

THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CITY OF PETROSANI IN THE OPINION OF CITIZENS

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Abstract: All the factors that determine the conditions necessary for human existence are related to the environment. Contamination of the environment with materials that interfere with human health, quality of life or the natural function of ecosystems represents pollution. The present paper is based on an opinion poll on the quality of the environment in the city of Petroșani because we wanted to see what the state of the environment is and how we can help maintain or improve it.

Keywords : environment, contamination, human health, pollution

1. INTRODUCTION

The Petroșani Depression is the largest depression in the country, has a tectonic origin and expands to east-west direction 43-45 km and widens 3-9 km on the courses of the two main affluents of "Jiu" river. It is known for its natural resources, exploited by the Romanian state through coal mines. The mountains that surround it are in the Retezat-Godeanu group of Southern Carpathians. The city has a population of 37,160 inhabitants, according to the 2011 census of which 17 895 are men and 19 265 are women.

The environment represents all the natural and anthropic factors that determine the conditions for human existence and the development of the society in which man lives.

In the national legislation the environment is defined as "the set of conditions and natural elements of the Earth: air, water, soil, subsoil, all atmospheric layers, all organic and inorganic materials, as well as living beings, the interaction of natural systems which includes the elements listed above, material and spiritual values, the quality of life and conditions that can influence human well-being and health".

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The quality of the environment represents its state at a given time resulting from the integration of all the component elements that ensures an environment that meets the human needs.

According to the law no.195/2005 the monitoring of the environment represents, "the monitoring, forecasting, warning and intervention in order to systematically evaluate the dynamics of the qualitative characteristics of the environmental elements, to know its status, the evolution and social implications of the changes produced, followed by the measures that are required.

The deterioration of the environment implies the alteration of the structural characteristics of its natural and anthropic components. The deterioration of the environment has effects on the quality of life caused by the pollution of the water, the soil of the atmosphere, over-exploitation of resources, etc.

By pollutant is meant any substance in solid, liquid, gaseous form, in the form of vapors or energy that introduced into the environment harms human health and the environment.

2. METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

This paper is based on a public opinion poll conducted in Petrosani located in the Jiu Valley. The survey was conducted between 02.09.2019-30.09.2019 on a sample of 500 persons, adults over the age of 18 years.

The purpose of this survey was to find out the opinion of the population on the quality of the environment in the city and what solutions can be used to improve it. The survey was based on a set of 15 questions, of which the most significant were used in this paper. The questions that have been chosen for this paper are:

- How do you evaluate the quality of the environment in Petrosani city from an environmental point of view?
- Compared to 2-3 years ago, the environmental situation in the city, has it improved or worsened?
- From your point of view, what do you consider to be the most serious environmental problem in the city?
- What does it mean to improve the environment for you?

From these questions we obtained the results presented below. Based on the question "How do you evaluate the quality of the environment in Petrosani city from an environmental point of view?", 64.8% of the population surveyed considered that the environment has an acceptable state, while a percentage of 4% of the people asked consider that the environment has a very bad state and is in a continuous degradation.

The second question addressed to the population was: "Compared to 2-3 years ago, the environmental situation in the city, has it improved or worsened?", where 54% of the population surveyed think that the environment in their city is deteriorating and is in continuous degradation, and 30% of the population considers that the environment is cleaner.

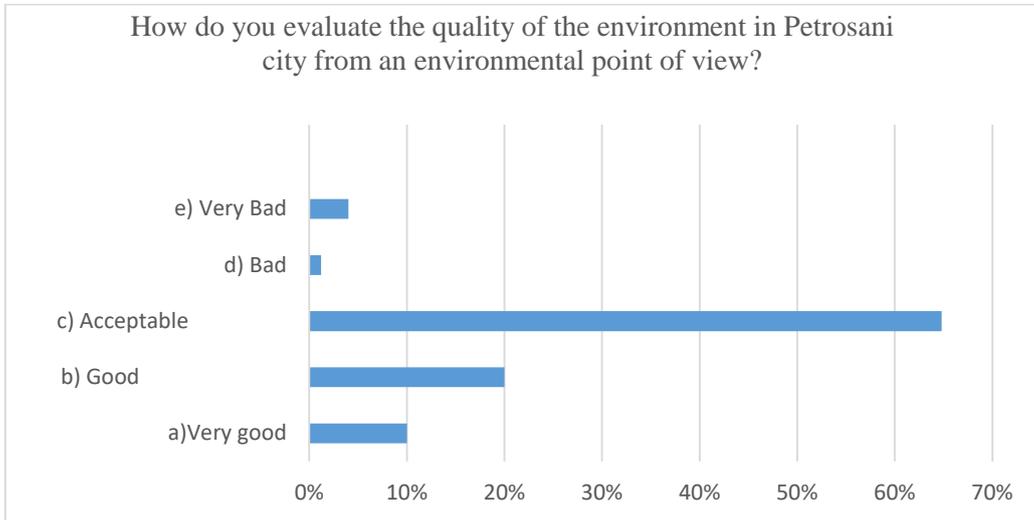


Fig.1 Graphical representation of the obtained answers for question no. 1

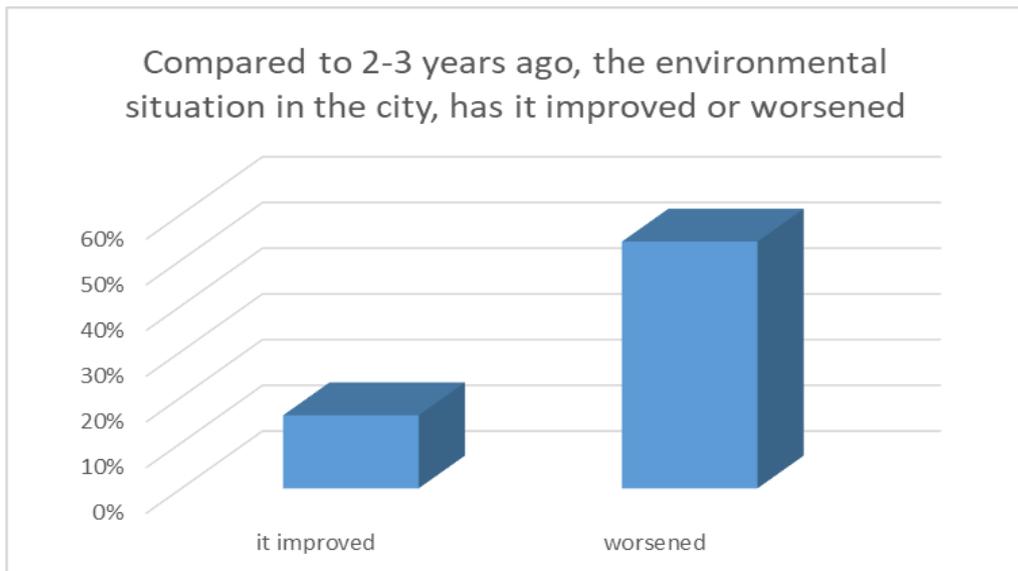


Fig.2 Graphical representation of the obtained answers for question no. 2

The next question addressed to the people was “From your point of view, what do you consider to be the most serious environmental problem in the city?” where most people think that domestic and non-domestic waste is the main problem our city is facing, being followed by the lack of green spaces, the exhaust gases emitted by the very large number of cars or the very loud noise.

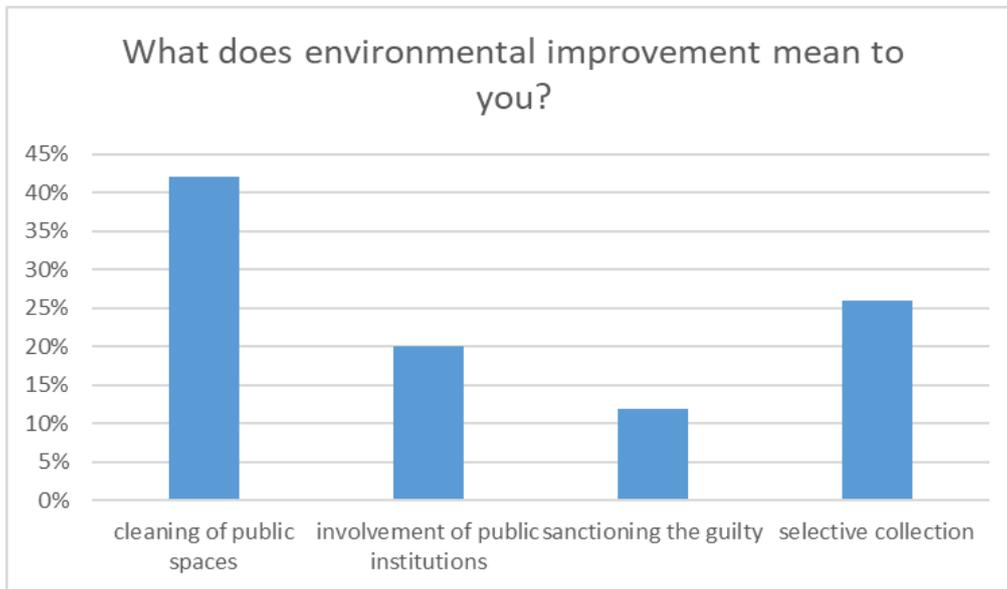


Fig.3 Graphical representation of the obtained answers for question no. 3

When asked "What does environmental improvement mean to you?", most people believe that green spaces are the most important for human health and environmental improvement. In the second place there is the selective waste collection, followed by the involvement of public institutions and the sanctioning of the guilty.

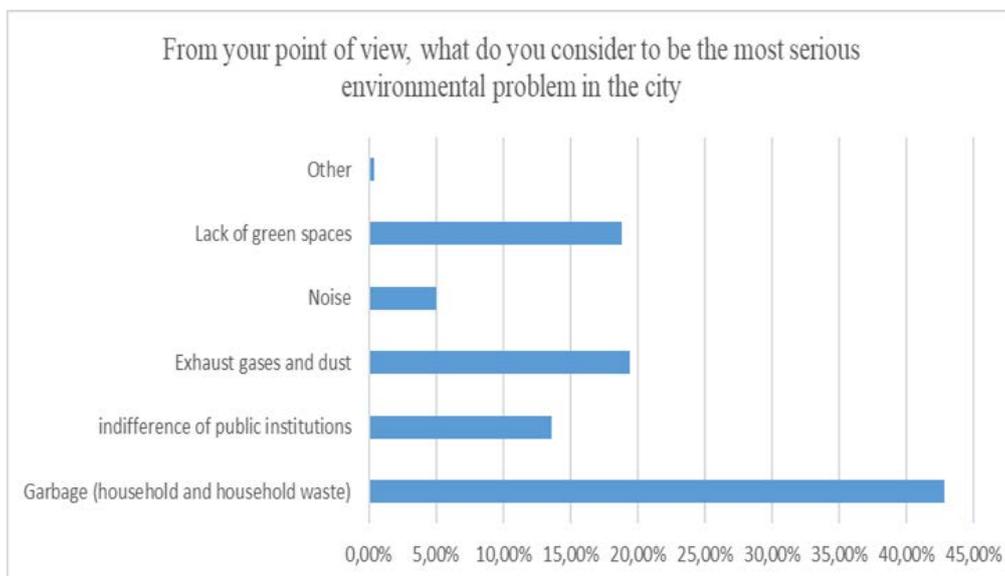


Fig.4 Graphical representation of the obtained answers for question no. 4

3. CONCLUSIONS

The quality of the environment in the city is considered dramatic by the majority of the population, with many people feeling that the situation will continue to deteriorate or remain unchanged because the public and responsible institutions are not involved enough to improve the environment.

The importance of the environmental problems differs depending on the demographic and social characteristics of the inhabitants of Petrosani.

Table 1 Importance of environmental problems according to the social characteristics of the inhabitants of the city

Categories / Groups	Main environmental problems
Elite intellectuals and the elderly	Pollution, green spaces
Women, moms	Garbage removal, noise
Young men and men	Overcrowding of vehicles

People make a strong connection between improving the environment and improving life. This link can be the basis of public support for major investments in environmental actions.

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