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Natural and social characteristics of Trešnjevik and environment: ageographical overview

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Abstract. Rural territories are specific and complex economic, social, ecological and spatial areas. Our research records based on similar research by Spalevic (2009) indicate that the characteristics of the major part of rural space in Montenegro: rare settlement, depopulation with distinct trend of demographic extinction, as well as high old age of the population, considerable presence of daily migrations of non - agricultural and young population, and also slight equipment with traffic, utility and objects of living standards, domination of agriculture and slight diversification of the rest productive and unproductive activities... Condition in which Montenegro rural area is and exploration of possibilities for his overcoming presents sufficient motive for production of this work. The purpose of this paper is to point out the basic natural and social characteristics of Trešnjevik and its surroundings with a development perspective.

Keywords: Trešnjevik, natural characteristics, social characteristics.

Introduction

The small number of relevant sources and the great lack of adequate (scientific and professional) literature have objectively had a limiting effect on the quantity, quality and degree of completeness of the treatment of the presented issues (see Vešović, 1935; Lutovac, 1975; Dašić, 1986). Complex geographical research of Trešnjevik and the surroundings of the relatively clearly individualized whole has not been conducted so far. When it comes to the lack of literature, we also mention the fact that until twenty years ago, there was not a single complete text that treated Trešnjevik and its surroundings from the point of view of any scientific discipline. It was not until 1995 and 1999, respectively, that the first informative reviews appeared. These are the books of Rajović (1995) "Gnjili Potok and Trešnjevik" and Rajović (1999) "Time and people". The mentioned books give a historical - sociological overview of this area and its surroundings and make a modest contribution to the knowledge of this issue, so we used it as such in our research. More detailed research is conducted by one of the authors of this paper GR or in collaboration with JB (see Rajović, 2009; Rajović and Rajović,

2010; Rajović and Bulatović, 2012; Rajović and Bulatović, 2013; Rajović and Bulatović, 2014; Rajović and Bulatović, 2014; Rajović and Bulatović, 2014; Rajović and Bulatović, 2015). In this text, we will point out the basic natural and social characteristics of the inhabited geospace of Trešnjevik and environment.

Methods

The core of the methodological procedure used in this research is the geographical (spatial) method and it included geo - space Trešnjevik and environment. The method of observation was supposed to provide insight into the social environment, through direct observation with participation, as well as the creation or use of the following sources: oral, written and biographical (see Niedzielski and Rzeszutek, 2010; Riemann, 2006; Potosyan, 2014; Rajović and Bulatović, 2016; Shcherbina and Gorbenkova, 2019).

Results and discussion

The traffic - geographical position of Trešnjevik is unfavorable, because it is far from the main roads. Except for the road Andrijevića -

Trešnjevik - Mateševo - Podgorica, no other important road intersects or touches this area. Trešnjevik is 8 km away from Andrijevića, Mateševa 15 km and Kolašin 29 km. Isolated traffic - geographical position adversely affects its economic and social development. The gravity zone of

Trešnjevik, viewed from the spatial and population point of view, is small. Without greater economic potential in this populated place, there is no wider existential base of the population. Therefore, its further stagnation and emigration of the population should be expected.



Figure 1. Road Mateševo - Andrijevića near Trešnjevik - nature.

The relief of Trešnjevik was formed mainly in the Tertiary. Thus, high mountains were created on one side, and hanging valleys and alluvial plains on the other. The morphological feature is the appearance of karst, covered with humus, red soil, smonica and grove, which are used in agriculture. The flysch area is characterized by lush forest vegetation. The rocks of the Sarmatian period have favorable hydrogeological properties, which is the basis for population and agricultural activity. Quaternary alluvial and deluvial sediments are present in the river valley of the Trešnjevica small River. The geographical position of the whole village gives it a characteristic of temperate-continental climate. So far, there have been no special climate tests, as well as no precipitation measurements. Rain is frequent and abundant, most often formed by clouds above Lise and Presla. The winter snow period can be long, most often from the beginning of November to March and April. Lately, the snow has been falling more and more often in the month of May. The maximum precipitation occurs in June, the minimum in January. The north, south wind and a mixture of wind called "culprit" prevail. The hydrographic network consists of the Trešnjevica small river which at the foot of the Trešnjevik pass (1573 m above sea level), formed by "Water Source" and "Smaller Watercourse". In the upper course, on the left side, it receives small streams from the localities of Garevina and Osoja, while in the middle

course, it receives streams Lomovi 1 and Lomovi 2. It flows into Rajova (Rajović) Rijeka near alluvial plains Milićević and alluvial plains Rajović. In the middle course, the Trešnjevčka River on the left side formed the alluvial plain of Novovića, at the foot of Lomovi a small alluvial plain on the right and left side and the most widespread in the basin of Rajova (Rajovića) River - alluvial plains Milićević.

The population is supplied with water from several independent sources. The springs are quite abundant, they almost do not dry out, and the water is cold and very pleasant to drink. Of particular importance are: Source Novovića, Source Arsovića, Jagodnjak... In addition to cultivated plants, there are specimens: maple, ash, elm, acacia, willow, poplar, hazel ... especially near the Trešnjevčka small river. In the mountainous hinterland of Trešnjevik, there is a large number of various game: bears, chamois, wild boar, rabbits, black grouse, partridges, wild ducks, eagles ... In the Trešnjevik small river, trout fish live. The forest vegetation of Trešnjevik is difficult to single out. This is primarily a consequence of climate and general ecological changes in the past (tertiary) and the natural effort of plant communities to adapt to changes and preserve them. The lowest belt of alluvial plains of the Trešnjevica small river is represented by hydrophilic forests of willow and poplar (*Salicon Albae*), alder (*Alnion Glutinesae*). This is followed by a forest belt of oak (*Auercetum frainetto ceris*), beech and beech-fir forests (*Fagion*

moesiacas). Some mountain sides of Trešnjevik are made up of pine forest stands. In Trešnjevik and its surroundings, suitable since ancient times for the establishment of a human settlement, there are numerous and insufficiently examined traces of the earlier population (legends about the oldest inhabitants, old roads, cemeteries, mounds, groves, topographic names). According to Dašić (1986), we can assume that there were settlements from the Illyrian and Roman periods in Trešnjevik and its surroundings, but the same author states that apart from oral traditions, the considered geo - space is unexplored and insufficiently studied. Rajović (1995) states that ancient peoples lived here, engaged in agriculture and cattle breeding. Vesovic (1935) also points out the remains of old roads, one of which has a starting point from the village of Kralje, through Jelenbar and Miravcin to Tresnjevik, and then follows towards Matesevo. Others from the hamlet of Miravčina via Trešnjevik to the neighboring village of Bare Kraljske. The third from the hamlet of Čuka through Trešnjevik to Štavna, the so-called "Latin road". According to Rajović (1995), if we carefully analyze all the localities, toponyms represented in the considered area, we can assume that some of them are certainly from the Illyrian, Roman, Slavic period until today. Today's settlement Trešnjevik is the name for the settlement and Katun housing (at about 1176 m above sea level), the pass (1573 m) and the peak (1686 m) at the foot of the pass - about a kilometer of steep ascent. Trešnjevik got its name about 270 years ago, after the wild cherries that were abundant in almost the entire area.

Throughout the historical past, Trešnjevik has often changed its role both culturally and

economically. Until the Second World War, the most attention was paid to cattle breeding and agriculture. Both livestock and agriculture developed at the level of personal needs of the household. After the Second World War, major changes took place in Trešnjevik: a large number of residential buildings were built, the population introduced electricity through personal work and contributions, there is a cafe restaurant (former mountain lodge) in Trešnjevik, the considered geo-space is connected by local roads to the settlement Čuka. On the left side of the Trešnjevik pass (1573 m above sea level) begins a narrow forest asphalt road - which leads to Štavna. And on the opposite side, in the direction of the north, the mountain road leads to the mountains Lisa and Bjelasica.

After 1945, there were significant changes in the number of inhabitants on the territory of Trešnjevik. Considering that the number of inhabitants was monitored at the level of the rural settlement Gnjili Potok - to which the considered area formally - legally belongs, we are not able to see the number of inhabitants of the narrower area of Trešnjevik from 1948 - 2011 (the number of inhabitants on the territory of Gnjilo Potok in 1948 was 325, and in 2003 -111, compared to 2003, the number of inhabitants decreased by 214). Based on our survey data, in 2011 there were a total of 13 permanent residents living in Trešnjevik. After 1961, industrialization and development of cities took place in the former Yugoslavia. In contrast, rural settlements and their surroundings lagged behind economically. That is the reason why the population emigrated to economically developed centers or to temporary work abroad.



Figure 2. View of the slopes of Trešnjevik - a mountain paradise on earth.

The analysis of the above indicates that the motives for leaving this geospace were multiple. We will list the most important ones, in our opinion: the provision of conditions for non-agricultural production in which higher productive labor could be achieved, and thus a higher and more stable income.

Regardless of whether it is a labor or intensive economic activity, the company, naturally, within its capabilities provides the necessary means of production and other working conditions that allow the employee to permanently employ his labor force for which such opportunities on individual farms, in

most cases, does not have; existential security, which arises from a high degree of certainty that by engaging in non-agricultural activities, income-means of subsistence is achieved. In agricultural production, on individual property, which is still subject to the influence of external factors, there is uncertainty, both in terms of yields of certain crops and the prices at which they will market their products, which together leads to significant oscillations in income. Due to that, there is a fear in the security of providing material conditions for maintaining one's own existence; by joining the employment relationship, the individual agricultural producer, on that basis, acquires the right to health care (himself and his family), as well as conditions for retirement, which is an important element of social security; general living conditions in the city provide far greater opportunities for education and cultural life, full health care and other benefits that the city has, compared to the countryside, which are important motives for migration or emigration, especially of the young population.

Based on field research, it was concluded that economic measures were delayed. The beginning of the 60's of the XX century was a turning point. If it had started in that period with a small economy, construction of roads, faster electrification of settlements, the geo-space considered today might not have provided the usual picture of a good part of rural settlements in our country.

Conclusions

The goal of rural development, regardless of the way and from which theoretical perspective this problem is approached, is to improve the quality of life of people living in rural settlements. This issue is very complex because it depends on a number of objective and subjective factors, the characteristics of the rural community itself, but also the characteristics of its spatial, economic, social, cultural environment (Bokić and Čikić, 2014).

Our research evidence based on similar (see Wiggins and Proctor, 2001; Halloran and Calderón Vera, 2005; Shcherbina and Gorbenkova, 2018; Figus, 2020) investigated indicates the following:

1. The traffic-geographical position of Trešnjevik is unfavorable, because it is far from the main roads. The gravitational zone, viewed from a spatial and population point of view, is small.
2. Population depopulation, together with a strong process of demographic transition, has slowed down further demographic, social, economic and general social development.
3. That is why it is necessary to take a number of social measures for revitalization. Among the most important are: the development of agriculture and tourism.
4. We are of the opinion that with the activation of the entire community, some progress is not only possible, but must be achieved.

Historical experiences show that the villages gave the city the best people, demographically increased and refreshed them, the villages have the longest preserved and respected positive character traits, love for traditional values ...

5. In the economic-geographical analysis, it is not always easy to distinguish to what extent the objectively present limiting conditions (mountain character of the settlement) participate in the missed opportunities, and to what extent they must be attributed to insufficient or inadequate economic organization and incomplete information.
6. Previous economic development programs did not take into account specific geographical conditions, so they could not give adequate results. In the end, the socio-economic problems of Trešnjevik should be viewed realistically, without excessive optimism, much less pessimism. The process of general and better transformation of the considered geo-space will be relatively quite slow and long-lasting. That is why we need to work on it patiently, but persistently and continuously (see Bulatović et al, 2019).

The conclusion is that the comprehensive and continuous work on the revitalization and development of rural areas is essential and must be in compliance with the principles of sustainable development. It is vital that the efforts towards sustainable rural development include significant investments, education programs, initiatives and activities of all development actors at the national, regional and local levels, as well as people directly involved in agriculture and agricultural production (see Ristić, 2013).

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