

Quality of life

Multidisciplinarity



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

QOL and multidisciplinary

- **QOL - multidisciplinary**
- **sociology,**
- **psychology,**
- **economics ,**
- **(urban) planning,**
- **geography - ?,**
- **medicine,**
- **others**

QOL and multidisciplinary

- **multidisciplinarity vs. interdisciplinarity**
- **interdisciplinary research - promising, “ideal” way to examine QOL (?)**
- **research centres – usually on universities**
- **Australian Centre on Quality of Life - Deakin University, Quality of Life Research Unit - University of Toronto, Quality of Life Research Group of the Department of Geography - University of Strathclyde and others**



Geography and QOL

Geography and QOL

- **specification of the status, tasks and usefulness of the knowledge obtained via the geographical research within the framework of quality of life examination**
- **two interrelated questions:**
 - a) the role the geography plays in the field of quality of life research**
 - b) the importance of this research for the geography itself**

The role of geography in QOL research

- **Frazier (1982) - most of the problems related to human life have (certain) geographical dimension**
- **Helburn 1982, Murdie et al. 1992, Dissart and Deller 2000, Massam 2002 even more directly refer to the existence of certain “geographical dimension of the quality of life”**

The role of geography in QOL research

- the inartificial need to include the aspect of spatiality into the QOL framework, which has arisen alongside the assumption that QOL (or better said its level measured by appropriate method) is changing not only “from man to man”, but in dependence of that also “from place to place” (van Kamp et al. 2003, Andráško 2007)

The role of geography in QOL research

- fundamental perspective:
- based on geographer's abilities to analyse the spatial aspects or variations of particular, relevant components and processes, and subsequently to come to the synthesis of acquired knowledge, the preferential strongpoint of geography resides in its capability to assess the spatial differentiation of selected territory from the QOL viewpoint (Andráško 2007)
- only a „starting point“ (!!!)

The role of geography in QOL research

- **ability of multidimensional approach – natural and built environment aspects**
- **man and environment – strenght or weakness**
- **Pacione (2003) also points out the traditional conceptual and methodological eclecticism of the geography**
- **Geographical Information Systems - highly operational technique by the generation of well-being and quality of life maps (Massam 1999)**

The role of QOL research in the geography

- **what role can (should) this research play in the field of geography?**
- **Johnston (1997) - in the 1960s and 1970s the studies drawing the attention to the need of incorporation of the QOL research into geography have arisen**
- **„level of living“ (Thompson et al. 1962, Lewis 1968)**
- **special attention - social conditions, situation or deprivation in urban areas (Bunge 1973, Herbert 1975, Smith 1979)**

The role of QOL research in the geography

- **factorial ecologies - object of critique**
- **some authors adapted FE procedures and by the means of the initial indicators set extension started to portray spatial variations in social welfare**

The role of QOL research in the geography

- P. L. Knox promoted the mapping of social and spatial variations in the QOL as a fundamental objective for geography and suggested the related basic methodological framework (Johnston 1997)
- in the 1980s the growing interest in the aspects of environmental quality led to inclusion of the environmental indicators
- Cutter (1985), Pacione (1986) and others presented comprehensive (geographical) quality of life models

The role of QOL research in the geography

- S. Cutter (1985) - (geographical) model of QOL
- O and S indicators, 3 basic dimensions – social, environmental, perceptual relating to some place
- 3 basic types of perceptual aspects of QOL spatial variations:
 - subjective evaluation of environment,
 - place image – overall evaluation of QOL in some area – based on perception
 - evaluation of indicators

The role of QOL research in the geography

- M. Pacione - the structure and distribution of QOL forms a key area of research in (human) geography
- central to the QOL research is study of the relationship between people and their environments and seeking to understand the nature of the person – environment relationship is the quintessential geographical question, that lies at the core of the sub-discipline of social (human) geography

Postavenie výskumu KŽ v rámci geografie

- **Andráško (2010):**
 - **comprehensive conceptual framework, creating excellent conditions for synthetic interpretation of spatial structures and / or interconnection of the knowledge of human and physical geography**
 - **contribution to the development of „creative geography“**
 - **the concept is tightly connected with the everyday lives of people - possibilities for the popularization of scientific knowledge and strengthening the position of geography as applied science**

THE QUESTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

- **determines the degree to which our knowledge regarding QOL is (or will be) generalized**
- **the larger the studied area and population, the higher is the degree our knowledge about QOL is generalized**
- **from individual to general**

THE QUESTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

- reflects in the selection of indicators, methods of data acquisition, treating or plotting
- usually the larger the referential area, the bigger is the proportional representation of objective indicators
- the local level of research represents a suitable spatial framework for the use of subjective indicators or subjective as well as objective indicators
- many authors declare the opinion that the local level is most suitable for the (geographical) quality of life research

THE QUESTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

- global level - Human Development Index
- Slottje (1991) compared 126 countries
- level of one state - Glatzer a Zapf (1984), Ira et al. (2005)
- metropolitan areas (Liu (1976), Sufian (1993))
- 3 levels of research in one city - Pacione (1986)

THE USEFULNESS OF GEOGRAPHICAL QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH

- Pacione (2003), Andráško (2007):
 - production of the spatial projection of the information regarding QOL in particular areas;
 - assessment of the spatial differentiation of selected territory(ies) from the QOL viewpoint;
 - production of territorial comparisons of the levels of QOL and identification of the most “problematic” areas;
 - production of visually transparent outputs (mainly maps), representing the information regarding the QOL in quite simple and comprehensible, user friendly manner;
 - creation of the specialized Geographical Information Systems as an highly operative tool for handling the QOL related data;

THE USEFULNESS OF GEOGRAPHICAL QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH

- production of some baseline measures of QOL against which we can compare subsequent measures and identify trends over time;
- knowledge of how satisfactions and dissatisfactions are distributed through society and across space;
- understanding the structure and dependence or interrelationship of various life concerns;
- understanding how people combine their feelings about individual life concerns into an overall evaluation of QOL;

THE USEFULNESS OF GEOGRAPHICAL QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH

- achieving a better understanding of the causes and conditions which lead to individuals' feelings of well being, and of the effects of such feelings on their behaviour;
- identifying problems meriting special attention and possible societal action;
- identification of normative standards against which actual conditions may be judged in order to inform effective policy formulation;
- monitoring the effects of policies on the ground; promoting public participation in the policy making.

THE USEFULNESS OF GEOGRAPHICAL QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH

- contribution to formulation, creation, evaluation... of (regional) development strategies (!)



Thank you for attention!