

RURAL COMMUNITIES, AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE IN CĂLĂRAȘI COUNTY

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Abstract

The rural areas possess a substantial potential of growing and they have a vital social role in the social and economic life of every country. The social and economic life in the rural areas is carried out via rural communities. The paperwork is presenting the results of a study which was performed in rural communities of Călărași County regarding the public perception of the inhabitants on the development of the rural communities. The criteria of the analysis were the following: the locality, the age, the level of education, the gender and the professional status. The study emphasized the fact that the model of the community's development may be considered as a local specific model, which is the result of some complicated processes that required a long-term evolution.

Key words: rural development, citizens' involvement, rural community, active participation

INTRODUCTION

Rural communities are communities on a voluntary basis, which help the institutions with the sustainable continuity of the social and economic life [11].

From the administrative point of view, the Romanian territory is organized, at NUTS5 level in 320 localities (of which 103 municipalities – the most important cities) [8] which forms the urban areas and 2,861 villages, which represent the rural area (at 31 of December 2011) [9].

On their turn, the villages are most of them formed from more villages (12,957 villages).

The towns and the villages are clustered in counties (NUTS3 level) which hold administrative functions.

The 42 counties are clustered in 8 regions of development (NUTS2), which do not have administrative functions. [3]

The rural areas of Romania cover 87.1% of its territory and 47.2% from its population, 8.98 million of inhabitants 2011 [5].

The County's surface is 5,088 square kilometres, representing 2.1% of the Romanian territory, Călărași County

occupying rank 28 considering the size among the country's counties.

The population of Călărași County is formed of 308,655 inhabitants (1.64% of the country's population) [6].

From the point of view of the distribution on the areas of residence 61.55% are living in the rural areas 38.45% of the county's population lives in the urban areas [1].

The level of the population's urbanization being under the average of the country, which is 46.1% [6].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Starting from the assumption that the citizens' participation represents an important marker in the rural development [10], it was carried out during the year 2017, a survey, on a questionnaire basis in the rural communities from Călărași County in order to capture the public perception on the influence of the rural communities (citizens/organizations) regarding the rural development.

The research was carried out through the inquiry method on the questionnaire basis, which represents an instrument of research consisting of a series of questions and of

answers based on quality (the following were used: very much, a lot, little, not at all) in order to collect the information.

The analysis of the data from the questionnaire was carried out with the help of the conformity test χ^2 (“hi-square”) which can be applied to any statistic distribution.

χ^2 test allowed the clustering and the calculation of the qualitative answers’ significance on the criteria of the respondents’ characterization (village of residence, age, level of education, sex, professional status). The significance was calculated for the probabilities of transgression. <0.05%, insignificant; 0.05, significant (*); 0.01, distinctive significant (**); 0.001, very significant (***)).

The research was carried out in three main villages (Belciugatele, Dragalina and Dragoș Vodă), with 100 respondents and villages with a number of 80 respondents, which were analysed as ~other villages~.

The selection of the respondents was carried out by choosing the fifth house. The author was accompanied by educational staff which knew the inhabitants of the villages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The investigated rural communities present a different level of social and economic development.

They are different as size and stretch and they are positioned in different areas of Călărași County.

Table 1. The structure of the population from the studied villages according to gender, in the year 2016, in Călărași County.

Village	TOTAL POPULATION		MALE		FEMALE	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Belciugatele	2,247	100.0	1,139	50,7	1,108	49.3
Dragalina	8,597	100.0	4,382	51.0	4,215	49.0
Dragoș Vodă	2,946	100.0	1,458	49.5	1,488	50.5

Data source: INS, 2013 Regional Direction of Statistics- Călărași – Stable population at 1 January 2011[6]

The studied villages have a population of 13,790 people (Table 1), which represents 22.38%, of the total population from Călărași County. (Dragalina with 8.597 inhabitants, Dragoș Vodă with 2.946 inhabitants and Belciugatele with 2.247 inhabitants).

The occupied surface of the three villages is

5,088 ha, which represents 7.55% of the county’s surface (Table 2).

The population’s density is very different, from 38 citizens/square km in Dragoș Vodă village, to 46.2 citizens/square km in Belciugatele village to 74.4% in Dragalina village.

Table 2. The surfaces and population share and the population’s density of the investigated villages, comparing with Călărași County

Village	Total surface		Population		Density	
	km ²	%	Inhabitants	%	Inh./km ²	%
Belciugatele	80.14	1.58	2,247	1.58	28.0	46.22
Dragalina	180.71	3.55	8,597	3.55	47.6	78.42
Dragoș Vodă	127.76	2.51	2,946	2.51	23.1	38.01
Total County	5,088	100	308,655	100.00	60.7	100.00

Data source: INS, 2013 Regional Direction of Statistics- Călărași – Stable population at 1 January 2011[6]

In Călărași County the density was of 60.7 citizens/square km (rank 32 on counties)[7], and at the country level of 84.4 citizens/square km (rank 84 in the world)[12].

Analysing the correlation between the rural development and the existence of some strong rural communities, at the village level it is noted that there is a very significant

distinction (***) of the appreciation degree.
 (Table 3)

Table 3. The analysis of the correlation between the village development and the existence of some organized communities according to the studied villages from Călărași County, in the year 2017

Village	MU	Do you believe that the existence of some strong organized communities can influence the development of your village?				Total	
		Very much	A lot	Little	Not at all	no	%
Belciugatele	No	7	10	32	51	100	26.25
Dragoș Vodă	No	26	39	30	6	101	26.51
Dragalina	No	86	14	0	0	100	26.25
Other villages	No	38	25	14	3	80	21.00
Total	No	157	88	76	60	381	100
	%	41.21	23.10	19.95	15.75	100	x
Indicators	Test χ^2	Threshold of significance					
	\leq	0.2	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.001	
CHIINV (Chi theoretic)	\geq	12.24	14.68	16.92	21.67	27.88	
CHIINV (Chi calculated)	247.99					****	
Pearson Coefficient	0.628						

Data source: Călin –Năstase Mariana, 2017, Questionnaire- rural communities, Călărași County [2]

The inhabitants of Dragalina and Dragoș Vodă are the ones which appreciate very much the positive influence of the strong organized communities in the development of the village of which they belong to.

The respondents of the questionnaire have declared that they are consulted by the local public authorities, there is decision

transparency and an important number have participated in an active manner to the implementation of the local projects, meanwhile the level of acknowledgement of the influence and the impact of the communities in the rural development is low represented in Belciugatele village.

Table 4. Analysis of the correlation between the village development and the existence of some organized communities according to the respondents' age from Călărași County in the year 2017

Age	MU	Do you believe that the existence of some strong organized communities can influence the development of your village?				Total	
		Very much	A lot	Little	Not at all	no	%
Under 30 years	no	22	19	13	12	66	17.32
Between 31-40 years	no	62	25	15	6	108	28.35
Between 41-50 years	no	41	26	21	15	103	27.03
Between 51-60 years	no	18	12	12	10	52	13.65
Over 61 years	no	14	6	15	17	52	13.65
Total	no	157	88	76	60	381	100
	%	41.21	23.10	19.95	15.75	100	x
Indicators	Test χ^2	Threshold of significance					
	\leq	0.2	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.001	
CHIINV (Chi theoretic)	\geq	20.47	23.54	26.30	32.00	39.25	
CHIINV (Chi calculated)	43.48					***	
Pearson Coefficient	0.320						

Data source: Călin –Năstase Mariana, 2017, Questionnaire- rural communities, Călărași County [2]

In this regard, the correlation is appreciated with very much and a lot by 17% of the Belciugatele village's inhabitants, 65% of Dragoș Vodă inhabitants, 90% of Dragalina

inhabitants, and 63% of the inhabitants from the other villages.

From the statistical analysis of the answers on the respondents' criteria of age, according the correlation between strong communities and

the development of the village, resulted that the pattern of appreciation is different, such as the differences of the answers are appreciated as very significant (***) (Table 4).

Therefore, the segments of age between 31-40 years old and segments of age between 41-50 years old, they most appreciate and acknowledge the impact of the organized communities on the local development, the first segment (very much and a lot 87 Inhabitants, 81 %) and the second segment (very much and a lot 67 Inhabitants, 65%).

The least appreciates the segment over 60 years (very much and a lot 20 Inhabitants, 38%).

Regarding the statistic distribution of the answers, according to the level of education, concerning the correlation between strong communities and the development of the village, also have resulted different appreciations, respectively the answers appreciated as very significant from the statistic point of view. (***) (Table 5).

Table 5. The analysis of the correlation regarding the development of the village and the existence of the communities organized according to the level of education of the respondents, from Călărași County, in the year 2017

Last graduated school	MU	Do you believe that the existence of some strong organized communities can influence the development of your village?				Total		
		Very much	A lot	Little	Not at all	no	%	
1-4 Years of studies	no	3	2	7	1	13	3.41	
5-8 Years of studies	no	20	27	19	17	83	21.78	
High-school	no	83	44	39	36	202	53.02	
University	no	51	15	11	6	83	21.78	
Total	no	157	88	76	60	381	100	
	%	41.21	23.10	19.95	15.75	100	x	
Indicators	Test χ^2	Threshold of significance						
	\leq	0.2	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.001		
CHIINV (Chi theoretic)	\geq	12.24	14.68	16.92	21.67	27.88		
CHIINV (Chi calculated)	35.63					***		
Coefficient Pearson	0.292							

Data source: Călin –Năstase Mariana, 2017, Questionnaire- rural communities, Călărași County [2]

Thus it can be noted that the appreciations very much and a lot, they grow with the level of education: 38% at 1-4 years of studies (5 Inhabitants), 56% 5-8 years of studies (47 Inhabitants), 63% high-school studies (127

Inhabitants) and 79% university degree (66 Inhabitants).

These appreciations confirm the affirmation that “the development doesn’t start from goods, but from education, organization and the discipline of humans [4].

Table 6. Analysis of the correlation between the development of the village and the existence of some organized communities according to the respondents' gender, in Călărași County, in 2017

Gender	MU	Do you believe that the existence of some strong organized communities can influence the development of your village?				Total		
		Very much	A lot	Little	Not at all	No	%	
Male	no	88	50	45	46	229	60.10	
Female	no	69	38	31	14	152	39.90	
Total	no	157	88	76	60	381	100	
	%	41.21	23.10	19.95	15.75	100	x	
Indicators	Test χ^2	Threshold significance						
	\leq	0.2	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.001		
CHIINV (Chi theoretic)	\geq	4.64	6.25	7.81	11.34	16.27		
CHIINV (Chi calculated)	8.36			*				
Coefficient Pearson	0.147							

Data source: Călin –Năstase Mariana, 2017, Questionnaire- rural communities, Călărași County [2]

Regarding the distribution on gender, the ones that most appreciate the importance of

organized communities and their impact on the rural development are men (60.1%), being

known the fact that in the rural mentality, the rural family model is centred on power and masculine representation, the woman being the one who raises children and doing household (39.9%).

This difference is statistically appreciated as significant (*) (Table 6).

Analysing the statistic distribution of the answers, according to the professional status of the respondents it is noted that there are differences very significant (***) between the modality of the answer (Table 7).

Table 7. The analysis of the correlation between the village development and the existence of some organized communities according to the professional status of the respondents, from Călărași County, in the year 2017

Professional Status	MU	Do you believe that the existence of some strong organized communities can influence the development of your village?				Total		
		Very much	A lot	Little	Not at all	No	%	
Farmer	no	17	16	13	7	53	13.91	
Employee	no	104	44	36	28	212	55.64	
Registered unemployed	no	4	5	5	0	14	3.67	
Unregistered unemployed	no	5	4	2	2	13	3.41	
Without status	no	21	15	12	6	54	14.17	
Retired Inhabitants	no	6	4	8	17	35	9.19	
Total	no	157	88	76	60	381	100	
	%	41.21	23.10	19.95	15.75	100	x	
Indicators	Test χ^2	Threshold significance						
	\leq	0.2	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.001		
CHIINV (Chi teoretic)	\geq	20.47	23.54	26.30	32.00	39.25		
CHIINV (Chi calculat)	48.66					****		
Coefficient Pearson	0,337							

Data source: Călin –Năstase Mariana, 2017, Questionnaire- rural communities, Călărași County [2]

CONCLUSIONS

From the analysis of the correlation between strong communities and the village development after the comparison criteria: village, age, level of education, gender, and professional status of the respondents, it results that there are differences among all these criteria that are appreciated statistically as very significant (***), with the exception of the cluster according to the gender, which is significant (*).

In villages, the answers like: very much and a lot, regarding the correlation between strong communities and the village development, register a ratio which ranges between 17% and 90 %.

Between ages the answers like: very much and a lot are contained between 20% and 67%, and according to the gender between 39.9% for the female and 60.1% for the male. According to the level of education the differences are from 38.4 %, at 1-4 years of studies to 79.5%, to university degree, and according to the professional status from

28.5% to retired inhabitants and unregistered unemployed, to 69.8 % at employees.

According to the given answers it can be considered that the model of the community's development may be considered as a local specific model, which is the result of some complicated processes that required a long-term evolution.

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