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Social Development Planning

**The Approach to Methodology at Macro and
Micro Level**

by

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PART I

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AT MACRO LEVEL

Contents

PART 1.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AT MACRO LEVEL

Chapter I.

General Approach to Social Development Planning

1. Terminological Definitions	1
2. Unified Approach Toward Socio-Economic Development Planning.....	2
3. Common and specific for Economic and Social Development Planning...	3
- The Subject of Social Planning	9
4. The Formulation of the Social Development Plan	10

Chapter II

The Elaboration of the Goals and Objectives in the Field of Social Development.

1. In the Field of Human Resources Development	11
2. In the Field of Distribution	13
3. In the Field of Education	14
4. In the Field of Health Care	14
5. In the Field of Housing	15
6. In the Field of Social Care	16
7. In the Field of Human Environment and Utilization of Leisure Time...	16

Chapter III

Methodological Approaches Towards Social Development Planning

1. Social Planning as a Planning with Social goals as the Final Aimes in Development	18
2. Social Planning as Planning of Human Resources Development	18
3. Social Planning as a Contribution of the Social Factors to the Economic Planning	18
4. Social Planning as Planning In Each of the Social Sectors	19
5. Social Planning In Intersectoral Approach.....	19
6. Social Planning as the Structural Changes	19

7. Methodological Relations Between Macro and Micro Levels	19
8. Some Achievements of Planned Social Development in Czechoslovakia...	21

Chapter IV

The Approach In Elaborating of Indicators of Social Development Planning at Macro Level

1. The Proposed Main Indicators of Social Development at Macro Level (see tables in the Annex A).....	25,45
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PART II

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AT MICRO LEVEL - CASE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Chapter I.

Elaboration of the Complex Social Programmes	26
--	----

Chapter II.

From the Programme of Providing the Complex Care of Working People to the Social Development Planning.....	31
--	----

Chapter III.

The Methodology of Social Planning at Micro Level.....	35
1. The Structure of the Plan.....	35
2. Main Objectives and Targets of the Plan	35
3. Some Main Methodological Problems of the Drawing up of the Plan	40

Chapter IV

The Proposed Main Indicators of Social Development at Factory(micro) Level. (see tables in the Annex B)	51
---	----

Chapter 1

General Approach to Social Development Planning

Terminological Definitions

The term "social" is interpreted differently. In one way it is applied by economists, other interpretation is used by the sociologists, still other is applied by social workers and the like.

In the following the social development is understood in narrower sense. The term "social" is not interpreted as a "development of a society". We apply the term "social" in narrower terms mainly in relation with "economic". This is understood to elaborate the connections with more efficient role and utilization of human factor in the development primarily in relation to the growth of the standard of living and with perfectioning of the social structure of the society.

The narrower definition of the social development in planning may be seen also in relation to the "social aspects of management", which can't be expressed directly in planning and if so it can be done in limited way indirectly only by means of various measures.

Although the social development is interpreted in narrower sense, when working it out the over-all trends in development should be observed and taken into consideration. It means the trends in rising the standard of living of the masses, the elimination of substantial differentials between the rural and urban areas, between manual and mental work, further the process of creation the equal work conditions, the getting closer the class differentials and so the rapprochement of social groups, increasing of the people participation in the management and administration, reaching the greater unity between individuals and society etc.

Above mentioned interpretation of the term "social" determines also approaches toward social development planning. In narrower terms social development planning is understood to mean the regulation of that social and society's processes, which are based on economic processes, but they are relatively independent and in turn they influence the economic development.

The social development planning emerges from the idea of the unified approach of social and economic development. This means that not two plans one for social and other for economic development is advocated but only one unified development plan is considered.

2. Unified Approach Toward Socio-Economic Development Planning.

The main point of departure for elaboration of social development planning is an idea of unified approach toward development of the society. In this approach the development is guided by the one/unified/ system of Planning and it is developed on the basis of political and economic directives.

This concept of social development planning represents an organic part of unified socio-economic development planning, what enables in a great extent to realize in practice the idea of unified planning elaborated by Lenin.

The next precondition which serves as a base for departure in elaborating of the methodology of social development planning is the fact that for example in Czechoslovakia there has been for many years carried out the planned economy not only at the economic field but at the social field as well.

The new aspects should be seen in the approaches towards the planning as whole and in finding the new ways of improving of the methodology of planning which would reflect in better way the needs and possibilities in development at current stage of constructing of the developed socialistic society under the conditions of realization of scientific and technological revolution.

The effort in perfectioning of the methodology of planning should be aimed towards the main problem that is to plan the social development at whole range of its problems and also to find the way of more effective incorporation of the social development planning into the system of the state development.

The current methodology of planning has been built up extensively on bases of economic planning at the macro as well as at the micro level. The plans of individual social sectors as it is the plan of health care, social security plan, educational plan, human environment plan are parts of the economic plan.

side this economic planning doesn't include all social problems in a complex way putting often emphasis on social programmes within the framework economic plan. It is suggested to develop much more social development planning hand in hand with economic planning.

The building up of the socialist society in our conditions requires setting the social aims as a decisive goal of economic and social development. The effort to build up a classless society, nationalization of the means of production, scientific planning in all branches of activity including employment, distribution and redistribution of national income, health care and other social problems at the national level reflects the importance and the substance of this process.

To meet above mentioned trends there is a need to work out how to improve the methodology of planning having in mind to wide up the horizon of existing economic planning by the activities that are carried out in the field of social development.

At the macro level the concept of socio-economic development plan could be considered / instead of economic development plan/ and at the micro level the concept of technico-economic plan and plan of social development could be introduced / to replace current concept of technological and economic plan of a factory/.

The approach towards development should be understood as a unified process of development of a society embracing economic as well as social aspects of development. Both economic and social development are closely related to each other in an integrated way and comes as a result of political and economic system and character of social and economic relations of the socialistic state.

The development of the socialistic society represents a social process itself in a broad sense as an over-all process of development of a society/with any political, economic, social, cultural, psychological and other dimensions which take place simultaneously and in unity.

In spite of the fact that social process takes place in a unified way, there is a need for practical purposes to study some partial processes of an over-all process of development in a separate way.

For our purposes there is needed to study primarily interrelations between social and economic development having in mind the broader relations and interconnections of other subsystems of development.

An approach to the study of social development planning within the framework of over all development of a society is seen in chart number 1.

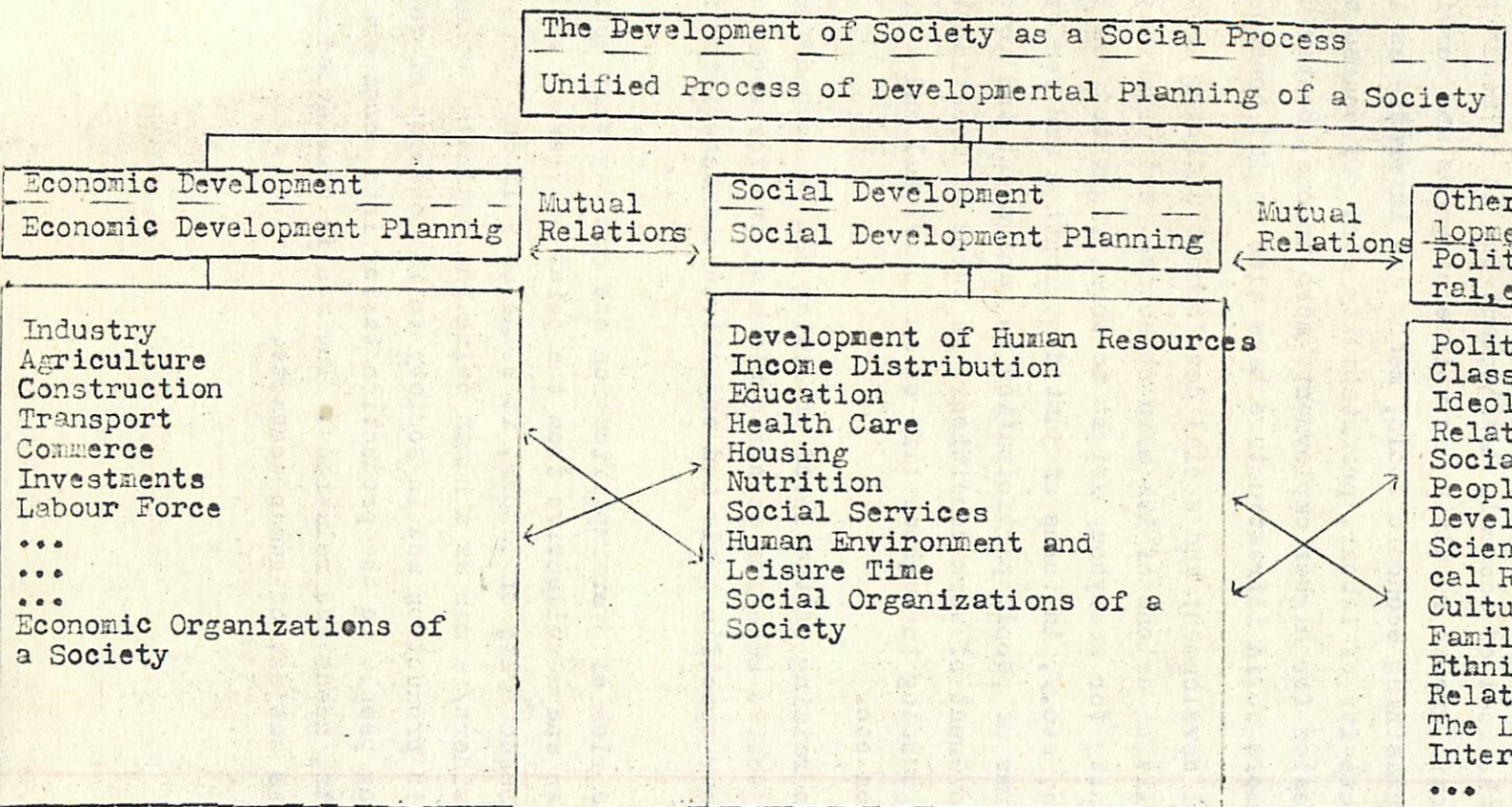
Developmental planning is based also on the unified concept of development of a socialist society incorporating economic as well as social components of development. As for economic development, economic planning has been pretty long recognized form as a tool for its management. It is logical that social development planning should be as a tool for managing of social development.

The approaches and methods of economic planning they are for a time being worked out at a fairly good level. The approaches and methods of social development planning has not been worked out properly and they are to be elaborated and introduced into the practice.

In working out of the methodology of social development planning the main task rests with effective elaboration in the most complex form of the decisive processes not only that of economic development but also of social development in their mutual interrelations taking into account specific aspects of both processes.

- 3 -

Simplified Chart of Working out of Social Development Planning
in Narrow Sense at Macro Level.



3. Common and Specific for Economic Planning and Social Development Planning

The Integrating factor / common/ for both economic planning and social planning is the raising of the level of living. As for economic development and its planning the raising of the level of living is without doubt one of the goal of economic development but it is meant primarily in terms of economic growth resulting in volume of goods and services produced per person emphasizing economic tools, means and interests as it is for example productivity of labour, profitability etc. Of course the favourable conditions created for higher employment, more income, better social security and more solid infrastructure have also social consequences.

Social development and social development planning have also raised the level of living as one of its main objective, but primarily in terms of equal opportunity for everybody /right to work, right to free health care, free education, etc./, in terms of just distribution and redistribution of income, in terms of people participation in management and government, in terms of improvement of work conditions, in terms of creation better conditions for safeguarding throughout life of an individual and a collective, to selfrealization etc.

If the raising of the level of living can be considered as one of the common objective both for economic planning and for social planning there are many further specific goals and objectives characteristic for each part of planning.

At the risk of oversimplification one can say that economic planning considers a man and a collective from the point of view of their role in production, productivity of labour, it means as a labour force, social planning sees /considers/ a man as a human being and evaluates other aspects like to his place in production and in society to the changes of roles of a collective of working people in the production taking into consideration their different interests, needs and relations. The man is considered as a subject of work as well as subject of human contacts.

Taking the man as a subject of work, as a labour force the other following aspects are to be considered: The creation of favourable work conditions, conditions for study and rest and for best utilization of his abilities. A very important question in this connection is to consider the labour force in the framework of family and creation of work opportunities for men and women taking into account the family as an important unit of the society.

Similarly the different point of view can be seen in other cases. In the case of wages economic planning considers it primarily as a cost of production social planning it is seen mainly from the point of view of social differentiation. In health care along with its planning in terms of the number of hospital beds there is a need to observe much more the health situation of the population.

In the field of education there is a need to take into account not the increase of the number of schools only, but also much more interest should be given to the question of the raising of the level of education and further possibilities of spreading the education for the largest strata of the population.

It is supposed that economic planning as a system is known in substance, so in the following the decisive attention is devoted to the so far not elaborated problem of social development planning.

The specifics of social development planning at the macro level can be seen in the role of social planning to improve society, social structure and to foresee /forecast/ and to support the progressive socio-economic changes that conditioned rational and effective utilization of existing human and material resources and through development of a collective and an individual.

The Subject of Social Planning

Within these broad dimensions of social changes the main role is played by the productive collective at such extent that it represents the subject of social planning. In other way said the subject of a social development planning is considered to be a productive collective /of working people of a factory - organization/. This collective represents a basic unit of the socialist society and as such plays the significant role in development.

The collective of working people / of a factory - organization/ has to have the raising role in the solution of the objectives of developed socialist society. Within these collectives there are formed new socialistic features of working people and increase work and social activities of the people. Productive collective /in broad sense/ conditions the solution of the complex problems connected with the satisfying of the socio-economic needs of society and with the changes in her socio-political structure. Next its significance rests with the fact that represents a complex of inner relations and connections, that exists among the workers and their collectives as well as between collectives of the working people and society. This is of great importance in the period of scientific-technological revolution. This concept differs from other, placing as a subject of social planning for example family, or an individual and his status.

The growing importance of production collective in solving the objectives of building up of the society, in satisfying the needs of the people and in forming of the socialistic features and values calls for planned regulation of these processes. These needs meet in some way a new branch of planning activities that is social development planning.

To meet the requirements of the social development having in mind the improvement of social structure and the supporting of the socio-economic changes the social planning implies detail elaboration of the social needs as well as the goals and objectives of meeting these needs.

The Formulation of the Social Development Plan.

The formulation of that part of the plan concerning the social development implies:

- Preparatory research and study
- Prognosis of social needs
- Setting up the goals, objectives and priorities
- Elaboration of the plan including setting up of resources
- Working out of the policy of implementation
- Elaboration of social development of individual sectors, setting up of the programmes and formulation of projects
- Coordination of the plans of individual sectors and their integration.

Among the most difficult stages of formulation of the social development plan /as a part of a unified state plan/ can be cited the prognosis of the social needs and elaboration of goals and objectives of social development as well as setting up the priorities for their implementation.

In the course of social development planning the following system of goals should be worked out:

1. Goals of the meeting of material needs
2. Goals of the meeting of social needs
3. Goals of the meeting of development of a human being
4. Goals of the meeting of cultural art, and other needs

The elaboration of the objectives of meeting of the material needs implies mainly needs concerning:

- a) human resources development
- b) nutrition, housing, clothing, health care etc.

The elaboration of the objectives of meeting of the social needs implies mainly need concerning:

- a) social services and social security
- b) human relations etc.

The elaboration of the objectives of meeting of the needs concerning throughout development of a man implies mainly:

- a) education, creative activities
- b) utilization of leisure time

The elaboration of the objectives of meeting of the cultural needs implies mainly meeting of the needs of intellectual development in the field of culture, art, esthetic etc.

Elaborating of the goals and objectives of the social development from the point of view of priorities in the urgency of their meeting at the present time and in near future as well as possibilities in resources the following problems come to the fore:

1. Human resources development
2. Socio-economic aspects of income distribution
3. Development of education and schooling
4. Development of health care
5. Development of housing
6. Development of social care and social services
7. Development of human environment and utilization of leisure time
8. Development of ideological, political, socio-psychological and cultural relations.

The starting point for elaboration of the goals, objectives and targets in the field of social development are documents and resolutions adopted by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia setting down basic political and economic directions for further development of a society.

Chapter II.

The Elaboration of the Goals and Objectives in the Field of Social Development

1. The elaboration of the goals and objectives in the field of human resources development is of decisive importance in the socio-economic development of a society.

The elaboration of the goals and objectives in the field of human resources development implies: