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KEY ISSUES OF HUMAN AND SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Throughout the entire time of human existence, certain issues have appeared. In different periods of development of society, the nature of the issues, the subject of their impact, change, some are solved, but others appear. In the 20th century, issues arise that concern the interests of not only individual states but the entire world. At the end of the 60s, a transformation of human civilization takes place, which enters a qualitatively new state. During this period, the term "global issues" appears in the scientific literature, which is not something new for the current stage of human development but represents a generalization and deepening of previously existing issues in modern conditions. The further fate of human civilization depends on their decision. The totality of these issues can be classified as follows: – intersocial: the issue of overcoming economic and socio-cultural backwardness, the issue of combating world terrorism; – issues arising from the relationship between man and nature: environmental, energy, and food; – issues that have arisen in the system of relations between man and society: the issue of dangerous diseases. This article describes the most pronounced global issues of mankind in detail, such as environmental, food issues, and the issue of modern people's health. The article discusses the topic of people's dependence on computers, phones, tablets, and other gadgets. It reveals the reasons for their occurrence and determines the main ways to deal with these issues.

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1. Introduction

Each stage of the historical development of human society is characterized by certain features, but at the same time, there are some general patterns of development, which determine the inseparable unity of both the past and the future.

At the end of the 60s of the 20th century, a transformation of human civilization takes place, which enters a qualitatively new state. During this period, the term "global issues" appears in the scientific literature, which is not something new for the current stage of human development but represents a generalization and deepening of previously existing issues in modern conditions. The future of human civilization depends on resolving the issues.

The totality of these issues can be classified as follows:

- intersocial: the issue of overcoming economic and socio-cultural underdevelopment, the issue of combating world terrorism;
- issues arising from the relationship between man and nature: environmental, energy, and food
- issues that have arisen in the system of relations between man and society: the issue of dangerous diseases.

2. Problem Statement

This article describes the most pronounced global issues of mankind in detail, such as environmental, food issues, and the issue of modern people's health. The article discusses the topic of people's dependence on computers, phones, tablets, and other gadgets. It reveals the reasons for their occurrence and determines the main ways to deal with these issues.

3. Research Questions

Objectives of the research are as follows:

1. Identify and consider the main issues faced by society in recent times.
2. Find the main ways to overcome the identified issues of a person and society

4. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to identify the main issues of personal and society development and find ways to resolve them.

5. Research Methods

The main methods used in the study are the analysis of the results obtained by studying articles, journals and books, identifying general patterns, and summarizing the information obtained during the study of this topic.

6. Findings

The ecological issue is one of the most acute global issues of mankind, which arose as a result of the interaction of society and nature.

The nature around us is created ideally and harmoniously, everything in it is interconnected: each living being has its function and has its place. Man is also a part of nature, but the products of his vital activity often harm the course of natural processes.

A hundred years ago the development of industry, agriculture, and transport did not have such a colossal impact on the environment, but today they are global. The world's population, growing at a rapid pace, began to bring enormous damage to the environment: people became the cause of the disappearance of hundreds of species of plants and animals, and this, in turn, entailed other events.

Thus, modern scientists define the ecological issue as an "imbalance in ecological systems and in the relationship of human society with nature", characterized by the inability of society and the state to stop the increasing deterioration of the environment (Burko & Tereshina, 2013).

There are the following manifestations of the global environmental issue:

- 1) Large-scale pollution of the environment (water, air), which is a significant decrease in the quality of the hydrosphere and atmosphere, due to an increase in the content of chemical reagents that are not typical for these environments, the presence of which leads to negative consequences.

Thus, water pollution – one of the most important sources of energy and human life – is gaining momentum: as a result of the discharge of sewage, radioactive substances, and oil products, only 3 % of the world's total freshwater supply remained unpolluted. About 2.3 billion people on our planet do not have access to clean water. By 2025, their number will exceed 3 billion. 40 % of the world's population will suffer from its shortage.

According to the World Health Organization, every dollar invested in improving water quality and composition generates about \$ 5.5 in economic return.

Polluted air causes considerable damage to human life and health, for example, its pollution causes annual deaths of over 7 million people, the majority of whom (about 91 %) are recorded in the countries of Southeast Asia (WHO, 2020). In Beijing and Shanghai, so many harmful gases are emitted into the air that people practically cannot see the clear sky due to the smog.

1. Massive deforestation: the forest area of the Amazon in Brazil – the “lungs of the planet” – is rapidly decreasing, the disappearance of which will lead to an increase in the greenhouse effect.
2. Extinction of animals and plants under the influence of human activities, primarily poaching.
3. Global warming, leading to a rise in the level of the World Ocean, due to the melting of glaciers.
4. Land desertification.

The active transforming activity of a person does not always correspond to the level of ecological consciousness, and therefore can lead to various crises, which are crucial for the existence of our civilization.

There are the following ways to stabilize the situation in the environmental sphere. The first direction is to improve the legislative framework for environmental protection. The second is the preservation of the country's national natural resources, control of the export of irreplaceable reserves of natural storehouses from the country. The third direction is ensuring environmental safety through the introduction of new innovative, energy-saving technologies.

Despite the combination of these state measures aimed at ensuring the natural right of every person to a healthy environment, there are countries with a very bad environmental situation.

In 2016, the Center for Environmental Policy and Law at Yale University, based on 22 indicators reflecting various aspects of the state of the environment on the ground, identified 3 states with the most unfavorable environmental conditions: Madagascar, Eritrea, and Somalia (environmental performance index – 37, 36, 27, respectively).

The Blacksmith Institute dealing with issues of ecology and environmental pollution, because of the analysis, determined the places of occurrence of "hot spots", which are the industrial regions of developed countries – places of extraction and processing of lead, aluminum, organic chemicals, oil, etc. ...

The situation is completely different in Finland, which is the world leader in environmental efficiency. Iceland, Denmark, France, Sweden, Spain also occupies the main positions in the rating of countries with the most favorable environmental conditions. A favorable environmental situation is also observed in Russia, which occupies 32nd place in the rating, covering 180 states. These results are associated with effective environmental policies implemented by the authorities of these states.

Along with the environmental issue, there is also an energy issue associated with the issue of supplying mankind with energy and fuel.

The energy issue is one of the few issues that can be solved using alternative energy from inexhaustible sources, including the steps of people.

By damaging nature, the environment, a person undoubtedly harms himself. Building factories, factories, releasing machines that emit carbon dioxide and other mixtures harmful to human life and health, people pollute the air shell of the Earth and breathe air, drink water containing harmful chemicals. This leads to subsequent issues related to human health, that is, the issue of deteriorating human health is a derivative of the previous one, the issue of ecology.

Today the issue of health and longevity refers to global, world issues. Scientific and technological progress, although it simplified human life, automated many routine processes, but also caused considerable damage to the state of the human environment. Many countries of the world pay sufficient attention to the health care system in their state, since the young generation with unstable health has low labor productivity, the state is losing labor resources, and it is necessary to provide free and additional assistance to people with health issues. The size of social transfers that need to be paid to citizens is increasing. That is, other economic, financial, and political issues follow from this issue. That is why this issue cannot be ignored.

In Russia in 2020, there was a positive trend in the field of hospital financing. Healthcare spending has increased compared to 2019. Russia has a mixed budgetary and health insurance system so that the state covers most of the medical costs. This health care system involves increased spending from the state budget through insurance premiums and high taxes. Expenditures on the health care system do not even

reach 4 % of GDP. This indicator is considered low, but this is justified by the fact that an increase in spending leads to an increase in the tax burden on citizens, and the country's population is not ready for that yet.

In the UK, spending in this system is 7.2 % of GDP. This is much more than in Russia, but there is a state (budgetary) health care system in the UK. The main channel for financing medicine of such a system is the state budget, which covers 70 % of health care costs. At the same time, the market for medical goods and services is regulated by the state. The rules and regulations for the introduction of new drugs, the procedure for the provision of services, and other aspects are controlled by special organizations.

There is a model of the health care system in which the state invests minimal resources or does not add at all. Medical services are paid for by personal funds of citizens, health care is mainly based on a paid basis. This model is inherent in countries such as the United States and South Korea. In the United States, the main source of funding is the private insurance system, serving 50 % of all costs. Persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other persons who are unable to pay for medical services are provided with assistance from the state through social programs.

Despite the diversity of health care systems in the world, there is still an acute issue associated with a decrease in life expectancy, deterioration in health, and a decrease in the quality of life of the population. In addition to the environmental issue, several other reasons exacerbate this issue. Among them are high prices for drugs, inaccessibility, and inadequacy of programs of national health systems for an ever-growing number of the population, alcoholism, drug addiction, and tobacco smoking.

Smoking is one of the most common habits. Smoking damages the condition of hair, nails, it leads to disruption of oxygen metabolism in the body, rotting of the gastrointestinal tract, increased pressure, and the accumulation of a few toxic substances in the body. It harms not only the smoker himself, but harmful smoke is also inhaled by other people, including children.

Alcoholism is currently classified not as a bad habit, but a disease. Alcohol dependence harms not only organs and physical health but also the human psyche, which may require the intervention of specialists in the future.

Recently, there has been active propaganda to combat tobacco smoking, alcoholism, and drug addiction. On the packaging of tobacco products themselves, various pictures and inscriptions are shown the dire consequences that the use of these products can entail. In Russia, following the legislation, it is mandatory to apply a warning inscription and a picture on each unit of packaging of tobacco products.

An important role in the fight against harmful products is played by the excise policy of the state, which involves the mandatory taxation of excisable goods. Excise tax is an indirect tax included in the cost of tobacco, alcohol, fuel. Thus, increasing the cost of these types of products, the state reduces the demand for them, stimulates the reduction in the consumption of harmful products. This policy leads not only to a decrease in the issue raised but also to an increase in the receipts of financial flows to the state budget.

One of the common health issues is obesity, which is a serious illness associated with the accumulation of excess fat in the human body. This issue leads to deterioration in physical and

psychological health. With chronic obesity, human activity decreases, metabolic processes slow down, heart issues begin, there is a risk of heart attack and diabetes mellitus.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 1 billion people in the world are overweight. Oddly enough, this issue is most common in advanced economies.

Obesity is very common in the United States. According to experts, by 2030, every second person in the country will suffer from obesity if this issue is left unaddressed. The main reason for this issue is the transition to automation, mechanization. With the development of scientific and technological progress, human labor is replaced by machine labor, unemployment is growing, the population is left without work or, working on a computer, leads to a sedentary, sedentary lifestyle, which entails issues including obesity, spine, cervical spine (TASS, 2021a).

Many of the above issues stem from the population's dependence on gadgets. It is treated along with alcoholism, smoking, and drug addiction. Constant work in front of a computer reduces a person's physical activity. Prolonged exposure to the blue spectrum of radiation, which is used by modern computers, laptops, tablets, leads to vision issues that usually occur in older people. The human brain perceives the light from the display as daylight sunlight and using gadgets at night entails the appearance of insomnia and other harmful consequences associated with lack of sleep. The concept of "computer addiction" appeared relatively recently. In 1990, when the spread of computing technology gained momentum, this term began to be used.

The phone is a part of every person's life, it greatly simplifies his life, makes it possible to make financial transactions, make calls at a distance, get an online education and make purchases without leaving home. However, the small font on the phone, bright screen lighting, and the need to hold the phone close to your face cause various diseases, including myopia, in which objects are poorly distinguished at a distance. According to the National Scientific and Practical Center for Children's Health of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, 60 % of school graduates have a visual impairment in our country.

The dependence on computers, smartphones, and other communication devices has recently become one of the most pressing topics. It is believed that adolescents and young people are more susceptible to such dependence.

An unhealthy diet can also be the cause of obesity. As you know, one of the conditions for the existence of living organisms on Earth is nutrition. It, along with the need to be safe, refers to the primary needs, which are understood as the needs of a person that must be satisfied for the physical survival of the body. Until a person satisfies primary needs, others will not interest him. The need for security is the desire of people to be in a stable and safe state, to protect themselves, and be treated from diseases. The need for food is much more important than all the above, and the topic of unhealthy nutrition is currently an acute issue.

Manufacturers add many harmful mixtures to food products to increase shelf life, enhance, improve the taste. Natural food products are practically not represented in city supermarkets, since their cultivation and production require a greater amount of financial, labor, and other resources. Recently, many crises and new economic, social and financial issues have arisen in the world. In crisis conditions, manufacturers are trying to reduce costs and, because of possible alternative substances and additives,

replacing real products with substitutes, they reduce the quality of products and, accordingly, the quality of life of the population.

Fast food dishes, which have a high content of unhealthy vegetable fats, preservatives, and flavor enhancers, have become very popular. Many people have completely replaced normal food with "fast food" and only eat fast food. It first appeared and spread most strongly in the United States. One of the reasons that the United States is the leader in the obesity population is the high popularity of fast-food restaurants. There are practically no fresh products in them: almost all products are delivered in a frozen, dried, freeze-dried state, because of this, food products lose their useful properties and nutritional value.

To resolve the issue of health and longevity, it is necessary to tighten legislation in the field of nutrition: prohibit the use of harmful substitutes for products, use flavor enhancers.

It is necessary to create favorable conditions for entrepreneurs who produce food: reduce the tax burden, provide incentives so that they do not save on the benefits produced.

It is necessary to improve the literacy of the population so that a person is aware of all the harmful consequences of using poor quality products, tobacco products, and alcohol so that he stops consuming them.

It is necessary to involve living labor resources in production processes, to popularize sports to increase the physical activity of the population.

It is necessary to improve computing technology to minimize the harm it causes to human health.

One of the most important global issues is food. The source of its origin is the infinity of human needs, provided that the resources are limited.

Throughout his life, a person experiences a feeling of lack of something, which in economic theory is called the desire to satisfy his needs. This topic has always been and will remain one of the main topics of economic theory. Its importance is since as long as a person exists, there will be needs. They appeared from the moment people appeared and are one of the conditions for their existence.

The task of the economy of any country is to produce goods. And the purpose of goods is to satisfy needs. Although the main goal of any enterprise is to make a profit, in order to achieve it, it needs to sell its goods on the sales market, which, in turn, will satisfy someone's need. It turns out that needs are the main activator of production and human activities.

The essence of the needs should be correctly understood. It can be defined as the need of an individual or social group in what constitutes a necessary condition for the functioning of their life. That is, they express the need to own something to maintain life, develop personality, individuality.

As already noted, needs are the motivator of people's activities, their economic activity. To satisfy a need for something, such as food, clothing, housing, or luxury goods, a person works, earns, and consumes the proceeds. When a person's need remains unsatisfied, he experiences dissatisfaction, irritation, and other negative feelings.

Based on the foregoing, it becomes clear that the role of needs is huge, but is it possible to satisfy all human needs?

At this stage of development, mankind answers "no" to this question, since the "appetite" of a person is rapidly and endlessly growing, and the resources that are used to produce goods are limited.

Already by today, mankind has managed to bring resources to the brink of depletion, that is, to exceed the rate of extraction and processing of resources over their ability to renew.

The issue of limited resources in conditions of unlimited needs remains the main one in the life of the population.

With the development of social production, the significance of the same resources may change. If in the pre-industrial society land resources predominated in their importance, now financial and informational resources are more valuable. This means that some of the resources may be unclaimed, so you need to look for alternative options for their use, you need to combine them and look for effective ways to meet the needs.

The resources available on the planet can meet the needs of more than 10 billion people, but this requires learning to use them wisely and efficiently. Production "does not keep up" with the pace of population growth. And the lack of food leads to a decrease in labor productivity, the quality of the labor force, and, accordingly, to a decrease in economic growth and development.

A large role is given to rationalizing the distribution of resources, since the number of people suffering from hunger is more than 1 billion people, and from overweight and overeating – over 1.6 billion (WHO, 2020). It turns out that there are enough resources to satisfy the need for food, but the issue is that these resources are being distributed irrationally.

No less significant and tangible is the issue of poverty and backwardness, characterized by contradictions in economic relations, "dual dynamics" on the issues of technological progress, investment, capital accumulation, and other factors contributing to economic development. This issue carries the concept of "center-periphery" and represents the issue of relations between the rich countries of the North, which have a monopoly on technologies and means of production, and the economically backward countries of the South, which extract raw materials and produce food.

Due to its large scale, the North-South issue poses a great danger not only for the national economies of developing countries but also for the sustainable development of the world community.

Poverty is an extreme inadequacy of economic benefits to support the normal life of a person.

There are 2 levels of poverty:

- national, where the national poverty line is understood as an income that is below the subsistence level and does not allow purchasing a consumer basket with the most necessary goods.
- international- is characterized by an income that provides consumption of less than \$ 2 per day.

The World Bank estimates that 40 % of the world's population is poor and 16 % is super-poor. Besides, there has been a steady increase in the number of the super-poor in sub-Saharan Africa over the past 20 years. Rural areas in developing countries are home to more of the poor.

However, since the 1980s, there has been a downward trend in the number of poor people (decreased by 200 million), mainly due to their decline in China and India.

In Russia, the poverty level in 2017 was almost 12.9 % of the total population; in 2019, the indicator, according to Rosstat data, dropped to 12.3 % (TASS, 2021b).

The main causes of social tension are the following:

- economic (unemployment, low wages);

- social and medical (high incidence rate);
- demographic (overpopulation, aging, and extinction of the population);
- educational qualification (low level of education);
- political (war);
- regional and geographical (uneven development of regions);

According to experts of the international humanitarian organization "Oxfam", the reasons for the growth of poverty and social inequality in the world since 2010 are as follows:

- tax evasion by wealthy people,
- reduction of workers' wages,
- an increase in the difference between the minimum and maximum levels of wages (Kamilova & Musinova, 2020).

Poverty leads to an increase in international terrorism and international crime.

International crime has several main areas:

- illegal arms trade;
- production and sale of drugs (according to some data, in Russia about 800 thousand people suffer from drug addiction);
- cybercrime.

There are other global issues as well: the issue of mass epidemics (especially urgent today), the issue of space threats associated with the pollution of outer space around the planet.

7. Conclusion

The whole set of issues of mankind can be solved only by the joint efforts of all countries, since studying the causes and conditions leading to the emergence and exacerbation of global issue, as well as, based on the formation of a new planetary consciousness on the principles of humanism and love for peace.

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