Precariat As an Anomic Vector of the Shadow Economy: Challenges and Threats to the Sustainable Development of Society

By Mykhailo Ishchuk¹, Svitlana Khrypko², Volodymyr Chop³, Oksana Serhieienkova⁴, Iryna Spudka⁵, Tetiana Divchuk⁶

ABSTRACT

This article delves into the theoretical understanding of the precariat as an emerging social class, which challenges the established norms of economic life. As modern society undergoes constant changes in its social structure, the concept of precariat has gained prominence in scientific discourse. However, despite its significance, the precariat remains inadequately defined, with various interpretations and debates surrounding its characterization. The primary objective of this research is to define the precariat, outline its distinctive attributes, and explore its role in contemporary society. Through a comprehensive analysis of relevant scientific literature, the authors aim to highlight the risks and challenges posed by the precariat to the sustainable development of society, with a particular focus on its impact on the economic realm. This article sheds light on the precariat's origins, its position in the social structure, and its defining characteristics. It becomes evident that the precariat's definition remains controversial, with different countries offering distinct interpretations of the concept. One significant factor contributing to the emergence of the precariat is the transition towards a new societal paradigm with novel social configurations. This class is characterized by its lack of stability, precarious employment conditions, absence of social benefits, insecure rights, and a sense of alienation not only from labor but also from society as a whole. Furthermore, the precariat predominantly occupies the lowest income positions within the social hierarchy. The precarious and vulnerable position of the precariat renders it susceptible to manipulation by other social actors for their own interests. Additionally, precariat groups may rise against their own circumstances. Failure to address the challenges faced by the precariat could lead to the evolution of a "dangerous class" within society, potentially instigating radical transformations in social life. In conclusion, this article provides an indepth exploration of the precariat as a novel social class, shedding light on its defining features and its implications for modern society. Understanding the precariat's role is essential for devising strategies to mitigate its risks and challenges, ensuring a more sustainable and equitable economic space for all. By addressing the vulnerabilities and uncertainties faced by the precariat, societies can strive for a future where opportunities are equitably distributed, contributing to the overall development and progress of humanity as a whole. The findings of this research contribute to a better understanding of the precariat's role as an anomic vector of the shadow economy and its potential challenges and threats to sustainable development in contemporary societies.

^{|&}lt;sup>1</sup>Senior Lecturer at the Department of Customs Affairs and Commodity Science, State Tax University, Irpin, Ukraine, ORCID: 0000-0001-9346-2607. (Corresponding Author)

²Doctor of Philosophy, Associate Professor at the Philosophy Department, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, Ukraine, ORCID: 0000-0001-9426-4549.

³PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of Ukrainian Studies and General Language Preparation, National University "Zaporizhzhia Polytechnic", ORCID: 0000-0002-9850-9555.

⁴Doctor of Psychology, Professor, Head of Psychology of Personality and Social Practices Department, Institute of Human Sciences, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, Ukraine, ORCID: 0000-0002-1380-7773.

⁵PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of Ukrainian Studies and General Language Preparation, National University "Zaporizhzhia Polytechnic", ORCID: 0000-0003-0433-3497.

⁶PhD (Technical Sciences), Associate Professor at the Department of Electrical Machines, National University "Zaporizhzhia Polytechnic", ORCID: 0000-0002-9947-852.

Keywords: precariat, shadow economy, social class, sustainability, societal impact, uncertainty, inequality.

1. Introduction

The socio-historical landscape is currently witnessing the emergence of a new social class known as the "precariat". Approximately a decade ago, this term entered the realm of Western sociological science, sparking extensive scholarly discourse. Researchers from various disciplines have emphasized the significance of this concept, as it describes a novel social phenomenon characterized by its ongoing formation and establishment. However, within Ukrainian science, the investigation of this phenomenon is still in its nascent stages (Bondarets, 2018). This study aims to shed light on the precariat, addressing fundamental questions concerning its nature, essential features, and the reasons behind its emergence. Being a relatively recent phenomenon in modern society, it has recently captured the attention of researchers, prompting a growing interest in comprehending its impact on contemporary societal structures.

Noteworthy among the researchers in the field is British economist G. Standing, whose work, "The Precariat: The new dangerous class" (2011), stands as one of the most comprehensive studies on this emerging social class. Standing's research offers valuable insights into the precariat's unique characteristics, shedding light on its precarious position within the societal hierarchy.

Ukrainian researchers have approached the study of precariat and precarization from diverse angles. Notably, Yu. Dreval & L. Linetskyi (2016), A. Kolot (2010), Chornodid et al. (2022) have explored the precariat in the context of social and labor relations, shedding light on its implications for employment and societal stability. Additionally, O. Poplavska's work (2016) investigates precarization's influence on social security, highlighting the vulnerabilities faced by individuals within this class.

Furthermore, a compelling connection emerges between the precariat and the shadow economy, as studies concerning the problems of the shadow economy directly and contextually embody the multidirectional manifestations of precarization. The precarious nature of the precariat's employment and lack of social benefits increase their susceptibility to informal and precarious work arrangements, thereby contributing to the expansion of the shadow economy. This link between the precariat and the shadow economy underscores the imperative to address the challenges posed by this emerging class in order to foster a sustainable and equitable socio-economic environment.

The objective significance of the precariat lies in the fact that despite the existing body of research exploring various aspects of this phenomenon, it continues to be a relevant and enduring subject for investigation. Both globally and within Ukraine, the precariat is currently in its formative stages as a social class. However, early indications suggest that it can potentially pose challenges to social security in Western countries and other regions.

This study aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the precariat phenomenon, situating it within the structure of modern society. The research seeks to identify the problems, threats, and risks associated with this class and their potential implications for social security in the future. Moreover, the study endeavors to assess the precariat's impact

on the development of national economic systems, highlighting the need to address its challenges to foster sustainable economic growth.

One vital aspect to consider in this investigation is the connection between the precariat and the shadow economy. The precarious nature of the precariat's employment, along with the lack of social benefits, often leaves individuals vulnerable to informal and precarious work arrangements, contributing to the expansion of the shadow economy. Consequently, understanding and mitigating the influence of the precariat on the shadow economy becomes essential for promoting a more transparent and sustainable economic environment.

This research aims to shed light on the significance of the precariat as an emerging social class, exploring its potential impact on social security and the development of national economic systems. As the precariat, an emerging social class, grapples with the challenges posed by the shadow economy and its implications for sustainable development, scholars closely study societal influence, e.g., the concept of societal capital within the informal sector (Kebede & Odella, 2014). Recent studies have emphasized the importance of understanding the needs of precarious workers (Ballafkih et al., 2017), which are diverse and extend beyond labor-related issues. By considering the interrelationship between the precariat and the shadow economy, this study aims to contribute valuable insights towards a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges posed by this class and the measures required to ensure sustainable socio-economic progress.

2. Methodology

This article employs a qualitative research approach, incorporating a comprehensive literature review and analysis of scholarly articles and reputable sources on the precariat, globalization, labor markets, and socio-economic developments. Additionally, data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine is utilized to provide empirical evidence on the informally employed population by type of economic activity in Ukraine from 2019 to 2021 (Table 1 and Figure 1) and the number of informally employed population during the same period (Table 2). The analysis of the data and synthesis of key insights form the basis of this article, contributing to a deeper understanding of the precariat phenomenon and its implications on contemporary societies, particularly in Ukraine.

3. Discussion and Results

The evolving culture of social behavior, the growing prevalence of dis-solidarity sentiments among the masses, and the increasing inclination of individuals to tackle social issues independently have led scholars to argue that the contemporary globalized world is witnessing the emergence of individualized societies. These societies are undergoing social development in increasingly adverse conditions. Zygmunt Bauman (2013) has extensively studied this phenomenon, asserting that the growing prevalence of individualization is linked to widespread feelings of anxiety and confusion. Consequently, the bonds of social and interpersonal solidarity are eroding, leaving a void in the realm of social and political activity.

Bauman's perspective contends that the concept of individualization as a social phenomenon departs significantly from previous interpretations and understandings. The formation of an "individualized society" is influenced by numerous factors, with globalization playing a prominent role, characterized by intensifying competition and the liberalization of economic relations. This process is accompanied by constant structural changes, an unprecedentedly flexible labor market, and a liberalization of labor legislation. Supporting this viewpoint, many international and domestic experts rightly associate the population's growing anxiety, uncertainty, and feelings of insecurity regarding evident threats with the pervasive triumph of labor market flexibility. In particular, the widespread adoption of non-standard (precarious) forms of employment contributes to these phenomena, which, remarkably, have become habitual rather than temporary states for the majority of individuals within the social fabric.

The prevalence of individualized societies, characterized by growing anxiety and instability, provides a crucial backdrop for understanding the emergence and impact of the precariat phenomenon, which will be further examined in this research. The implications of these societal changes on sustainability and equitable socio-economic development will also be explored to shed light on the challenges faced by the precariat in modern society.

According to Guy Standing (2011), the precariat (*precarious + proletariat*) refers to a distinct socio-economic group resulting from globalization and flexible labor practices. It encompasses individuals experiencing insecurity in the labor market, lacking stable employment, social benefits, and a work-based identity. This emerging class represents a significant challenge for sustainability and society at large.

Quantitatively estimating the precariat's presence is challenging, but Standing (2011) suggests that at least a quarter of the adult population in many countries can be associated with this class. The precariat experiences several sensations, including dissatisfaction, anomie, anxiety, and alienation. Dissatisfaction arises from the lack of reasonable life prospects, while anomie is fostered by the perception of defeat and condemnation by certain political and middle-class commentators. Chronic insecurity pervades due to the fear of losing what one already possesses, leading to a sense of alienation from one's own actions, done not for personal fulfillment but at the direction of others.

Jean Toshchenko (2015), considering the impact of de-industrialization estimates that the precariat constitutes 30 to 40% of the working-age population in many nations. Moreover, indications suggest that the share of this social stratum may further increase due to ongoing trends. This evolving precariat can be considered a new social class significantly shaping the contemporary landscape of societies.

In Ukraine, researchers Afenchenko and Lubenets expand on the notion of precariat, defining it as a retreat of the economically active population, seeking to exercise their right to work and participate in global labor relations. Termed "precariatization", this phenomenon denotes the current trend of transforming labor relations, often influenced by state regulations that restrict employment rights and guarantees (Afenchenko & Lubenets, 2015). The implications of the precariat's emergence extend beyond national boundaries and have significant global ramifications. The rapid growth of this class challenges social security systems, as increasing numbers of individuals face uncertain and precarious working conditions. The precariat's vulnerability to informal and exploitative work arrangements reinforces the expansion of the shadow economy, hindering efforts

towards transparency and sustainability. To ensure a stable and equitable socio-economic environment, addressing the challenges posed by the precariat becomes imperative. Policymakers must focus on bolstering social safety nets, enhancing job security, and fostering inclusive economic growth that empowers all individuals, regardless of their position within this emerging social class.

Thus, the precariat represents a novel social class with substantial implications for contemporary societies worldwide. Its formation and increasing prevalence demand research and policy attention to ensure social security and sustainable economic development in the face of evolving labor dynamics and societal structures. The challenges posed by the precariat underscore the need for proactive measures to create a more equitable and resilient global socio-economic landscape.

The emergence and history of the precariat can be closely linked to the effects of globalization, as many analysts suggest. The advent of new labor markets with minimal labor costs, increased worker mobility, and the implementation of advanced technologies in production have all contributed to the rise of the precariat (Afenchenko & Lubenets, 2015). In response to traditional labor markets, organizations have adopted a "flexibility" approach in their relations with employees, leading to increased uncertainty and instability in the workforce.

Economic life has witnessed the emergence of new forms of labor relations flexibility. Firstly, the concept of "remuneration" has evolved, with labor compensation, benefits, and guarantees being restructured, leading to a reduction in the base for calculating wages. Additionally, changes in the composition of the social package and the introduction of unclear regulations and guarantees for labor remuneration have further added to the precariousness of employment.

Secondly, the status of employees has undergone significant changes. Temporary employment and short-term contracts have become more prevalent, while labor intensification in terms of time and output has been standardized, exerting additional pressure on workers.

Thirdly, the practice of borrowed labor has become increasingly widespread. Technological operations are often outsourced through various means, such as contract work, freelancing, outstaffing, and staff leasing. The ease of terminating labor contracts has also contributed to an increase in the number of employees categorized as "unstable", even including some managerial positions.

Consequently, these factors lead to psychological trauma and heightened volatility in economic life. Furthermore, the negative consequences encompass various issues, including shadow labor turnover, illegal migration, lower real wages, and a reduction in the taxable income base.

In the context of business culture, these trends pose equally alarming concerns. The loss of work performance traditions, work culture, and pride in work results contributes to the disintegration of labor collectives, their rules, corporate cohesion, skill transfer, and collective control of the labor process participants. Moreover, the redistribution of time between work and leisure becomes a critical challenge. Individuals find it challenging to limit themselves to performing work solely at home, as they strive for self-exploitation in competitive struggles, spending increasing amounts of time searching for jobs, selfeducation, and other activities unrelated to the terms of their employment contracts. The reasons for the emergence of the precariat lie in the effects of globalization, leading to various forms of labor relations flexibility, psychological distress, and a disruption of work culture. The consequences extend to shadow economy dynamics, migration issues, reduced wages, and a decline in taxable income. Additionally, the transformation of business culture has significant implications, impacting labor collectives, skill-sharing, and the work-leisure balance. Addressing these challenges is essential for creating a more sustainable and equitable socio-economic environment that safeguards the welfare and stability of individuals within the precariat and society at large.

Turning to the cause-and-effect dimension of the precarity problem, we find that historically, individuals with temporary and seasonal employment have always existed in various societies. However, in the modern era, these groups have evolved from being episodic to a steady and increasingly prevalent segment of the able-bodied population, forming specific socio-economic relations. Contemporary researchers argue that the emergence of these groups was influenced by the ideas, policies, and practices of neoliberalism during the 1970s and 1980s (Bondarets, 2018). Neoliberal intellectual and political elites rejected the role of the state in solving economic issues and opposed centralized planning and regulation. They envisioned a market economy as an unrestricted space, allowing labor employment and profits to flow freely without constraints, removing any restrictions on capital.

Furthermore, these groups adamantly opposed the social-democratic policies that many Western European countries embraced to varying degrees in the post-war period. Neoliberals aimed to shift the burden of risks and responsibilities for public and private life onto individuals themselves. However, this approach increased people's vulnerability, as they became dependent on circumstances beyond their control. Such policies facilitated the sophisticated exploitation of labor resources, alleviating the owner's responsibility for the well-being of millions (Toshchenko, 2020).

Consequently, the implementation of neoliberalism led to significant deformations in the social structure, resulting in unemployment and the emergence of social groups with ambiguous, unstable, and uncertain positions.

In the 1990s, Ukraine underwent shock reforms with even more detrimental consequences than many Western European countries and the United States. As a result, a socioeconomic stratum emerged, referred to as the precariat. It is important to note that the precariat in Ukraine is heterogeneous, encompassing various groups such as migrant workers, the unemployed, low-income workers, those engaged in informal work arrangements, and individuals facing inadequate labor protection norms (Zarkhina, 2017). The impact of precarization is particularly acute for certain vulnerable groups, including illegal migrant workers, middle-aged women, individuals approaching retirement age, and young people without professional education. We can mention the gender-specific aspects of labor migration, highlighting unfavorable working conditions, non-standard, and lowpaid types of employment as defining features of precariousness in this context, leading to social insecurity.

Overall, the rise of the precariat, influenced by neoliberal ideologies and policies, has created a multifaceted socio-economic challenge with profound implications for the labor force and social structure. Understanding and addressing the vulnerabilities faced by the precariat are essential for building a more sustainable and equitable society that prioritizes the welfare and security of its members.

Taking a closer look at the categories that comprise the precariat, we identify distinct segments of the population facing precarious employment situations.

Firstly, a significant portion of the precariat consists of the able-bodied population engaged in permanent temporary work. Expert estimates indicate that this social group constitutes approximately 30 to 40% of the able-bodied population in post-Soviet economies. Such workers are often deprived of the rights and security enjoyed by those in stable, permanent employment.

Secondly, the precariat includes individuals working part-time or engaging in seasonal and casual part-time jobs. This phenomenon, in many cases, masks the true scale of unemployment, as many individuals are compelled to accept part-time work due to limited opportunities. These workers often find themselves laboring more while receiving less remuneration than expected. The exploitation and self-exploitation experienced by this group frequently exceed the compensation for their labor.

The third vital component of the precariat comprises the classical unemployed, representing another significant segment. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, as of March 2018, the number of registered unemployed in Ukraine amounted to 366.9 thousand people.

Together, these categories reflect the diverse and vulnerable nature of the precariat, encompassing those in temporary employment, part-time workers, and the unemployed. The prevalence of these conditions underscores the urgent need to address the challenges faced by the precariat, ensuring social security and sustainable economic development for all segments of society. Policymakers must prioritize measures that provide greater stability and protection for the precariat, allowing them to partake in equitable opportunities and contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic fabric of their communities.

The fourth category of precariat representatives includes individuals working in creative professions, such as information technology specialists, programmers, journalists, and others engaged in freelancing. Standing emphasizes that the precariat is distinct from the traditional 'working class' or 'proletariat', as they lack long-term stable employment, fixed working hours, and opportunities for advancement. The disconnection of the precariat from the state economic system leads to a lack of control, unpredictability, and uncertainty, posing challenges to sustainable societal development (Standing, 2011). Many within this group have never seen their employers, are unaware of the company's workforce, and face unstable wages, status, and benefits, rendering them incompatible with the middle-class standards.

The fifth component of the precariat consists of those engaged in borrowed labor, where employees are hired to perform services or fulfill orders for other firms or organizations.

Migrants form another significant portion of the precariat across many countries. They often face disadvantages in terms of rights, lower wages, and limited access to social benefits. Additionally, they are sometimes subjected to ethnic and religious discrimination, either directly or indirectly. In Ukraine, the issue of labor emigration has reached critical levels. According to the TNS Online Track survey conducted in July 2016, a staggering 65 percent of the Ukrainian population expressed a desire to leave the country, highlighting the severity of the migration attitudes among Ukrainians.

Lastly, interns and a portion of the student population also contribute to the precariat. Despite aspiring to secure stable positions in society and their chosen professions, this segment of youth often finds themselves in a state of uncertainty, accepting casual and impermanent employment opportunities that do not match their capabilities and justified aspirations for a decent life.

The various categories of the precariat encompass a wide range of individuals, each facing unique challenges in the modern labor landscape. Their marginalized status, uncertain employment conditions, and limited access to social benefits warrant immediate attention from policymakers to create a more sustainable and inclusive socio-economic environment. Addressing the multifaceted needs of the precariat is essential to foster a more equitable society, where individuals can achieve personal and professional growth and contribute positively to the overall development of their communities.

In both Ukraine and the rest of the world, a new social class emerged in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries – the precariat. This class is characterized by individuals engaged in temporary or part-time employment, which is permanent, precarious, and lacking sustainability. Importantly, the number of precariat members is constantly growing, showing a steady tendency to increase, including at the expense of individuals who were previously considered part of the middle class due to their permanent employment status. The precariat constitutes a distinct social class that significantly shapes the modern society's landscape. It encompasses substantial segments of the population whose members face an unstable socio-economic state, holding a conditional, reduced status (Standing, 2011). While the precariat exhibits variations and different manifestations of life activity, its groups share common characteristics:

• Unstable social status leads to the de-intellectualization of work and the deformation of the labor process.

• Loss or reduction of social status, resulting in status dissonance.

• Social insecurity, depriving individuals of many social guarantees. The lack of public support in times of need, absence of guaranteed benefits and allowances from the enterprise or the state, and the lack of private benefits contribute to this aspect.

• Lack of prospects and a dim outlook for the future within the current societal and state structures, leading to frustration and social depression among the precariat's representatives.

• Unstable and fluctuating income, subject to various circumstances.

• Essentially deprofessional, as frequent changes in employment hinder professional development.

Many precariat members have never seen their employers and lack knowledge about the ownership and development plans of the organizations or enterprises they work for, thereby being excluded from any possibility of influencing governing bodies.

These common features underscore the vulnerable position of the precariat within society, necessitating urgent attention from policymakers to address their challenges. Creating a sustainable and inclusive socio-economic environment that addresses the precariat's needs will contribute to a more equitable society, promoting individual well-being and societal development. Recognizing and understanding the multifaceted dynamics of the precariat

is a crucial step toward building a more resilient and prosperous future for all members of society.

The data on the informally employed population by type of economic activity in Ukraine from 2019 to 2021 (Table 1) provides valuable insights into the prevalence of the shadow economy and its implications for sustainability.

types of economic activity	% of the total
types of economic activity	informally employed
agriculture, forestry and fishing	45,5
industry	5,8
construction	17,4
wholesale and retail trade	15,5
transportation and storage	4,3
accommodation and food service activities	2,2
other types of economic activity	9,3

Table 1: Informally employed population in Ukraine in 2019–2021, %

Source: created by the authors based on the State Statistics Service of Ukraine

In light of the insightful distribution of informally employed individuals across various economic activities presented in Table 1, it is essential to further explore the trends and changes in the informally employed population over the years. Table 2 provides a comprehensive overview of the number of informally employed individuals in Ukraine from 2017 to 2021, shedding light on the progress made in addressing informality and its implications on sustainable socio-economic development.

Table 2: Informall	y employed	population in Ukraine, 2019–2021	

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of informally employed population, thousands person	3695,6	3541,3	3460,4	3275,9	3018,4

Source: created by the authors based on the results of Labour Force Survey

Analyzing the data in Table 2 reveals significant trends in the informally employed population in Ukraine from 2017 to 2021. Over this period, there has been a gradual decline in the number of informally employed individuals, with the total decreasing from 3695.6 thousand persons in 2017 to 3018.4 thousand persons in 2021. This decline signals potential progress in efforts to address informality in the labor market and promote formal employment opportunities. The decreasing trend may indicate an improvement in the overall economic conditions, increased awareness of the importance of formal labor practices. However, it is crucial to remain vigilant and continue implementing targeted policies to further reduce informality and its associated challenges. Sustaining this positive trajectory could contribute to fostering a more stable and equitable socio-economic environment for individuals within the precariat, ultimately supporting their well-being and social inclusion.

Having examined the trends in the informally employed population in Ukraine, we now turn our attention to a graphical representation of the distribution of informally employed individuals across various economic activities. Figure 1 presents a bar chart based on the data from Table 1, showcasing the percentage of informally employed individuals in different sectors from 2019 to 2021. This visual representation offers valuable insights into the prevalence of informal employment and its implications for sustainability and the emergence of the precariat.

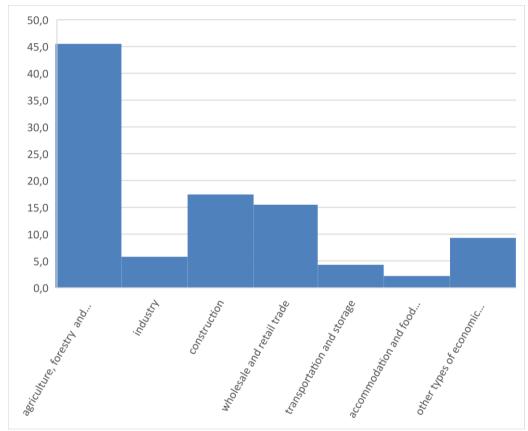


Figure 1: Informally employed population by type of economic activity in Ukraine, 2019–2021 Source: created by the authors

The significant percentage of informally employed individuals in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors (45.5%) indicates the presence of a substantial shadow economy in these industries. The shadow economy, characterized by unreported and untaxed economic activities, poses challenges to sustainable development. It hinders the government's ability to collect taxes, reducing the funding available for public services, infrastructure, and social welfare programs. Addressing the challenges posed by the shadow economy becomes crucial for promoting sustainable economic growth and ensuring adequate funding for public services, infrastructure, and social welfare programs. Furthermore, the data highlights the precarious nature of informal employment in various sectors, including construction (17.4%), wholesale and retail trade (15.5%), and transportation and storage (4.3%). Many individuals engaged in these sectors may fall

within the precariat, experiencing long-term insecurity, lack of social benefits, and unstable work conditions. The lack of formal job contracts and labor protections further exacerbates their vulnerability and precarious position within society.

To achieve sustainable development, it is essential to address the challenges posed by the shadow economy and its implications for the precariat. Policymakers need to focus on creating an enabling environment for formal employment, supporting businesses to transition from informal to formal status, and implementing measures that reduce the incentives for engaging in the shadow economy. This would foster transparency, compliance with labor regulations, and fair competition, ultimately contributing to sustainable economic growth and societal stability.

By considering the interplay between the precariat, the shadow economy, and sustainability, the analysis of the data becomes more comprehensive, providing valuable insights for devising strategies that promote a more equitable and sustainable socioeconomic environment in Ukraine. It underlines the need for proactive approaches to studying the behavior of individuals and the precariat as a whole, offering valuable insights for anticipating problems in reforming social relations and devising effective solutions for fostering sustainable socio-economic environments. This approach is essential for striving towards a future where opportunities are equitably distributed, and individuals can achieve meaningful and fulfilling lives, contributing positively to the development and progress of humanity as a whole.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, the analysis of the precariat phenomenon reveals a significant and growing social class that experiences long-term insecurity, exerting a profound impact on contemporary societies. Unlike the historical proletariat of the 18th – 20th centuries, the modern precariat represents a diverse segment of society facing unstable social positions, lacking confidence in their societal value, employment prospects, social security, and a secure future for their families. This perpetuates vulnerability in the absence of robust social institutions.

The prevalence of the precariat, ranging from 25 to 40 percent, with an alarming trend of increase, underscores its emergence as a distinct and influential social class. The instability of their civil positions leads many members to experience blurred consciousness, resulting in various manifestations such as anomic behavior and involvement in criminal or delinquent activities. Moreover, the erosion of ideals and faith in a justly organized world contributes to spiritual and moral degradation within the precariat.

Beyond its socio-psychological impact, the precarious nature of their lives has far-reaching implications for critical societal issues, including decisions on marriage and child-rearing intentions, often postponed due to uncertainty. This exacerbates existing demographic challenges in countries like Ukraine and Western Europe.

The solidification of the precariat as a stable social class formation, encompassing vast masses with perpetual temporary status, makes it a potentially potent force significantly influencing the fate of nations worldwide. The heightened material inequality within society engenders collective phobias, generating social tension and unsettling societies.

Looking ahead, a proactive approach to studying the behavior of individuals and the precariat as a whole may provide valuable insights for anticipating problems in reforming social relations and devising effective solutions. Addressing the challenges faced by the precariat and fostering sustainable socio-economic environments will enable societies to strive for a future where opportunities are equitably distributed. Empowering individuals within the precariat to achieve meaningful and fulfilling lives will contribute positively to the development and progress of humanity as a whole.

By prioritizing social security, inclusive economic growth, and measures to alleviate vulnerability, societies can build a more equitable and resilient future that benefits all members of the precariat and society at large. Only through concerted efforts to address the concerns and aspirations of the precariat can we create a truly sustainable and inclusive socio-economic environment for the betterment of our global community.

References

- Afenchenko, G., Lubenets, S. (2015). Prekariat iak anomiinyi klass [Precariat as anomic class]. Bulletin of Kharkiv State Academy of Culture. 47, 213-224. [in Ukrainian] https://ic.ac.kharkov.ua/nauk_rob/nauk_vid/rio_old_2017/vh/v47/26.pdf
- Bauman, Z. (2013). The Individualized Society. Polity.
- Ballafkih, H., Zinsmeister, J., & Meerman, M. (2017). A Job and a Sufficient Income Is Not Enough: The Needs of the Dutch Precariat. SAGE Open, 7(4). https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244017749069
- Bondarets B. (2018). The Precariat as a New Social Class: Causes of Emergence, Composition and Main Features. Scientific World: Modern Problems and Ways of Their Solution in Science, Transport, Production and Education. https://sworld.com.ua/index.php/pedagogy-psychology-andsociology-ua9-218/special-and-industrial-sociology-ru51-218/30275-ru51-218-019
- Chornodid, I., Luhova, V., Lupenko, Y., Hutorov, A., Huliaieva, L., & Bakun, Y. (2022). Precarization as a Property of the Modern Labor Market in Ukraine under the Conditions of Employment System Deformation. Financial and Credit Activity Problems of Theory and Practice, 6(41), 544–555. https://doi.org/10.18371/fcaptp.v6i41.251530
- Dreval, Yu. & Linetskyi, L. (2016). Prekarizatsiia iak fenomen suchasnykh sotsialno-trudovykh vidnosyn [Precarization as phenomenon of modern social and labour relations]. Bulletin of the Kharkiv Petro Vasylenko National Technical University of Agriculture. 34–43. [in Ukrainian]. https://khntusg.com.ua/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/visnik_hntusg_174.pdf
- Grishnova, E. & Brintseva, E. (2-5 April, 2013). Precarization as a manifestation of crisis phenomena in the social and labor sphere of Ukraine. The report is presented within the session "Labor Market Reaction to the Crisis" of the XIV April International Scientific Conference "Modernization of Economy and Society", Moscow.
- Kebede, G. F., & Odella, F. (2014). The Economic Returns of Network Resources to the Urban Informal Economy: Evidence from Street Vendors in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. European Journal of Sustainable Development, 3(3), 357. https://doi.org/10.14207/ejsd.2014.v3n3p357
- Kolot, A. (2010). Sotsialno-trudova sfera: stan vidnosyn, nove vyklyky, tendetsii rozvytku: Monograph. [Social and labor sphere: state of relations, new challenges, development trends]. Kyiv: KNEU. ir.kneu.edu.ua/bitstream/handle/2010/11641/kolot_cots_trud_sfera.pdf?sequence=1 [in Ukrainian]
- Labour Force Surveys. International Labour Organization. www.ilo.org
- Poplavska, O. M. (2016). Prekaryzatsiia: ryzyky sotsialnoi bezpeky Ukrainy [Precarization: risks of social security of Ukraine]. Socio-labor relations: theory and practice, 1, 124—131. Retrieved from http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/stvttp_2016_1_15 [in Ukrainian].
- Standing, G. (2011). The precariat: The new dangerous class. Bloomsbury academic.
- State Statistics Service of Ukraine. Number of registered unemployed and number of vacancies in 2018 (according to the State Employment Service). http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/.

Zarkhina, M. (2017). PRECARIAT AS A SOCIO – POLITICAL PHENOMENON: IN WHAT ARE THREATS? The Journal of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. Issues of Political Science, 31, 73-78. Retrieved from https://periodicals.karazin.ua/politology/article/view/9593