Olga Grigorieva. 2005

Poverty and Socio-economic Differentiation of Population Following the Recent Economic Transformation in Belarus.

The objectives of this thesis are to identify the problem of poverty and socio-economic differentiation as one of the key current human development problems in Belarus ; also to analyze the recent tendencies of socio-economic inequality and differentiation of the population in the republic, it also tries to explore recent poverty trends using alternative concepts and measurement approaches (money-metric indicators, food energy intake approach) and to analyze the relationship between monetary indictors of poverty with more material indicators; also to delineate poverty profile in the republic and identify at-risk groups of population and households, and finally to find out the economic background of the changes in the socio-demographic situation in the republic and analyze the relationship between different economic and socio-demographic variables. The study recommended paying special attention to the development of the social assistance programs in the country. Also Provision of assistance to low-income people should be set at levels that motivate them to seek employment. Paying attention to the alleviation of child poverty through well-targeted interventions among the households with children. Incorporation of the equity aspect in the poverty analysis. Facilitation of private sector activities which is essential for the achievement of sustainable and rapid economic growth. Paying attention to the development of the agricultural sector. And the improvement of statistical monitoring of poverty is required in order to assist the development of the poverty reduction strategies.