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**Social care for psychosocially
disabled juvenile girls in correctional
establishments in the Slovak
Republic**

Pedagogika Rodziny 2/2, 233-240

2012

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

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1. Introduction

The contribution comes out the research intended for analysis of the social and demographic characteristics of psychosocial disabled juvenile girls that were under the authority of judicial order to undergo to institutional education or correctional one. The object of research, besides other, was to identify the most frequent social and demographic connections occurring in the families with children and girls suffering with psychosocial disablement.

If the individual is not able to respect the norms of given society at the level corresponding his or her age and intellectual abilities, his/her doing can be characterized as a deviation in the scope of socialization. This deviation is considered to be as “behaviour disorder” (Vágnerová, 1999: 274) Psychosocial problems have very often only passing character in the adolescent period. Among *general symptoms of the behaviour disorders in the youth in the period of adolescence* we can classify e.g.:

- **non-respecting the social norms** in given society (in this case the person is not able to grasp the meaning of values and norms, it can not be spoken about behaviour disorder),
- **inability to keep up acceptable social relations**, non-respecting of the norms regulating coexistence (to people, to nature, to property...) and no sense of guilt while breaking these norms,
- **aggression** (Vágnerová, 1999: 274–275).

We can classify these symptoms more concretely as: disobedience, lies, conflicts, laziness, various offences and criminal activity, tightness, interpersonal relations disorders and concentration, aggression, truancy, escapes, toxicomania and others (Chaloupka, 2004: 77).

Behaviour disorders can be expressed as symptoms of other serious psychical disorder connected to somatic affection which are accompanied by the occurrence of variety manifestations of behaviour disorder (Tisovičová, 2004: 10).

According to International Classification of Diseases (ICD) – 10 actual from the 1992 **the behaviour disorders** are characterized as repeating and persisting, asocial, aggressive or eccentric behaviour. So behaviour can seriously cause a danger for an age adequate social demands. Behaviour disorders can be characteristic also for other psychice disorder. In this case is better to prefer basic diagnosis. **Examples of behaviour** that are *the base for diagnosis* are: exess beating and terorizing, cruelty against other people and animals, vulgar property derogating, pyromania, thefts, repeatedly lies, truancy and escapes from home, unusual frequently and massive anger eruptions and disobedience. If this behaviour is very expressive, it is enough for a diagnosis but not for individual asocial acts²⁵.

Psychosocial dissabled juvenile girls are by their behaviour excluded from intact social groups, they very often pass through conflict relations, they are lonely and they have not opportunity to live their life by full-value. The behaviour of psychosocial disabled person is perceived by the society as a social problem because of threatening and damaging of this society.

The juvenile girls with psychosocial disorder diminish a quality of their own life eventually also the life quality of persons in their environment. Psychosocial disorder of one member of the family is the signal of possible disturbance of the whole family function in which this person lives. Psychosocial disabled person can exist as a weak chain link for securing of economic and cultural society development.

2. Outcomes of the research

Demographic characteristics of respondents

Respondents of the reasearch were psychosocially juvenile girls that are located in correctional establishments for youth in the Slovak Republic. Here is provided education and care as a substitution of family surrounding.

From these research outcomes about demographic characteristics of all respondents located in the correctional home for juvenile girls in the Slovak republic it is possible to confirm – the highest number of socially disabled girls have permanent address in the district of Bratislava – 22 percents, from the district of Trnava and Košice it comes 14 percents of resondents, from the district of Žilina it comes 12 percents of respondents and from the district of Banska Bystrica it is 12 percents. Permanent stay in the district of Nitra indicates 10 percents of

²⁵ www.uzis.sk/infozz/mkch/mkch-10/cast0500.doc (12.01.2007).

respondents, in the district of Prešov it is 9 percents and at least respondents come from Trenčín district – 7 percents of respondents.

Part of the juvenile girls with psychosocially disablement illustrates following table where we can see that greater number of respondents is connected with regions of bigger towns: Bratislava and near Trnava and Košice.

T 1 Number of inhabitants and number of juvenile girls with psychosocially disablement in the individual districts of the Slovakia located in CH

District Number of inhabitants number of psychosoc. disabled promise

k 30.09.2008 girls from the number of inh.

Žilina 696 194 18 0,026

Banská Bystrica 654 009 18 0,027

Trnava 558 978 22 0,039

Nitra 706 511 15 0,021

Trenčín 600 064 11 0,018

Prešov 803 633 14 0,018

Košice 775 073 21 0,027

Bratislava 615 309 34 0,055

Permanent stay according to urbanistic statute's locality is following – in the town there live 53 percents of respondents, in the village 16 percents of respondents. Permanent stay according to urbanistic statute's locality has not evidenced in 31 percents of respondents.

If we evaluate demographic characteristics of respondents according to statute of urbanistic locality, we can state that majority of respondents indicates the permanent location of stay in the towns. In the towns there are a greater anonymity according the view of social relations and the low social control, too.

3. Social characteristics of respondents

All dates about the social characteristics of respondents we were finding out by content analysis of available social documentation – judicial decision, psychology exploration report, school characteristics, final report from diagnosis centre, questionnaire on personal and family surrounding of the child, declaration about personal and family relationships of the child, personal sheet, declaration about property ratio in the family and the plan of social work.

We found out in connection of **the family function** of respondents by statistical elaboration following statements. 12 percents of respondents lived in complete family before location in the correctional home; in complete but not functional

family lived 18 percents of respondents. From incomplete functional family comes 26 percents of juvenile girls located in CH and from incomplete and not functional family comes 39 percents of respondents.

The most of our respondents comes from incomplete and functionless family.

In many cases there were not the same place of permanent stay with the real stay before the location in CH of our respondents. This fact can be influenced that the law representatives of the children do not fill their parents duties. Permanent stay in mother was reported in 58 percents of respondents but according to real state there were in common household with mother before the entry to CH lived only 33 percents of respondents. Permanent stay in father was reported in 12 percents of juvenile girls but really lived with father only 7 percents. In both parents there were reported permanent stay 23 percents of respondents but only 10 percents of them lived with them. Respondents that had permanent stay in foster home and in adoptive parents they lived there in reality. From the whole research sample there were 10 percents of respondents living in grand parents though no of them have reported the evidence of permanent stay. Other psychosocially disabled juvenile girls, it means 33 percents before location in CH lived alternately in various persons in various families – the aunt, the uncle, friend of their mother, their friends and in others. *From the research outcomes follows on that more than 50 percents of respondents in time before the location in correctional establishment they suffered from the lack of family background within their own family.*

From the view of **family size** of respondents it was found out that 22 percents of respondents have two siblings, one or two sibling has 27 percents of respondents. None sibling has 27 percents of respondents. Evidence about the number of siblings was not elaborated in 24 percents of respondents. *Globally it is possible to present that more than half of respondents comes from one child or maximum two child families.*

From the view of application of the parents at labour market there were reported that in 35 percents of the families mother is unemployed, in 21 percents father is unemployed and in 9 percents both parents are unemployed. We have not succeeded in indication about employment of both parents in 35 percents of research sample. We recorded that 35 percents families of the whole research sample receive **dosis in material pressure**. Finally we can predicate that with connection of psychosocially disablement of juvenile girls here is *more often occurrence of unemployment of one or both parents because 65% of respondents presented it in the research.*

Other factor that can influence negatively the child education in family is **parents drug addiction**. In these families here are not only financial problems but also problems with internal relations caused by emotional conflicts. Here is

the presence of emotion relations overbalance of people close to child, the lack of safety, fellowship and positive emotional fixture on adult person. We found out the occurrence of alcoholism in one of parents in 29 percents, 15 percents in mother and 14 percents in father. In both percents was longterm alcohol addiction in the extent of 1 percent. Hard drugs addiction was registered in 3 percents.

We have been monitoring also **criminality of legal representatives of respondents**, the outcomes are as follows. In 90 percents of families there were not record criminal activity of parents, in 10 percents was recorded criminal activity – stay in correctional establishment passed 7 percents of father and 3 percents of mother from the whole research sample of respondents.

One of possible indicators of the behaviour disorder can be also **psychiatric disease of parent** where was diagnose psychiatric disease and it was only in mothers of respondents, it was 4 percents.

On development of child personality there are the factors influencing it negatively also physical, or psychical **cruelty to children**, eventually sexual child abuse. This situation was monitoring as follows: aggressiveness of father against psychosocially disabled juvenile girl was registered in 6 percents, aggressiveness of mother in 2 percents, aggressiveness of other member of family in 4 percents. Psychic abuse has occurred in research families in 4 percents of juvenile girls located in correctional homes, 2 percents were psychically abused by father and the same number in mother, 96 percents of respondents were not confirmed this abuse. Sexually abused juvenile girls before location into correctional home by some member of the family were registered in 1 percent of respondents and the suspicion from sexually abuse were in 5 percents of respondents. Other research scope that can influence negatively the personality development is **educational manners**. We introduce the following facts. The careless educational manner were registered in 53 percents of families, anxiety educational manner were aplicated in 1 (one) percent of judicial representatives of respondents. It results above mentioned facts that carellesness in education is one of possible indicators to influence the development with possible psychosocially disorders of the child personality.

The research was focused at **number of parent's partners** from the child birth because also this fact can influence the educational situation in the family. 65 percents of parents changed the partners more three times, 12 percents of parents have lived with one or two partners during the child's life and in 23 percents of the whole reserch sample this indicator was not mentioned.

In the life of juvenile girls there can exist **hard life situations**, that can be a initiator of psychosocial problems. We have detected by this research that in 9 percents of our respondents the period of formation of educational problems were diagnosed after parents' divorce, after mother's death in 3 percents, the mother's illness was starter mechanism of psychosocial problems of juvenile girls in 1 (one)

percent of researche sample, the illness of father also in 1 (one) percent, the father's death in 1 (one) percent of the whole number of respondents.

Manifestations of behaviour disorder in juvenile girls before their location in correctional homes we can detect the most often in following table (T2):

T2 The most frequent manifestations of disorders in juvenile girls with psychosocially disorders

Manifestation frequency of manifestation in %

lie 82,0

truancy 77,0

inapropriate friend's group 35,0

home's escapes 35,0

alcohol drinks taking 25,0

thefts 24,0

early sexual life (before 16 years of age) 22,0

smoking 22,0

hard drug use 10,0

suicidal attempts 7,0

use of analgetics 3,0

Markedly bad outcomes were recorded, before the entry of juvenile girls into correctional home, in the field of **education**. The educational results during attendance at the I. grade of basic school were compared with educational results during attendance at the II. grade of basic school and continual education in secondary schools, secondary professional schools and vocational schools. There was **detected**, that:

- Excellent educational results were detected only in 1 (one) percent of respondents, the same respondents had the excellent results also during the II. grade of basic schools, but at secondary school achieved below the average educational results.
- Average educational results achieved 23 percents of respondents during the attendance at the I. grade of basic school but during the II. grade of basic school achieved only 6 percents of respondents and during further education only 1 (one) percent of respondents achieved average educational results.
- During attending the secondary school, vocational school and apprentice schools were 31 percents of juvenile girls unclassified because of non attendance the school.

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- Below the average educational results during the I. grade of basic school achieved 37 percents of respondents, the number of these educational results was markedly enhanced at the II. grade of basic school till 54 percents and the educational results during further education were below the average in 29 percents of respondents. Other 32 percents of juvenile girls were unclassified, it creates together 60 percents of unsuccessfully respondents or they are on the border of school fruitfulness. (In documentation during the school attendance at the I. grade of basic school there were not registered educational results in 39 percents of respondents).

We can confirm from the above mentioned that psychosocially problems of juvenile girls are connected with the decline of credi during the school attendance.

4. Conclusion

Questions of psychosocial problems of individuals in the period of adolescence were actual problematics for laic publicity dealing with juvenile persons for centuries and they constantly look up for the answers. Answers about intervention possibilities the professionals can provide at three levels:

- the level of the help to problematic person,
- the level of the help to closest family of psychosocially disabled person,
- the level of society (conception of solution including the tools for its realization).

The work with psychosocially disabled people is very difficult, because it requires a high professional knowledge, skills and longterm cooperation to come to active and positive change of disabled person. In case of psychosocial disablement the change of family function as a whole is needed, if we wish the return of disabled people to their family after stay in the correctional home. The change of one family member is a probability of the changes of other family members, the higher probability of permanent success is there where are motivated all competent family members.

Opieka społeczna dla młodych dziewcząt niedostosowanych psychospołecznie w zakładach poprawczych w Republice Słowackiej

Streszczenie

Autorzy opisują obecny system zarządzania opieką społeczną dla młodocianych dziewcząt, które poddane są kurateli sądowej, aby mogły zostać ponownie włączone do systemu edukacji instytucjonalnej. W artykule zaprezentowane są ponadto wyniki badań ukazujące społeczną i demograficzną charakterystykę rodzin ryzyka socjopatologicznego wykołajenia dziewcząt.

Słowa kluczowe: psychospołeczna niepełnosprawność, opieka społeczna, młode dziewczyny, zakład poprawczy

Summary

The authors describe the present system of administering of the social care for juvenile girls that were under the authority of judicial order to undergo to institutional education or correctional one. In this article there are also presented the research outcomes to explore the risk social and demographic characteristics of the families of the psychosocial disabled juvenile girls.

Keywords: psychosocial disablement, social care, juvenile girls, correctional establishment

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