

STATISTICS INDICATING THE DEPOPULATION OF THE GORJ

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ABSTRACT: THE ARTICLE PRESENTS THE FACT THAT IN GORJ COUNTY, OVER THE CENTURIES, AGGLOMERATIONS OF DIFFERENT SIZES WERE IDENTIFIED, BEING IDENTIFIED, DEPENDING ON THE NATURAL AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF EACH LOCALITY, OFTEN HAVING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN IDENTIFYING AND POLARIZING THE POPULATION, AND IN THIS MEANING, WATER AND WATER COURSES WERE BASIC NATURAL ELEMENTS THAT DETERMINED THE FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS, BECAUSE PEOPLE AND PLACES WERE IN SYMBIOSIS AND UNITY, AND THE FACT THAT WATER AND WATER COURSES WERE THE POLARIZING FACTORS OF LIFE PEOPLE, ALL OF THEM HAVING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY AND IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STABLE SETTLEMENTS.

IT CAN BE SEEN THAT IN THE LAST THREE DECADES THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS, BUT, ESPECIALLY THE DEMOGRAPHIC ONES OF THE GORJENI VILLAGE, ARE SHARPENED AND EVEN AGGRAVATED FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT, OFFERING A CONCLUSIVE IMAGE OF THE ROMANIAN VILLAGE, IN GENERAL, OF THE GORJENI VILLAGE, IN PARTICULAR. , GIVING THE MEASURE OF A NATION THAT, DESPITE THE EVIL THAT HAS ALWAYS GRINDED IT, DID NOT GIVE IN FRONT OF THE WINDOWS OF HISTORY AND DID NOT WANT TO DIE SPIRITUALLY, KEEPING IN ITS DEPTHS THE LONGING FOR THE BRANCUSIAN TRIPTYCH.

THE WORLD OF THE GORJIAN VILLAGE IN WHICH THE PEASANT'S HARMONY WITH NATURE MET, IN WHICH THE COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNION BETWEEN THE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE PROVED TO BE FUNCTIONAL, SEEMS TO BECOME ONLY A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY, EVEN IF THE PORT AND POPULAR MUSIC ARE STILL PRESERVED! FAMILIES ARE EXPERIENCING DRAMATIC EVENTS DUE TO EMIGRATION ABROAD, MANY OF THEM CRUMBLING BECAUSE OF CROSS-BORDER COMMUTING, BECAUSE IN THE LAST RESORT, THE VILLAGES OF GORJ COUNTY AND COUNTRY ARE LEFT WITH THE MOST DYNAMIC AND VITAL ELEMENT THAT IS AND WILL REMAIN YOUNG. .

KEY WORDS: DEPOPULATION OF THE GORJ; THE HEARTH OF THE GORJENI VILLAGE; CUSTOMS; TRADITIONS; DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE; DEMOGRAPHIC SOCIOLOGY; STATISTICS; SUB-CARPATHIANS GORJ.

1. Introduction

To scrutinize the deep springs of the Gorj, with the richness of cultural unsurpassedness of the villagers' dowry box, is a real challenge, because it means the effort to unravel the ancient myths, the valuable culture and traditions, detached from the Romanian rural landscape, especially since the Gorj preserves a beauty untouched by the moles of modernity imported from the globalized world, being an authentic fire of traditions and creative fantasy typical for the rural of our country.

The blessed land of the county at the foot of Parângului and Vâlcanului represents a treasure trove of Romanian popular culture, a treasure found in literary-artistic creations, traditions and customs inherited from ancestors, which gives a unique identity to this space. living and long-lived.

With a memory that defies the passage of time, the man living in the Gorjian village has always sought to be himself in everything he does, as a man who is seated and obstinate, hard-working and full of

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humanity, meditating on so many wonderful things that always return. in bright colors the clear sky of the sunny day or the starry vault of the summer nights.

Ever since, the Gorjean recognizes himself through his creation, looking melancholy and often dreaming towards distant lands, but at the same time, singing in longing for longing through wonderful songs, in screams and hatred, ode and fairy tales populated with heroes. of legend, which preserves the beauty of folk art cultivated with sanctity and transmitted through live grapes from grandparents to grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In the traditional fairs and in the colorful and lively nede you could see once, clay pots, pots and burnt clay pots, even crosses with crosses from Decebal's time, and some can still be seen today.

The folk art of the Gorj excels through carpets and brightly colored seams, through specific costumes, through mourning and longing or through the great richness of folklore. The gorjenescent soul is revealed by all artistic species, with the drawing outlined by lines and colors, in carpets woven with embroidery and in the seams of all kinds, in the ceramics in which the religious and decorative painting appears, because in Gorj those wooden churches are still preserved. built centuries ago, with very beautifully crafted icons, remembering the names of the peasant-artists who built real schools of artistic creation.

The clothing and folk costumes have always been, for the Gorjians, a preoccupation of the beautiful, a cult of the aesthetic, the woman representing the creator of the ies, of the photos and of the handicrafts, of the shirts from cake to cake or from flax, from hemp or silk, having to It is based on the Borangian choice obtained from silkworms, because, by tradition, each house had a worm or two at the gate or in the yard for feeding silkworms.

The villagers were teaching their girls and nannies how to prepare many colors obtained from the pomegranate, flowers or weeds, how to paint fabrics with certain leaves of alder or oak brought from the nursery or the forest. In summer and autumn, flax and hemp were harvested, soaked in river water, then ground to obtain hand-sewn cloth and made the most beautiful shirts for Easter and Christmas.

About the beginning of November, girls and women telling stories, sewing men's shirts with flowers on their feet, and sewing mackerel were gathered to a close. A girl sewed her most beautiful, with flowers chosen, so that the village would not be more successful, because at the Easter post the weddings were being played and the girl made her own dowry sewed with her hand, she also chose her, the shirt, but also wedding handkerchiefs, borangic wipes for the nations, as well as for the godparents of the marriage.

The dimia for the peasant costume was fought only at the arcades in Arcani. In the summer, the men wore hemp hinges, and their trousers were worn with black leggings and cost almost as much as a pair of oxen, for it was a matter of pride to wear a skylight suit.

In place of honor in the gorse's dowry box² were other woolen fabrics, including: panties, velvets, blankets, mats, carpets and bark, various belts and sticks, carpets on the table and on the wall, knitwear for bed. Kilim is a kind of carpet, older than the carpet we know, because the warp is made of wool, hemp or cotton fabric, it is woven at war in two leathers, usually with big or small back, but also with twigs with two hands, because the flowers were woven by hand.

The gargoyles carpets were worked in war with two backs, sometimes in backless and even without war, on the flower beds, and they were woven with wool or warp of flax or hemp, they were beautifully

² Al. Ștefuleascu, *Gorjul istoric și pitoresc*, Târgu-Jiului, Tipografia N.D. Miloșescu, Furnisorul Curții Regale, 1904 p. 119

decorated with flowers and sometimes even birds. , maybe even with the face of man. The carpet with two or three borders on the edge was placed on the wall or kept in the crate in the good room.

The barks were a bit different from the carpets, because they served as cover at night and were simpler, working backwards, at two ends in the war, being warped like the carpet. They were decorated with flowers in beaten orchards and interwoven with wool yarns in different colors chosen with taste. The velvet or macat was used for dressing the beds, as a bedding, it was placed on vines or crates of dowry, of warp, most of the time wool, rarely flax or hemp. The gorges have always created special beauty in linen, hemp, cotton or borangic fabrics, used for tablecloths, either plain or framed with white stripes with towels or tassels that served as clothing icons. saints, burning candles or paintings placed on the walls, as for different window curtains.

They were so wonderful the headband and the cotton or borangic brooches, all adorned with beautiful flowers and age-appropriate, and in the Gorj, on the fabrics dominated the color black on white. To exemplify the exception that confirms the rule, let's say that in the women's costume from Tismana, the color predominated red, on the skiletan costumes predominated flowers with black knickers woven in the dimia or in the white coat of the aba. It can be concluded that the Gorjul is the county at the foot of Parangului and Vâlcanului, which is always populated by the nuances of an unparalleled artistic taste of the villager who beautifully adorns the house in which he lives!

2. The Gorj was the penultimate place in terms of population number

Within the component counties of the South-West Oltenia region, in 2014, the Gorj was the penultimate place in terms of population number. As in an arch over time, it should be mentioned that in the disposition by origin of the county population, in 2010 it was noted that the rural population predominated by the 202,128 people, about 53% compared to the population in the urban area, which included 179,515 people, so 43% of the total.

Thus, the Gorj population decreased by 41,000 people, compared to 2002, in the census of population and housing, and the researchers say that the reduction of the population number is due to the low birth rate and as a result of the emigration of Gorjians to work in other countries.

Based on the last census of 2011, the county of Gorj had a total of 376,293 inhabitants, of which male = 178,740 inhabitants and female = 197,553 inhabitants, and 187,080 of these people lived in rural areas³.

According to the data published by the National Institute of Statistics, it was found that on July 1, 2012, the population of the Gorj amounted to 372,719 inhabitants, which means 1.86% of the total population of Romania, the average density per square kilometer being 66 , 5 inhabitants. Of the total population, 184.271 persons, approximately 49.44% male and female, 188. 448 persons, which means about 50, 56%, and in the distribution plan by provenance, 176.887 persons, about 47.46% in the urban area and 195. 832 people, about 52.54% meaning those from the rural area of Gorj.

According to the same source of statistical information, ie NIS, the county's population was 379,900 people in 2013, compared to 2010, when it was around 380,000 people. Between 2012-2014, the birth rate continued to decline, for example, in August 2013, with the number of births in the county decreasing, while mortality was increasing at the same date, according to the latest report. benefited from the County Statistics Department (DJS) Gorj.

³ Sursa: 2018 – Date INS, *Anuarul Statistic al României, Comunicat de presă nr. 101/ 26 aprilie 2018, Direcția de comunicare, birou presa, www.insse.ro*

However, the birth rate was increasing, compared to August 2012, because, if in August 2013, the number of children born in Gorj was 272 newborns, in August 2014, their number was 317. In contrast, the overall mortality registered an increase in the county level, more precisely, DJS Gorj recorded a number of 337 deaths, in August 2013, numerically more in comparison with the same period of the previous year, when there were 285 deceased persons⁴

According to the latest report by DJS Gorj, in August 2014 there were 444 marriages and 48 divorces. Compared to 2013, the figures are somewhat more conclusive. Specifically, in August 2013, at the county level, 406 marriage certificates were concluded and 20 divorces were pronounced.

Total population of Gorj County, with stable residence in rural and urban: 1992-2017

	1992	1997	2002	2007	2011	2015	2017
JUD.GORJ	384.550	387.499	385.583	381.911	376.293	367.366	362.610

(I.N.S. Baza de date TEMPO - on line)

The population of the county was 367,366 people in 2015, and in 2025 it is estimated that it will decrease to 348,800 people, with a significant decrease expected over the two decades, between 2005-2025, so approximately, a decrease 9.5% compared to 15.4% as expected for the population of South-West Oltenia Region.

In Gorj County, the school population has a tendency to decrease, for all groups and school age classes, because in 2015, it seems that the school age population between 3-24 years was about 91,000 people, and in the year 2025 is estimated to be only 74,500 people, with a decrease of 18.14%. between 2003-2025.

3. The demographic ones of the Gorjian village are getting worse

During its historical, economic, social and cultural evolution, the village of Gorj represented an unaltered reservoir of life, by which it meant a high birth rate, a predominantly active space, a healthy environment, a rich hydrological potential, forests, orchards, pastures, pastures. rich, diversified fauna and flora, attractive traditions, varied occupations, abundant resources, but general or sectoral public policies have always disadvantaged the traditional village of Gorj, as has happened with the Romanian village in general.

Therefore, during the last three decades, it can be appreciated that “the social problems, but especially the demographic ones of the Gorjian village are getting worse and even worse”⁵ from day to day. A conclusive image of the Romanian village, in general, of the Gorjian one, in particular, enhances and enriches the image of the Romanian soul, giving the measure of a nation that, despite the evil that has always ground it, has not given up in front of the windows of history and neither he wanted to die spiritually, keeping in his depths the longing for the Brancusi triptych.

Perhaps only when comprehensive monographs and local authorities will be made will allocate the funds needed to print monographs of all villages and gorges, of the emblematic institutions that gave the unmistakable note of the village glass in the Jiu de Sus area, only then can the whole history be written of legendary places, in full knowledge of the cause, without bias, without syncope, with the own serenity of human dignity!

⁴ Ibidem

⁵ A. Gorun, *Diagnosticul privind starea de dezvoltare a județului Gorj*, Editura Academica Brâncuși, Târgu Jiu, 2009, p.17

Communes and villages in every corner of the country are under the sign of depopulation and live a real drama, the population having to work hard for some fulfillment, no matter how small, to knock on the gates of the greatest times and to always be satisfied with the little received. or gained through much trouble. Sometimes, the villager under the hill is forced to take it from the beginning, to blink only with the laughing eye and to close the crying eye, to baptize his children with holy water, and the dead to bury them with mourning, to love the wood unconditionally. passing through and carving in the holy figures of stone, marching on country roads, passing and wandering the world, talking whispering with the wind that confesses its expressions, but without ever stirring the unleashed world.

The world of the Gorjian village in which the peasant's harmony with nature met, in which the communication and communion between the inhabitants of the village proved to be functional, seems to become only a beautiful memory, even if the port and popular music are still preserved! Families are experiencing dramatic events due to emigration abroad, many of them crumbling because of cross-border commuting, because in the last resort, the villages of Gorj County and country are left with the most dynamic and vital element that is and will remain young. .

Because the village has made a decisive contribution to the development and preservation of the traditions and customs that make up the heritage of our rural civilization, the area of the Getic Subcarpathians, in which there is a systematic transition from the Carpathian mountain configuration, to the plateau area, forested foothills or forest area. plain, which gives an attractive image, in a very important and original area of the Romanian land, comprising about 13% of the country's population.

Average density and size of villages in Gorj Subcarpathians (2002)

	The density of villages Number of villages / square km	The average size of the villages Number of inhabitants / village
Sub-Carpathians Gorj	12,7	688

(I.N.S. Baza de date TEMPO - on line)

The Gorj also comprises 14% of the total human settlements of the country, which shows that from the physical-geographical, historical and human point of view, the population of the Gorjian villages preserves a rich cultural, material and spiritual heritage, summing up valuable traditions and customs, many skills and crafts from many fields of activity.

The association of the natural conditions, quite favorable some of them, many riches and natural resources typical of the lagoon, materialized in the deposits of coal, oil, gas and salt, determined the existence of population agglomerations for the development of a specific type of economy specific to each Gorjian settlement. . As a fortress difficult to penetrate, due to the natural defense conditions offered by the relief and dense forest, a little further from the slightly wider and more open places on the south and east, the Getici subcarpathians have always represented and are favorable conditions. for establishing, sustaining and continuously developing human habitat.

As noted in the interwar period, the reputed Romanian geographer and geopolitician, Ion Conea, the Subcarpathians area, as if it were always destined to constitute different human settlements⁶. Even from the harsh historical pasts and against the locals, many lasting human settlements have always been reborn and strengthened by the work of the Gorges and by the courage to face the shortcomings and the enemies of all kinds, so that many archaeological finds attest to the ancient Gorj, even from the Paleolithic and Neolithic, being archaeological sites in Bârsești, Peștișani, Baia de Fier, Ploșoru, Căpreni and others. Also, during the Geto-Dacian-Roman periods, archaeological sites can be mentioned in the same Bârsești, but also in Glodeni and Bumbesti-Jiu, as well as during the migration period, because the sub-Carpathian area of the Gorj keeps a step forward in the record of settlements. human, compared to the plains and the Piedmont areas of the south and the east areas of the country.

In time, the public unions evolved towards higher forms of organization in the cesate and voivodship, and the Diploma of the Ioannite Knights, which was given by King Bela IV, in 1247, found them on the Carpathians chain or nestled. at the foot of the mountains, in the Subcarpathians, the Gorjian area is always transformed into a strong area of living and armed resistance.

4. The effects of increasing the number of inhabitants in the area

Most populated settlements, with specificities of the Carpathians, are located by the passers-by and by the access roads on the valleys of the Jiu and Gilort or along the roads to the monasteries in the area of the Getic Subcarpathians, to the monasteries of Tismana, Crasna, Polovragi , thus enhancing the tourist valences of the wonderful and seductive area of the Gorjului lands.

The effects of increasing the number of inhabitants in the area, which in different situations even exceeded the capacities of covering the village glass, led to the production of the phenomenon of roiling, a very interesting phenomenon with a pastoral or close agro-pastoral tint, realizing the process of establishing the new villages. , an authentic way of increasing the number of the population located in the historical area of the Gorj. The households that roamed in the area of the village village, along the valleys or on the peaks of the hills with meadows, from year to year constituted a series of small settlements of type hamlet, transforming later into new villages (Stahl HH, Contributions at the study of Romanian devaluing villages vol. I, RPR Academy Publishing House, Bucharest, 1958, p. 279)

An eloquent example of a dramatic roar of the type, the present era of transition, in the sense of the forced uprooting, in the true meaning of the word, for a decade and a half of the third Christian millennium, is the village of Runcurelu (See, article signed by Măruță E .: The relocation of the Runcurel village, monitored, the “Gazeta de Sud” newspaper, July 13, 2016) from the Gorjean commune Mătășari, a settlement of 450 people, which became known after the government approved, at the end of 2015, a Decision de Government (960/2015) regarding the forced expropriation of the inhabitants of the village, in order to allow to increase a coal quarry belonging to the Oltenia Energy Complex (CEO).

5. The evolution of the rural population of Gorj, it is observed that against the background of the slower increase of the number of inhabitants

The abusive decision was motivated by the government by the fact that the locals did not want to move in exchange for some money offered, saying that some landowners have exaggerated financial claims, as specified in the note of foundation of the respective normative act, given that the villagers

⁶ I. Conea, *Clopotiva un sat din Hațeg - Monografie sociologică*, Institutul de Științe Sociale al României, București, 1940, p.171

received one euro per square meter, especially because the CEO notifies the locals that the village fire is the property of the state (sic ?? !!).

The locality being razed by the quarries of three surface mines, only 40 families gave their consent to move to other localities, in exchange for some compensations accepted, the others, meaning one hundred households that could be forcibly demolished, in exchange for some modest damages. It is found that, especially the elderly, they do not want to move in any way from their homes, even if the town is swallowed up by coal quarries, so that a little while ago, around a hundred houses were still unaffected, although they are now on a so-called state property.

It is noted that the names of some Gorjian settlements, through links with another specific locality and the toponymy in the hill or in the valley, from the top or the bottom, such as Aninișul din Deal, Aninișul Vale, fully confirms the phenomenon of agro-pastoral roaring, through examples in which the cultivation of the land is intertwined with the growth of animals, and “the villages formed have more assembled windows through the phenomenon of pastoral ruins, with a wider disposition of the households, thus expressing a strong and close connection between the village and the newer villages”⁷.

It is worth pointing out one thing that shows that efforts to acquire new living spaces and lands to be cultivated, in which to overcome the demographic surplus at one time, are specified in certain humanities or human settlements, such as: Poienile, Poiana, Poienari or Poienița, as is the situation in Bustuchin Commune, with Poiana-Seciuri and Poienița villages, in Bumbești Pițic Commune (Poienari village), then Poienița, in Turburea Commune or in Aninoasa Commune (Poieni hamlet in Sterpoaia village).

In the Gorj County, the agglomerations of different sizes have been shaped over the centuries, being identified according to the natural and economic potential of each locality, often having a significant role in identifying and polarizing the population, and in this sense, water and rivers. Waters meant basic natural elements that determined the formation and development of settlements in rural areas, because people and places were in a symbiosis, in unity, and the fact that water and watercourses were the polarizing factors of people's lives, having an important role in the agricultural activity and in the establishment of settlements, can be proved by the multitude of toponyms: Valea Pojarului and Curmăturii creek, Ciuturii creek, Mesteacănului creek, Gârnița creek (Bustuchin), Văleni and Izvoarele (Ploșoru), Fântânele (Urdari).

Along the valleys, the depressions are very common, an eloquent example in this regard giving it the Amaradii Valley, to prove the existence of anticline and syncline structures that have many glasses of human settlements, differentiated by the natural and economic potential offered by to the numerous lagoon deposits, rich in oil, gas, coal, to which pastures, meadows and forests are added, as a real argument regarding the popularity of the Gorjului areas.

6. Conclusions

The sub-Carpathians of Gorj, in the central-eastern part, also present some villages with an area of 100 square km and sometimes even a single village of 100 square km, where there is an accentuated fragmentation of the relief forms.

⁷ H. Stahl, *Contribuții la studiul satelor devălmașe românești* vol. I, Editura Academiei R.P.R., București, 1958, p. 279

Therefore, following the evolution of the rural population of Gorj, it is observed that against the background of the slower increase of the number of inhabitants, perhaps at a slightly slower rate sometimes, even until 1989, the tendency is marked by the diminution of the population structures, even exemplifying the situation of 41% from the total of the villages, to which are added approximately 240 villages that register an obvious stagnation of the population, until December 1989.

Of course, the low birth rate of the last thirty years, as well as the existence of economic subunits forming agricultural farms, even with a clear level of ruralism, besides accentuating the degree of urbanization of the lifestyle, by establishing new cities, but also by developing new ones existing earlier in the Gorj area, they are included in some objective causes of the coexistence of the rural population in different areas, determining the reduction of the density of housing for a shorter period, may even increase the number of inhabitants, as a result of special structural changes produced in the last decade. prior to 1989, due to the share of rural settlements with industrial activities, a relevant example in this regard also constituting the town of Țicleni, these being favored by the presence of important natural resources specific to the sub-Carpathian area, as is the case of the communes: Bustuchin, Hurezani and Capreni, from the Amaradii Valley, a l Ploșoru commune, from the middle course of the Jiu Valley or of the Dănești commune, in the vicinity of Târgu Jiu Municipality.

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