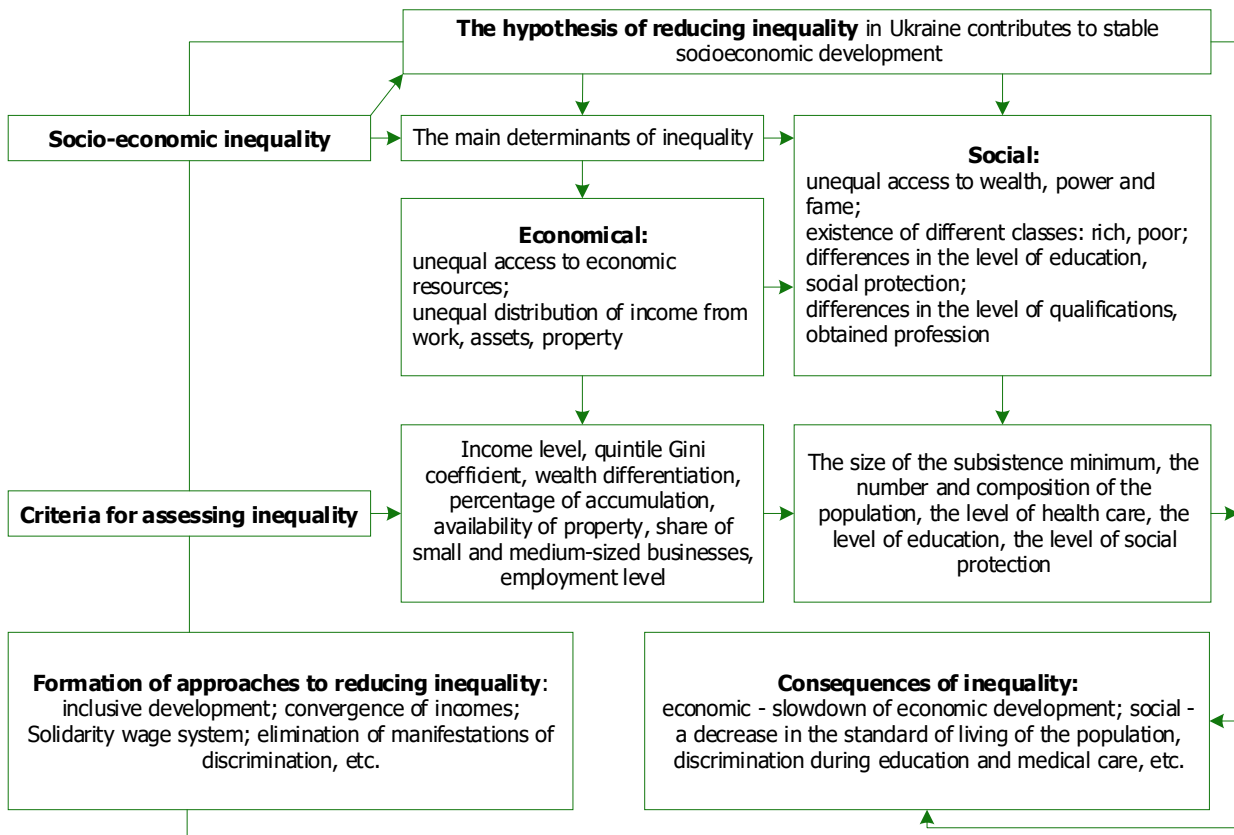


Figure 1. Determinants of the occurrence of inequality and the formation of approaches to its reduction. (Source: formed by the authors according to [19; 20])

Most often in the economic literature, you can find the use of the concepts "social inequality", "economic inequality", and "socio-economic inequality", which, for the most part, coincide in content, and at the same time, they differ in certain semantic features depending on the representatives of scientific schools, currents, and trends, who study the essence of these categories and concepts or use them in their scientific research.

Thus, sociologists pay the most attention to the study of social inequality, which is based on the division of society into different hierarchical groups according to the following four criteria: income, degree of power, level of education and prestige of the profession (type of occupation). Therefore, representatives of sociological science are divided into two scientific schools, which are based on two different methodological approaches to the interpretation of the nature of social stratification: functional and conflict. The reason for this division is a different understanding of the essence of social justice, based either on its understanding as the equality of results that guarantee an equally possible right to obtain one's own needs (which is the basis of the conflict approach), or on the equality of opportunities as the same for all chances to achieve certain goals in life results due to their abilities and efforts (inherent in the functional approach) [21].

Something different about the semantic identification of the terms "social inequality", "socio-economic inequality", "economic inequality" or simply "inequality" is the economic approach.

O. Balakireva considers economic inequality as: "the difference in the level of economic well-being between different individuals or groups of individuals. When studying economic inequality, the main focus is on the study of the distribution of monetary income on the imaginary scale "wealth - poverty", which is characteristic of a specific society - among population groups in the middle of the country or between countries" [7, p. 124]. At the same time, in our opinion, the author somewhat equates the concepts of "economic inequality" and "socio-economic inequality", as she almost defines the latter as "the difference between people and certain groups of people in terms of their income and accumulated wealth" [7, p. 128].

There are different types, and therefore – manifestations of inequality. The UNESCO report [22, p. 22] provides an interpretation of these seven manifestations of inequality (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of types and manifestations of inequality. (Source: [22])

| No | Types of inequality | Manifestations of inequality |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Economic inequality | Differences between levels of income, assets, wealth and capital, and living standards, including inequality in employment. While poverty and extreme poverty are usually defined according to a threshold (for example, 60 percent of the median income), inequality is the relative increase in the economic position of individuals and groups within societies. |
| 2 | Social inequality | Differences between the social statuses of different population groups, such as classes, castes, or age groups. It is about systemic imbalances in the functioning of social institutions, such as education, health care, justice, and social protection. These disproportions in roles, functions, decisions, rights and their determinants affect the level and quality of access to services and protection for different groups, as well as life chances and the ability to strive for and achieve certain outcomes. |
| 3 | Cultural inequality | Differences in status between groups based on identity (self-determination); covers discrimination based on gender, ethnic and racial categorization, religion, disability and other group identities rooted in cultural rationales and historical practices. |
| 4 | Political inequality | Differences in the differentiated ability of individuals and groups to influence political decision-making processes and to benefit from these decisions. Political inequality also refers to the unequal opportunity to engage in political action. |
| 5 | Environmental inequality | Differences and disproportions in the quality of the environment to which individuals and groups have access: levels of environmental protection, access to natural resources and opportunities to benefit from their exploitation, as well as the impact of pollution and the risks of natural hazards and disasters. Environmental inequality also encompasses opportunities to adapt to climate change and adopt more sustainable lifestyles, as well as the ability to influence and shape decision-making related to environmental issues. |
| 6 | Spatial (regional) inequality | Spatial differences and disparities in economic activity and income, typically between centers and peripheries, between urban and rural areas, and between regions with more or less useful resources. This leads to unequal access to services and knowledge, as well as to discrimination and inequality in political influence. Spatial and regional differences can interact with economic, political or ethnic differences, and contribute to social and political protest. |
| 7 | Inequality of knowledge | The differences and multiple factors that influence access to different sources and types of knowledge and the consequences of these disparities. It affects the ability to make informed decisions, access services, and participate in political life. There is often a correlation with spatial inequality, whereby peripheries with less access to knowledge are also less well-known. |

As we can see from the table. 1, among the proposed types and manifestations of inequality, there is no distinction between regional, national and global inequality.

Studying scientific sources allows us to clarify the definition of regional inequality and interpret it as inequality in the standard of living and income of different regions, determined by the economic skills of the population, natural features, and the geographical location of the territory. It is regional inequality that is a driving factor for assessing the level of socio-economic development of regions in order to identify the possibility of solving current and long-term problems of social and economic development based on the use of reserves and sources of economic growth and the effectiveness of socio-economic policy implementation measures. According to the value of the integrated assessment of the production, resource-infrastructure and social capabilities of the regions from the point of view of regional inequality, it is divided into 6 groups of regions, namely: regions with a high level of development; regions with an above-average level of development; regions with an average level of development; regions with a below-average level of development; regions with a low level of development; regions with a very low level of development [23, с.64-75].

Territorial differences in the level of economic development and quality of life exist not only between countries but within each of them. And the coincidence of economic and regional inequality with political, religious, and ethnic differences threatens the territorial integrity of the country.

Regarding the definition of the concept of national inequality, we believe that it should be understood as a limitation in access to economic resources, political power or social benefits based on belonging to a certain nationality. Often, national inequality is manifested in ethnopolitical risks that arise in the process of interaction between national minorities and related states, which are caused by such interrelated factors as the low status of the minority in the state of residence and the existence of the "Great Power" project, which stimulate the related state to implement the policy of irredentism.

In our opinion, global inequality is manifested in the subjugation of highly developed states to the attempts of peripheral states to regulate their national economies, using at the same time the policy of "whip and gingerbread" regarding access to international credits and the implementation of structural restructuring. As a result, poor countries lose the opportunity to regulate the components of globally organized production processes that are within their own borders and, therefore, to reach a higher level of development of their economy.

Understanding the multifaceted nature of inequality requires taking into account its two types, such as gender inequality and age inequality.

Gender inequality is a situation when women and men are not actually equal in terms of rights, opportunities and ideas about them as a result of sexism. To this day, women are worse represented than men in many areas, including safety, education, labor market opportunities, politics, pay for equal work (the gender pay gap), and suffer from gender-based violence. Gender inequality stems from differences in gender roles and is caused by the existence of gender stereotypes. Gender inequality grows out of social distinctions, both empirically based and socially constructed. Discriminating against people because of their sex or gender is a tool for creating and maintaining gender inequality.

Age inequality is the restriction of access to economic resources, political power, or social benefits based on age. It is observed in countries with different socio-economic structures, different political orientations, including under democratic and authoritarian rule, as well as in different historical eras.

The article focuses on economic inequality, and, using the term "inequality" later in the text, considers it as inequality associated with differentiation according to economic criteria and its consequences.

Analysis of theoretical approaches to distinguishing individual types of economic inequality allows us to form a general conclusion that scientists distinguish between inequality: 1) income; 2) wealth (inequality, which takes into account not only current incomes but also reflects the difference in already accumulated wealth); 3) consumption (expenses). The classification of approaches to types of economic inequality can be presented in the form of a table. 2.

Note that for a comprehensive consideration of the concept of economic inequality, it is worth focusing attention on the definition of "economic stratification", that is, the division of society by one or more economic characteristics (wages, total incomes, property, etc.). First of all, we note that the term "economic stratification" does not exist in the current national legislation. The situation is the same with respect to similar entities - property stratification, property inequality, income stratification, income differentiation, income ranking, etc. Most often, researchers fill these verbal constructions with the same meaning.

The simplest definition of economic stratification is as follows: "economic stratification is the separation of social strata of society by economic criteria, primarily income" [24]. Its shortcoming, in our opinion, is a certain primitivization of the economic essence of the phenomenon, which is embodied in the dominance of income as the main criterion of stratification.

Table 2. Classification of approaches to types of economic inequality. (Source: [23, 24])

| No | Classification sign | • Internal classification subcharacters |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | By the possibility of access to public goods and material values (resources) | By access to a certain list of social goods and services, which is relevant to the conditions of a given country or is monitored within the framework of participation in international development programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by access to education; • by access to medical care; • by access to quality housing; • by access to quality food. |
| | | By access to locally localized social benefits in terms of the type of settlements (city-rural), regions or countries (in particular, the differentiation in the quality of the infrastructure of cities and settlements of a lower taxonomic level): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by type of place of residence; • by regions, countries. |
| | | By access to material values (resources), such as monetary resources (a higher level of wages for a certain list of professions and qualification levels, to credit resources, certain types of natural resources, drinking water, food, etc.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by access to workplaces of certain categories; - by access to credit resources and other financial instruments; - by access to natural resources, drinking water. |
| 2 | By the level of consumption of public goods and material values | By the level of consumption of public goods and material values (resources): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inequality in the level of education; - health inequality; - inequality in housing quality; - inequality in the quality of nutrition. |
| | | By property inequality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - income inequality; - wealth inequality; - consumption inequality. |
| 3 | According to the dichotomy "objectivity" - "subjectivity" | Inequality according to objective criteria |
| | | Inequality according to self-esteem |

The following definition is somewhat more detailed: "economic stratification - German Stratifikation, ökonomische - a division of society or community into strata on the basis of such a feature as income, which determines differences in the distribution of "life opportunities" and "economic advantages" [25].

Almost similar is the definition of another dictionary: "economic stratification - the division of society or community on the basis of such a feature that determines the difference in the distribution of "life opportunities" and "economic advantages" [26]. These definitions give a more comprehensive view of economic stratification, as they use incomparably broader characteristics - life opportunities and economic advantages.

Quite often, some sources use similar terms, namely:

- "income differentiation" (from the Latin differentia - difference) - the difference in the level of monetary incomes of different strata and population groups [27, 28];
- "property inequality" - uneven distribution of limited resources (money, property) [29, 8], etc.

Sometimes the related term "socio-economic inequality" is used as a synonym for economic inequality, i.e. "... differences between people and between social groups in the provision of material goods and the ability to meet their needs, which is based on the differentiation of population incomes" [30]. In our opinion, this approach is wrong, since economic inequality, according to P. Sorokin [31], is one of the components of social inequality.

Summarizing, we note that in numerous phrases the adjectives "economic", "socio-economic" are used by the authors in combination with the nouns "stratification", "inequality", "layering", "differentiation", etc. in cases where it is necessary to emphasize the economic nature of the causes of this phenomenon (wage differentiation, imperfect redistribution mechanisms, differences in access to the property, etc.). Basically, the terms "economic inequality", and "socio-economic differentiation" and similar researchers use when studying the division of the population into groups (strata) according to their economic capabilities.

In this context, it is worth focusing attention on understanding the concept of stratification, which means placing something in layers, and layering something depending on the inequality of qualitative and quantitative characteristics.

The term "economic stratification" needs some clarification. Most researchers believe that the essence of economic stratification is the division of society into groups (strata). One could agree with such a frontal interpretation, if not for one nuance: division as such is a static concept. It can be fixed, if not forever, then for quite a long time.

On the other hand, economic stratification is a dynamic process, thanks to which there is a constant migration of citizens between strata. In some conditions, such migration can be more noticeable, in others - less. But the process with varying degrees of intensity always takes place.

Another, no less interesting quality of economic stratification is bilaterality. That is, the above-mentioned migration between strata occurs in both directions, although, as a rule, again with different intensity.

So, economic stratification is primarily a process of redistribution of society. Such redistribution has a permanent and two-sided character.

Another peculiarity of the process is its vertical character (to which Bogomolov and Topilin quite rightly drew attention). In fact, any division of society can be divided into strata not only vertically, but also horizontally: for example, according to religion, etc. In the economic context, representatives of horizontal strata can be united by sources of income (owners of industrial enterprises, means of production, latifundists, rentiers, etc.), thus entering into one vertical strata.

So, by economic stratification, we will understand the process of vertical redistribution of society according to economic criteria (relatively speaking, from the "richer" strata to the "poorer" and vice versa).

The list of such criteria can be quite wide. Among them, researchers note, first of all, income, life opportunities, economic advantages, material situation, access to economic resources, wealth, relation to property (means of production), place in the labor organization. Paying tribute to our predecessors, we note that each of these criteria is weighty and significant. All of them have an economic context and reflect one or another side of the stratification process. But precisely in this, in our opinion, the insufficient scientific correctness of the approach lies. The above-mentioned criteria are not comprehensive and generalized.

Instead, a scientifically correct definition should be as concise as possible and at the same time comprehensive. All of the above stratification criteria are in one way or another related to the material equivalent (income, material situation, wealth) or to certain opportunities (life opportunities, relation to the means of production, place in the labor organization).

At the same time, every person has a need to consume material or non-material benefits of life. Real (actual) human consumption is limited by physiological, moral and social frameworks, which are significantly less than the potential. In addition, in the vast majority of cases, real consumption is determined by income. Property as an economic category does not always provide an opportunity for consumption. For example, owning a loss-making enterprise does not generate income, as does, for example, owning some shares, investment certificates and other types of financial and non-financial assets (real estate, land, etc.). But at the same time, it is real income that ensures consumption.

Thus, in order to combine scientific and practical aspects, the definition of economic stratification should be formulated in a narrow and broad sense [32]. Economic stratification in the narrow sense is the process of ranking society by income. In a broad sense, this is the process of ranking society by the amount of potential consumption.

In general, indicators of economic inequality can be divided into:

1) indicators of income inequality:

- Gini coefficient. This indicator is one of the most used for the international analysis of inequality and the welfare of nations. It reflects the distribution of income among the country's residents. The coefficient has a value from 0 to 100, where zero corresponds to perfect equality (that is, the entire population of the country has the same income), 100 reflects the absolute inequality of welfare distribution;
- indicator of change in the share of population income by deciles and/or quintiles;

2) indicators of inequality of opportunities:

- indicators of the level of health, education, human development by population groups according to the level of income;
- indicators of access to basic services.

Important factors affecting the change in income inequality of the population over the past several decades are associated with globalization in society, which has led to the opening and strengthening of trade relations, and intensification of the movement of capital and labor. Technological changes have become an integral part of the development of entrepreneurship, at the same time, the focus on highly qualified personnel has become more widespread. Therefore, it is worth highlighting the global drivers of changes in income distribution in more detail [32].

Technological evolution.

Technological change has not only led to increased labor productivity and return on capital, increased welfare of the population in general due to increased access to the technological benefits of society, but also led to an increase in the skill premium. The skill premium expresses the ratio between the wages of workers with a college degree and those without a college degree. The reasons for these changes are that technological innovations can disproportionately raise the demand for capital and skilled labor over low-skilled or unskilled labor. At the same time, many jobs are eliminated by automating or raising the necessary qualification threshold required to obtain or keep jobs [33, p. 12].

Technological progress is closely related to the growth of incomes of high-tech sectors of the economy and sectors that require a sufficiently high level of education of employees in order to be able to use technological innovations. Jobs with repetitive tasks have largely been eliminated. Technological changes by about a third explain the gap between the first and last deciles of income of the population of the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for the period from 1986 to 2011 [3, p. 12].

Globalization of trade.

Trade is a driving force for growth in many countries, promoting efficiency through competitiveness. Trade openness may have mixed effects on unskilled labor wages in developed countries. On the one hand, trade intensification raises the skill premium through the selection of leading firms capable of competing internationally, but it can also increase real wages by lowering (import) prices. At the same time, the strengthening of trade flows can reduce the inequality of incomes of the population in developing countries due to the increase in demand and wages of successful workers with low qualifications [33, p. 15].

Financial globalization.

Financial globalization is a collective concept that refers to the increase in global linkages created through cross-border financial flows. Financial openness (globalization) of the former refers to the control of capital transfer and the movement of financial flows between countries [33, p. 17].

Financial globalization has many positive consequences for the world economy, such as efficient international distribution of capital and, accordingly, distribution of risks. But at the same time, an increase in financial flows, in particular foreign direct investment, usually leads to a widening of the income gap in both developing and developed countries. The reason for this effect is the concentration of direct foreign investment in relatively more highly qualified and high-tech sectors. This phenomenon leads to an actual increase in the level of qualification of already highly qualified workers, thereby increasing the gap between highly qualified, relatively highly qualified and unqualified workers [33, p. 18].

Industrialization and urbanization.

The reason for the different distribution of income in society can also be considered as a consequence of industrialization and urbanization. Incomes in cities are usually much higher than incomes in rural areas, which is associated with a greater concentration of capital and the efficiency of its use due to a number of objective factors, such as the level of education, access to finance, skilled labor, etc. At the same time, deviations from the average level of income in cities are much higher than in rural areas, that is, in cities there can usually be a significant share of households with high incomes as well as with low ones. Several conclusions follow from the above: as the share of the urban population in the country increases, income inequality must increase; with economic growth, income inequality will rather increase, because productivity per capita in urban regions grows faster than in rural regions [34].

No less important drivers of the expansion and narrowing of the gap in the incomes of the population are those that are provided within the country, both at the expense of state policy and through the development of private entrepreneurship. Such factors are the following:

1) Financial deepening.

Financial deepening is the level of household access to credit resources. Financial deepening expands citizens' access to resources to meet their financial needs: obtaining loans for education, and business development; creation of private pension accounts in accordance with the proposed programs; obtaining consumer loans, etc. [35, p. 42].

On the one hand, access to financial resources should contribute to the general prosperity of the population, which should generally be the case. Although financial development, measured as the relative share of the banking and stock sectors in the economy, contributes more to the growth of top incomes. In the presence of scoring models for evaluating borrowers, where important criteria for obtaining a loan are the presence of collateral (ie, assets, savings) and the ability to repay the loan on time and in full, which directly depends on the borrower's income level. Thus, citizens with a high level of income have access to the leverage mechanism and are thereby able to increase their own income [35, p. 43].

Therefore, the principle of enriching the rich operates under financial deepening. At the same time, the poor will not be able to get credit at all - inequality in the incomes of citizens will grow.

2) Institutes of the labor market.

More flexible labor market institutions can have negative consequences for workers, especially the unskilled, due to high turnover and the absence of well-defined wage limits, especially minimum wages. An important institution of the labor market is the network of trade unions created to improve working conditions, including the level of wages of employees. In addition, the decrease in the minimum wage is associated with higher inequality in developed countries, while the decrease in the number of trade unions is associated with the growth of the last income deciles (richest citizens) [35, p. 44].

It is also necessary to monitor the level of the informal economy, which may increase with increased labor market regulation. After all, not all employers are ready to pay monetary compensation for sickness, pregnancy, early dismissal, etc. Motives for the transition of workers to the shadow sector of the economy are different: in poor countries, it is usually the only way to survive and get at least some income and not be effectively unemployed; in developing countries - a way to avoid paying taxes on wages and receive a higher level of income [35, p. 44].

3) Redistributive policy of the government.

The governments of developed countries have mitigated inequality in the incomes of the population through public policies - primarily through progressive taxation and social transfers (pensions, scholarships, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, and others). However, in many developed economies at the moment there is an increase in net income inequality (after taxation), which indicates the ineffectiveness of the proposed income redistribution policies [33, p. 19].

An important aspect is not only the presence of progressive taxation as one of the methods of reducing the gap in household incomes but also the effectiveness and feasibility of using this mechanism. After all, if the available incomes of citizens are incorrectly assessed, some sections of the population will either not receive the necessary funds, or the funds will be paid to those sections of the population who do not need them [33, p. 19].

The reasons for income inequality among the population can also be the characteristics of the households themselves, which differ in such parameters as the level of initial wealth in the form of financial and non-financial assets; innate and acquired skills, traits; propensity to risk; inclination to one or another type of activity. That is, according to the internal characteristics of households, the following drivers of income inequality can be identified:

1) Natural and acquired skills of an individual (human capital). People differ in intellectual and physical abilities, psychological qualities, level of mobility, education, and available capital of connections with other individuals. For example, in Erosa, Koreshkova and Restuccia, 2010, the relationship between investments in human capital, labor productivity and income distribution were studied [36, p. 115].

2) Status differences. Certain positions allow people to receive additional income due to the presence of certain privileges, status, and access to information resources. Accumulating wealth, obtaining additional income in certain structures, in the realities of Ukraine - this is the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the prosecutor's office, deputies, and, in general, positions in state bodies, depends not so much on available skills, but on available insider information, the possibility of certain agreements at the expense of personal connections, the influence of status. This leads to a growing gap between the incomes of "status" workers and regular ones [36, p. 114].

3) Employment in various sectors of the economy. The salary level of employees of similar professions is usually similar. This is explained primarily by the competitiveness of a certain sector of the economy, the level of riskiness of the sector, the presence and complexity of natural and artificial barriers to entering certain markets. For example, incomes in the IT sector are significantly higher than incomes in the metal industry [36, p. 115]. That is, with the growth of the number of industries, the inequality of the population's income should increase. But the country's specialization in certain sectors of the economy will bring benefits in establishing beneficial trade relations between countries based on the principle of comparative advantage, which, with effective specialization, will provide "cheap" imports of goods and services and, in turn, can contribute to the equalization of citizens' incomes.

4) The difference in the initial assets of citizens. An important factor in income distribution is the so-called property differentiation. This driver is especially important if the growth of income from property (including income from the ownership of financial assets) exceeds the growth of income from the labor factor, and income from the property itself occupies a significant part of the income of the richest strata of the population. The uneven distribution of wealth and the effect of agglomeration are also important factors that contradict the interregional convergence of incomes. That is, the conclusion from the above theses is that citizens with initial available access to profitable assets will have high incomes, at the same time, the absence of assets reduces the level of income due to the lack of significant income from property, capital transactions [36, p. 116].

With access to credit resources, the low-income population will usually use consumer credit and credit in general to cover their own needs. Populations with higher income levels are more likely to have some savings that will later be used to purchase real assets. The cost of lending varies significantly depending on the position in the economic cycle, the state of the country's economy in the international arena, which is expressed in changes in interest rates or changes in the real value of loans in foreign currency (if the country's currency depreciates, loans in foreign currency become more expensive) [36, p. 116].

Since the cost of lending is variable, unpredictable, and in developing countries even high, the incomes of users, in this case, the low-income population, become unstable and decrease. At the same time, income from real assets can, on the contrary, increase during inflation, and risks are hedged with the help of various instruments during periods of economic decline and bring even greater profitability to households with high incomes [36, p. 116].

5) Propensity to save. An important aspect is a statement that only at a high level of income households tend to create savings. That is, the total level of savings of the population with an income other than high is approaching zero. For example, in the United States of America, the richest 5% of the population have about 67% of all savings, when the 10% of the population with the highest incomes account for almost the entire level of population savings [35, p. 47].

DISCUSSION

The polarization of high incomes among fewer people leads to a decrease in tax revenues, especially in countries that do not use a progressive tax scale. The lack of budget funds, in turn, causes a decrease in subsidies and subsidization of households, those who have a large share of transfer income suffer the most. The social consequences of such factors can be negative for the entire society:

- increase in the level of crime;
- holding rallies or protests of various nature, including for the purpose of lowering taxes for the middle class;
- the very concept of "middle class" disappears under high and long-lasting indicators of inequality because large corporations will easily be able to push medium and small businesses out of the market due to access to leverage, the ability to lobby for their own interests in power structures, or the so-called economies of scale. We share the conclusions of IMF researchers that income inequality negatively affects GDP growth and its sustainability [33].

We also agree with the conclusion that a long period of relatively higher income inequality in developed economies was associated with the global financial crisis of 2008 due to the increase in leverage and exaggeration of realistically possible lending volumes, the obvious weakening of collateral underwriting standards and lobbying for financial deregulation of enterprises [35].

Summarizing the approaches and achievements of scientists made it possible to determine that the main drivers of income inequality for better structuring can be conditionally divided into factors provoked by global changes in society; factors related to the specifics of one or another country and personal factors.

CONCLUSIONS

Income inequality in society is a defining characteristic of the population's economic incentives: on the one hand, slight inequality encourages individuals to be proactive, get an education, and do business, if these efforts are justified by a high level of income. However, on the other hand, a high and persistent level of inequality, especially inequality of opportunities, can entail large social costs due to the fact that citizens will not pay attention to the concept of morality, using corruption schemes, lobbying interests, working in the shadow sector of the economy to receive high incomes.

From this follows the conclusion that the ability of incomes to accumulate even more in the form of savings provokes income inequality to grow. After all, household savings can be used to purchase profitable assets, and invest funds in deposits, that is, to create additional sources of income, which becomes an incentive for the gap in the income levels of the poor and the rich.

Therefore, the factors affecting the change in the distribution of citizens' incomes vary widely and depend both on international trends in technological, financial, and trade development; as well as from the specific policies of the states, which in an ideal democratic society should contribute to the reduction of this inequality. No less important are the specific characteristics of the household, including the personal qualities of its members (professional qualities, propensity for savings and risk) and historical aspects of the formation of the household (level of accumulated wealth). Conceptualization of approaches to the interpretation of the definition of "inequality", its types, manifestations, and causes of occurrence helped to outline the main approaches to reducing inequality, namely: inclusive development, a convergence of incomes, Solidarity wage system, elimination of manifestations of discrimination, etc.

The results of the theoretical and methodological conclusions can become the basis for further studies of economic inequality in society caused by the factors of the coronavirus and the war in Ukraine.

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КОНЦЕПТУАЛІЗАЦІЯ ПІДХОДІВ ДО ТЛУМАЧЕННЯ ДЕФІНІЦІЇ «НЕРІВНІСТЬ», ЇЇ ВИДІВ, ПРОЯВІВ ТА ПРИЧИН ВИНИКНЕННЯ

У статті проаналізовані наукові підходи до визначення понять «нерівність», «соціальна нерівність», «економічна нерівність», «соціально-економічна нерівність», «економічна стратифікація». Унаочнено основні детермінанти та засади виникнення нерівності й підходи до її скорочення, а також конкретизовані види та прояви нерівності. Установлено, що основними критеріями оцінювання економічної нерівності є рівень доходів, квінтільний коефіцієнт Джіні, диференціація багатства, відсоток нагромадження, наявність майна, частка малого й середнього бізнесу, рівень зайнятості. Визначено основні критерії оцінки соціальної нерівності, а саме: розмір прожиткового мінімуму, чисельність та склад населення, рівень охорони здоров'я, рівень освіти, рівень соціального захисту.

На основі аналізу підходів до виокремлення проявів нерівності в статті проведено розмежування між регіональною, національною та глобальною нерівністю.

Узагальнення напрацювань вітчизняних і зарубіжних учених дозволило вдосконалити класифікацію підходів до видів економічної нерівності та конкретизувати прояви нерівності, притаманні кожному її виду.

Обґрунтовано, що технологічні зміни, які стали невід'ємною частиною розвитку підприємництва, є важливими чинниками впливу на зміну нерівності в доходах населення протягом останніх кількох десятиріч. З огляду на це визначені глобальні драйвери зміни розподілу доходів та чинники, що забезпечують такі зміни всередині країни. Визначено, що причинами нерівності доходів серед населення можуть бути характеристики самих домогосподарств, та виділено драйвери нерівності доходів населення.

Ключові слова: нерівність, економічна нерівність, соціальна нерівність, економічна стратифікація, нерівність доходів

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