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THE PLACE OF THE SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE LEISURE TIME OF THE RURAL POPULATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In this contribution, in conformity with the main topic of the dealing of the 4th World Congress of Rural Sociology to be held in Toruń, we are going to deal with the urgent problems of the growing ratio of the physical culture and sport in the social action of the Czechoslovak countryside; especially, of its agricultural population. This is not casual. The principal importance of the physical culture and sport for the new quality of forms of the development of human society has been pointed out remarkably at the recent Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada. Naturally, the social impact of physical culture must bear on ever more significant signs in such an important ecological sphere which is the *Czechoslovak countryside* together with its specific production sphere represented by the Czechoslovak agriculture. A contribution to this is the process, pointed out by the Marxist methodology, of an accelerated equalization of social differences between the town and village that is being materialized in Czechoslovakia right before our sight and that changes swiftly the living style of its population, including the agricultural population.

In spite of the performance categories of the top level sport being an indispensable prerequisite of a successful national representation, the ratio of the Czechoslovak countryside and agriculture consists above all in the mass realization of sport or other movement activities. The countryside itself, and its agricultural sphere specially, offers for the realization of the sports activities a rich, almost uncountable reservoir of the natural situation, functionally efficient, especially where the professional and institutional aspects are systematically taken advantage of. This fact can be, perhaps, proved with some concrete data. A preponderant part of the organized physical education at the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture is realized in the countryside, in village physical education units which represent 72 % of the total number of units. Though it is not possible to consider analogically the proportionality of the participating individuals, because the village physical education units are small in membership, over 50 % of the Czechoslovak population *organized in the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture* live or work in the countryside.

In addition to the organized physical education exists, naturally, a range of spontaneous more or less recreational forms of physical education which penetrate in an ever greater extent in the Czechoslovak countryside. The total balance of the present state shows that about 11 % of the rural population go in for the organized forms of physical education and 25 % go in for the recreational forms. This state is satisfactory with a view to certain surviving traditions and it corresponds to a continuous and progressive development of the socialist social reality in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The growing social relevance of the Czechoslovak agriculture, conditioned by an expressive realization of the new quality of integration forms of the socialist agricultural large-scale production (the cooperative and state sector) reduces the workers not only the working time or the number of employed workers on the national scale but it enables a significant formation of the new quality of living style of the agricultural population. In the leisure time the active ratio of partial components of the physical culture becomes an ever more expressive and persuasive phenomenon.

The evident tendencies of a gradual coordination, cooperation and specialization of the Czechoslovak agriculture mark the sphere of micro-structure in the life of its population and make it more palpable. The sports activities and a rich scale of their differentiated action leave with agriculture their palpable vestiges in the living style of its population groups or working groups, including the formation of social personality of human individuals themselves, as well as the life of agriculturor's family. These tendencies are ever more supported and strengthened by both the active movement interest of the agricultural population and the mobilizing echo of mass communication media (lectures, discussions, press, radio and above all the television transmissions) that sometimes a question for discussion might be asked on the proportional balance of these development trends. For example, 48 % of the population attend regularly the sports spectacles on the playground, 70 % watch the sports programmes on television and 58 % of the rural population read the sports news in the daily press. The balance in this respect is more or less a matter of sociological investigations in the field and we, at least, make a point of it in this contribution.

The physical culture in the present development of the socialist society in Czechoslovakia becomes ever more an inseparable part of the culture as a whole. This is not a casual phenomenon but a regular one. A comprehensive topic task "*Physical Culture in the Conditions of the Socialist Alternative of the Scientific and Technical Revolution in the Year 2000*", realized by the Charles University in Prague, the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, is a persuasive proof of it.

The dynamic process of the structural change of the Czechoslovak socialist social reality interferes naturally with the present life of the *Czechoslovak countryside* in the whole extent of its material and spiritual culture. The creative conception of the *tradition* on the boundary of the topical interest of the sociology of countryside and ethnography puts an efficient and regulating barrier to the potential one-sidedness of changes, sometimes uncontrolled rather than intentionally planned. The culture of movement creations of dance, singing, sound, game (above all the reper-

toir of children's play), makes a special impression here. The real knowledge of the tradition has an efficient back influence on the development of physical education activities of the present times. A complex reception of the means of the mass communication influences greatly the social progress also on this plan.

For the new formation of the way of living in the Czechoslovak countryside and in the sphere of its agriculture the physical culture is a social factor, strongly positively intervening, as rule in all the range of its specific components: physical education, sport, tourism, movement recreation and para-military sports. To change the living orientation of the contemporary countryside and its agriculture the *social relevance* of the sport in its final impact is a specially contributing phenomenon. We would not like, however, to neglect the analogic effect of the other components of the physical culture to which in spite of all their specific diversity, their common denominator — the dynamic realization of most varied movement activities — provides their uniting platform.

What is, after all, the *social role of the physical culture* in the Czechoslovak countryside nowadays? Not only a sharp difference of the generation bounds but the sole age difference of ten or twenty years accents *its certain distinction* and specificity. The physical culture, above all its sports component becomes an inseparable part of the new way of living of the contemporary countryside. Gradually, its own functional, topical and compensational point of departure is being clarified; relation to *health* not only as a physiological, medical or psychic category but also as a complex social phenomenon and together with *work* as a dominant man's activity in the life at all, is evident. The relevance of the human motorics both uncontrolled and intentional, just in the sphere of physical education activities is noted as a *counterbalance* of the long-term working rhythm and the necessary reproduction of the working force, e. i. perspectively ever more palpable also in the sphere of agriculture.

The *social range* of the physical culture and its differentiated action is, however, more voluminous. Branch differentiation of the sports, especially of the collective sports and to a lesser degree of the individual sports, plays a part in it. The dominating sport in the countryside is traditionally football, of local importance is handball and ever more spreading volleyball and table tennis. The other sports are substantially less frequent. The basic physical education is in considerable vogue in the countryside, which can be proved better there than in towns, in the form of the traditional physical education (elementary gymnastics) and in modern movement forms. Different possibilities according to seasons and also an ever more intensive organizational and institutional coverage of this effort by means of championships and other competitions., play a role in this respect. Newly established competitions of rural youth and workers, mostly in volleyball, table tennis or cross country, which the qualification key up to the national finals, have a good reputation. Taking into account the effect of the mass communication, the *new way of living* of the rural areas is being formed and also an active profile of the sportsman among the rural population is being created. The progress of this social process has an effect to a sports spectator or sports public of the rural areas. Simul-

taneously, it orientates broader rural and agricultural public to the new, socio-cultural system, in the scale of which the physical culture as a whole (and the sport above all) has its own important place.

Sharp *class differences* of the capitalist social structure in the countryside which give rise to different variants of the *social distance* (in the property and economic position, prestige, sharp contradictions of the living standard, working conditions, cultural and other aspects) used to be in this country not a long time ago a serious obstacle to the continuing homogenizing process to be developed in the advanced socialist society. This development situation was translated in a varied scale of the living needs, values, motivation stimuli of work, in the attitudes towards the interests of groups, families and individuals. This was the case also when these contradictions were absorbed or modified by the surviving attitudes and ties of the local rural society (relatives, neighbours, friends etc.).

The dynamics of the development trends of the socialist society provide the social relations in the Czechoslovak countryside, including its agriculture, with the new quality of progressive possibilities. They are reflected at present in the social structure of the Czechoslovak village and the Czechoslovak agriculture. They create also in the countryside the new social ties, to which the leading position of the working class in villages provides significant and transforming by-analogies contaminating the traditional features with the innovation features. It affects them with specific mental and manual action everywhere, e. i. also in the environment and in the social problems of the cooperative members (JZD), the state farms workers or other rural population.

There is no doubt about the existence of an active and *positive reflection of the physical culture and sport* in the course of this development process for the development trends of the Czechoslovak countryside (agriculture). A deeper analysis of social investigation of the marked development in its latest variant has been carried out by the Cabinet of Organization and Management at the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture and it actually maps the present state of the development of the physical education in the Czechoslovak countryside. Some concrete data and considerations of the pre-investigation are being used also in this report. The socially integrating importance of the movement activities and other sports or physical education alternatives stand ever more in the forefront. See for example the participation of the rural (agricultural) population, sportsmen and physical education units in the realization of the Czechoslovak Spartakiade 1975 where the participants of the rural physical education units represented more than a half of the total number. A suitable performance of the sports and other movement activities is surely typical for the progressive development trends and the social ties of the people of a certain generation. An adequate course of this process gets in this way a unanimously proved *formal structure*: a growing number, role and ratio of the sports, physical education and other similar organizations in their relationship to the rural society — e. i. to its agricultural sphere.

The accelerating process of a *gradual approximation of town and village, foreseen by the Marxist methodology*, together with the accompa-

nying dynamics of the homogenizing character of an ever richer differentiated movement of the socialist society, comprises also the determining factors, functionally adequate to the course of this social movement in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, in its impact to the life of the Czechoslovak countryside (agriculture). One of these factors is surely the condensed network of communications (mainly buses), information means of the mass communication, lectures, press, radio and above all television, but surely a large number of others. In their non-completed series grows nowadays the social relevance of the sports, physical education and other analogic modalities.

A direct, immediate *intervention of the physical culture*, sport and other circuits of the movement activity, together with a large scale of their use in the sphere of the Czechoslovak countryside and agriculture, is evident nowadays.

It is the very Czechoslovak countryside that in many respects is not only a natural reservoir of the movement talents, but also of richly differentiated situations of the development of the natural motor living needs of a human individual. Above all with children and youth, in their action of play or of working orientation. The shown prospects are, however, not negligible from the point of view of macrostructural needs of the development of the Czechoslovak socialist society either.

The outlined tendencies broaden the range of action and the active interest sphere of the specific circuits of the rural (agricultural) reception of the sport and other circuits of the physical culture. Simultaneously, they are made concrete by a number of other indexes, feasible to investigate: youth, women, specific agricultural sports and game competitions, para-military sports aspects, tourist and country-investigating events and others. They point out with their attitude also socially broader respects, both historical (Sokol's rallies, mass shows of the proletarian physical education etc.) and the contemporary respects and, especially, perspective progressive with a view to the drive of the mass physical education throughout the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. These perspectives are suitable to be outlined also from the point of view of the national sports representation, in their international impact. Just remember at least in passing the network of the controlled talents and their selection competitions for the important world events in the sphere of the physical culture: European Championships in Athletics in Prague, 1978, and above all the forthcoming Olympic Games in 1980 in Moscow. They will be the events in which the efficient organizational procedure, oriented in this way, is absolutely indispensable. It requires, however, a *uniform system of management and coverage of the development of the movement talent* of all its holders. A similar procedure is facilitated by the uniform management of the physical culture and sport in Czechoslovakia (professional and organizational, scientific, social and educational, ideological and political potential) to which the socialist context provides its full state support and the indispensable real conditions, institutionally embodied (in the Czechoslovak Association of Physical Culture are created special commissions of the rural physical culture with vertical competence at the central bodies up to the districts).

The structural changes in the socialist social reality interfere naturally with the activities of the contemporary countryside (village), including its agriculture, to a considerable degree. In this development situation two basic plans are translated and reciprocally complemented: the *time and work plan*. The partial components of their specific forms — the working time, out-of-working time, leisure time, bound time, rest time with the rich scale of its potential subvariants and with a scale of working activities, interferes intensively with and changes the *whole way of living* of the Czechoslovak countryside.

The social function of the physical culture not only affects but corrects efficiently and sometimes created the *socio-cultural profile of the changes* of the living values, social action and new needs of the Czechoslovak countryside. If the physical education or sport were for the agricultural population not before long a kind of modification of corrective (rehabilitation) physical education, it becomes for today's type of the Czechoslovak agriculturor a deliberate social activity, compensating in an efficient and differentiated way the working activity at present. This working activity, in spite of the progressing mechanization of the Czechoslovak agriculture, is considerably physically hard, unilateral on nerves and requiring much time, specially in the periods of seasonal agricultural works. An efficient *physical education counterbalance*, with a rich range of its modalities, is good for the worker's health, it influences his or her social-psychic attitudes and ensures all necessary prerequisites of his or her mental hygiene and personal relaxation. The *new contours of the way of living* of the agricultural population in its rural living context correspond prognostically to this social situation.

Our contribution tries simultaneously to define from the topical and methodological viewpoint the *complex functionability* of the physical culture, its efficiency in the environment of the Czechoslovak countryside and its agriculture. In addition to the specific forms of own movement realization also the ideological aspect plays its part in the development trends of the Czechoslovak socialist society in its rural (village) sphere. In case of the physical culture it points out its important *social-political character*, it accents a close relation of its variants with the *working process and social-educational process*. A proof of this are the working emulation and the voluntary work, finally motivated in different ways: the direct help in harvest and other seasonal works (sugarbeet, potatoes, fruits etc.), civil activities in the village reconstruction (the problems of the cultural character of living and social environment) or sportsgrounds and their surroundings (for example a great part of sports facilities in villages are built of the compiled means of the cooperatives (JZD), national committees and physical education units).

The specific forms of the physical culture interfere with its impact, mainly with the time dispositions also with the functioning of the basic social group — the agricultural family, including the children's education. The projection of these factors in concrete situations of the new living way of the agricultural (rural) population complete creating the personal goal of the *self-realization of the man* as a sovereign subject, in efficient synthesis with the needs of the socialist society and with acute questions

of their real solution. For the *sociology of the countryside* it is an interesting finding of perspective relevance.

The creative active part of the physical culture in its complex impact integrates ever more with the development tendencies of the whole Czechoslovak society. The physical culture in the full extension of its appearing modalities becomes due to the constant movement of the socialist society in Czechoslovakia and due to the perspective transition in an advanced socialist society a regular and irreplaceable factor.

POSTAVENÍ SPORTOVNÍCH AKTIVIT VE VOLNÉM ČASE VENKOVSKÉ POPULACE V ČESKOSLOVENSKU

Príspevek se zabývá rostoucím významem tělesné kultury v ČSSR, především jejich aktivit sportovních, tělovýchovných i jiných. Postihuje odraz tělesné kultury v jejím specifickém socioekologickém prostředí, jak je představuje československé zemědělství a venkov vůbec. Upozorňuje na skutečnost, že podíl venkovských sportovních i tělovýchovných jednot zabírá už 72⁰/₀ z jejich celkového počtu, organizačně podchyceného v Československém svazu tělesné výchovy. Jde tu sice o jednoty především menší, ale i tak podíl venkovské (zemědělské) populace představuje víc než 50⁰/₀ aktivních členů Svazu. Rozsah členské základny je větší v českých zemích než na Slovensku.

Kvalitativně nové pojetí československého zemědělství si hledá své výrazně integrační, kooperační i specializační kolektivní formy; jak ve státním, tak hlavně v družstevním sektoru. Pokračující mechanizace zemědělství v rostlinné i živočišné výrobě nahrazuje klesající počty jeho zaměstnanců. Přesto podíl aktivní živé lidské práce, obtížné fyzicky a náročné i nervově, zůstává stále značný. Za této situace kompenzuje tělesná kultura celým rejstříkem svých pohybových aktivit nežádoucí důsledky pracovního i časového přetížení zemědělců, hlavně v sezónních špičkách.

Společensky progresivní charakter tělesné kultury (především sportu) dostává tak na našem venkově pozitivní přízvuk. Potvrzuje jej i zdravotní bilance zemědělské populace. Ukazuje, že *zdraví* v socialistické společnosti není jen kategorií fyziologicko-medicínskou či pracovní, ale v souladu se stálým rozvojem této společnosti stává se i mobilizující kategorií psychickou a sociální.

Príspevek si dále všímá podílu tělesné kultury na nových formách životního způsobu našeho venkova, hlavně jeho zemědělské populace. Starší tradiční přístup k totalitě životního dění tu v nástupu vědeckotechnické revoluce svou tělovýchovnou aktivizací dostává své kvalitativně nové rysy. Ve stírání společenských rozdílů mezi městem a venkovem i v pokračujícím homogenizačním procesu stálého pohybu socialistické společnosti stávají se tělesná kultura a sport synonymem plného života i tvůrčí seberealizace jedince i skupiny, především u zemědělské mládeže. Podchycení a soustavný růst jejich pohybových talentů je výrazný nejen zdravotně, ale i sportovně reprezentačně, je-li účelně koordinován vhodným výběrovým sítím.

Je zřejmé, že tělesná kultura se tak jeví výrazně progresivním činitelem permanentního rozvoje socialistické společnosti i v československém zemědělství a na našem venkově vůbec.

