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## Earning emigration, unemployment and poverty : Family in the scope of social threats

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Pedagogika Rodziny 2/2, 109-126

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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](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

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## **Earning emigration, unemployment and poverty. Family in the scope of social threats**

### **1. Introduction**

Facing the transformations taking place, family is undoubtedly the most significant and closest existence to a man. That is why, perceiving man as a biological, psychical, spiritual or social entity is nowadays not enough. Realizing that man is also a family entity (Kawula, Brągiel, Janke, 1999: 82-83) becomes extremely significant, since man is usually born in family by the will of parents, grows up and forms his humanity in family as well as aspires to his own one. Thus, family becomes a symbol co-determining human life (Janke, 1997: 59).

Unfortunately, the process of rapid social changes at the turn of XX and XXI century influence family image. This social group is touched by many factors, which strengthen its functioning in some spheres but also by less favouring phenomena. Factors endangering correct family functioning and even its stability are incorrect preparation for marriage and parenthood, partners' social and psychical immaturity, insufficient family housing and financial conditions, differences in aspiring and different value system of spouses, spouses' various relation with their children and different style of upbringing and family members' long absence quite often caused by earning emigration. Moreover, it is necessary to appoint that society impoverishment, unemployment, separation caused by going abroad, ethical issues liberalization – growing number of incomplete families and divorces (Kawula, 1999: 245).

On one side, modern family clearly tries to find itself in conditions of decreasing time and space. Undertaking various initiatives on labour market and cooperating with numerous entities it is adapting to new solutions. On the other hand however, family running into barriers which are hard to overcome, it struggles with increasing impoverishment among greater part of society, difficulties and ado with

acquiring and keeping the job, pathological phenomenon of unemployment, with growing hopelessness of life among adults in society, especially during their pension and retirement status, with losing hope and faith for improving their existence and gaining peaceful, wealthy and safe family life (Wiatrowski, 2007: 22).

It is not essential to prove that most of all these are the factors endangering marriage integration with pedagogical and psychological significance, as well as factors connected with family's financial functioning sphere. In the context of undertaken subjects all interdependences between social-economical factors and correct functioning of family will be presented in details.

This article consists of three major parts. First of them is devoted to parents' earning emigration and all educational consequences related to this issue. The second part of this study tries to characterize family functioning between unemployment and poverty or earning emigration quite often accompanying the unemployment state. The results stemming from parents' decisions about staying in the country and being unemployed, and earning emigration, are presented in the third part of this study.

## **2. Family with one parent earning emigration – selected problems**

Changes in political system in Poland after 1989 encouraged transformations which caused the whole series of social phenomena such as unemployment, poverty, social marginalization and exclusion, temporary one parent earning emigration, etc., fundamentally influence conversions taking place in families. These phenomena also influence parents, adult members of family, as well as teenagers' functioning on labour market – widely implied initiative. Earning emigration of one parent will be studied more closely with regard to issues undertaken in this article. It will be a family's attempt to adapt to new social and economical conditions as a response for threats coming together with unemployment and poverty.

Emigration based on political and economical matters is not at all a new phenomenon in Polish society. This phenomenon was appearing with various escalation since more or less XVIII century (resulting from loss of independence), through interwar period and II World War until martial law and solidarity movement. Nowadays however it has more massive character and quite often concerns young people leaving their kindergarten and school-aged children at homes. It necessary to emphasize that difficult financial situation is not the only reason for earning emigration. Individual needs and goals, as well as the need to satisfy high level of consumption are sometimes foundation for leaving own children and spouse, even at the expense of family weaker members (Fromm, 2008: 291). For emigrating person, who concentrates on economical profit and loss account, aiming the highest possible consumption becomes a value connected directly with a place on social ladder (Sebesta, 2003: 115). This is so called closed

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selfishness, where maximizing personal liberty and at the same time disregarding responsibilities towards others becomes the goal itself (Podgórski, 2008: 75), the very last form of fulfilling human life (Sebesta, 2003: 112). Work, career, money, consumption and gathering tangible properties – quality of life and its outer image become more important than marriage and family inner relations (Adamski, 1982).

Earning emigration of one or both parents is a significant threat to correct family functioning. Especially when we consider role of emigrating people, mothers and fathers, as well as this sphere operational cohesion. The situation country very often has to reconcile, for instance, mother and wife's role – at a distance so to say, with worker's role carrying out tasks resulting from father's absence. This situation creates many inter-familiar conflicts and throws family stability out of balance. It happens very often when spouses cannot manage work and home responsibilities. They are then depressed, resigned and accompanied by negative feelings, and this provides dangerous situation when not all tasks are fulfilled on proper level. Women's situation is especially hard since they mainly take care of running the house and raising children (Plopa, 2005: 120–121). Secondly, emigrant coming back home has to re-enter father and husband or mother and wife's role. This situation creates the basis for many stressful situations resulting in marriage conflicts, difficulties in establishing connection with children, excessive concentrating on family's social and economical situation, weakening of control function over growing up children (Kwak, 1988: 180–183). Many parents coming back from abroad believes that bestowing their close ones with consumer goods such as toys, clothes and jewellery will compensate their absence at home. Unfortunately, the joy elicited by presents, especially at the beginning when there aren't too many goods, weakens with time. Surplus goods given irregular and regular absence of parent at home results in declining of joy intensiveness and separating child from the happiness of being with parent instead of closing to the happiness (Żywczok, 2004: 120). Each case of long-term separation between parents and children is disadvantageous, especially in the context of children emotional and psychical development as well as their didactic functioning. In migration marriages and families where only one parent emigrates, both parents emigrate interchangeably or a spouse staying at home is lovelorn during migration (Danilewicz, 2006), children experience separation and longing, and parents have inefficient amount of time for their dearest ones, often including children.

Numerous theoretical and research studies emphasize that children with parents-emigrants are not motivated enough when it comes to studying, they pay little attention to doing their homework, their school results are much lower comparing to their abilities and their school absence index appears relatively high. Emigrating parents' children very often talk about lack of safety and accompanying emptiness,

sadness, longing, anger, disturbed relations with peers and lack of intimacy with parent who left. Children also lack of everyday contact with parents, love, being in the centre of interest, they feel alienated because they are raised in place which is associated with homelessness rather than home. Depriving children of proper care, not fulfilling their needs, lack of life stability as well as feeling of uncertainty towards the closest people affects negatively forming children's personality and social norms identification and internalization – process results and the process itself (Pospiszyl, Żabczyńska, 1985: 94–96, Jarosz, 1987: 85).

Earning emigration may also cause partial and total family breakdown by weakening numerous marriage life spheres. No intimacy and lack of direct contact caused by long-term departures and short-term arrivals may result in withdrawal in family and marriage relations implied as spouses' integration weakening, difficulties with passing information, thoughts, feelings and emotions and lack of mutuality in reciprocal contacts (Niebrzydowski, 1990: 10–12). Partners become more distant and they trust themselves less when intimate knowledge is not passed between them. There is no empathy between the members when there is no openness in marriage and family. Thus, interpersonal aspect of empathy showing itself in expressing your own sensations, in task attitude connected with experiencing other person's needs as well as in possible socially benevolent behaviours.

There is no joy coming from close relations with partner, when there are no emphatic relations between parent staying in the country, parent staying abroad and other members of family. In such situation, spouses tend to experience the feeling of failure in life as a result of their marriage relations, there is no tendency towards emotional intimacy, unique behaviours appear in replace – especially when spouses cannot count for a support from their close ones – they start functioning between loneliness determined with geographical distance and bond between them (Gadacz, 2003: 91).

Life without closeness and support coming from one of the spouses becomes a burden generating feeling of isolation, pain and rejection accompanied by longing after a spouse, relatives, home and family warm-heartedness. Spouses are therefore accompanied by subjective, painful and unpleasant feelings favouring functioning in loneliness “spiral”, a space deprived of other people's feelings, especially individuals which are prospered with feelings (Pawłowska, Jundziłł, 2006: 24). Despite the crowd people live in nowadays, family members, especially those experiencing earning emigration, are more and more often accompanied by an unpleasant feeling of emptiness, indirect contacts shallowness, lack of feelings, necessity to resign own plans and dreams.

Earning emigration of one or both parents favours situation when children are left alone. Children however, have very strong natural need of being taken care

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of and cared for, being loved and belong to someone, they also have a need to be recognized by other people, they urge for permanent interpersonal contacts and constant company. Moreover, as long as adults have their own inner world where they can shelter themselves, they can refer to and derive strength and life contents from isolating at the same time from others, children do not have it (infant) or have it partially (older children). It is however so closely related to outer world that separating these two worlds could result only in personal development catastrophe (Izdebska, 2088: 361).

Loneliness in emigrational families appears when mutual connection between emigrated parent and child weakens or is clearly broken. It can be shown as a psychical state characterizing in painful ailment of no bond and constant contact between a child and a very significant person of mother or father (Izdebska, 2004: 23). This state may be accompanied by strong feelings such as anger, pessimism and helplessness. It is a negative experience connected with emotional discomfort, disturbance of normal personal functioning, axiological emptiness, estrangement, pain and suffering (Szymańska, 2008: 284).

Loneliness experienced by children in emigrational families is to some extent a necessity which pushes them towards failures in communicating with others. Mutual connection between a child and other people from emigrational family (mother, father, siblings and colleagues) weakens or loosens. Children deprived of contact with emigrational parent or forming relation with such parent but on unsatisfactory level feel insecure and they are characterized with unsettled emotional balance. Such children do not always feel love and safe (Gawędzka, 2005: 12).

Children' loneliness experienced in families has determined symptoms such as impulsive or inhibited behaviours, difficulties in aiming distant goals, problems in the process of learning from own experience and low self-confidence and estimated value. Moreover, such children feel unloved in these families, they do not have feeling of being humiliated or humiliating others, they are usually abused physically, sexually, emotionally or intellectually, they are either offenders or victims and they could be easily manipulated. In the course of time lonely children become so separated from their emotional reality (especially from their shame), that they may have inclination for abusing and tormenting other people.

Until now, this article indicates that earning emigration of one or both parents carries the whole range of undesirable results fro both, child development and as a threat for family functioning as a unit. We should therefore think what are the conditionings of such state and what are the premises, individual motifs of parents deciding to go for paid departure abroad (Lulek, 2011: 199–201).

### **3. Earning emigration as an expression of parents' initiative and means for family wealth**

In the perspective of emigrating parents, earning emigration of one or both parents is rather a response for changing conditions on labour market, initiative expression, which guarantee family's financial existence. Therefore, earning emigration includes mainly range of activities undertaken in the name of family's financial interest, although it often steps over financial issues, what is mentioned above. Funds gathered in the course of abroad work or work in other place than a place of living ease spouses and children financial needs connected with current shortages as well as with securing family's future. Earning emigration favours then realizing financial and economical functions related to getting funds which enable meeting family's financial needs, running a household, ensuring proper living conditions, gathering permanent goods, guaranteeing financial support for family members in need and covering children's good life start, on proper level (Tyszka, 2001: 71-71).

Financial welfare of a family guarantees its members easy access to new apartments and ability to arrange them comfortably, sometimes even beyond status, using qualified staff for running the household – cleaning, washing, cooking, funding children' membership in various institutions with off-school and off-classes activities – these are classes where children can gain linguistic, sport, musical or other abilities, and paying attention to family members health condition. However, material welfare can also result in isolation between family members. Each household member has its own well arranged room, which often becomes sort of a separate world or solitude place for a child or an adult member of a family.

Consumption growth in emigrational families caused by improved economical situation in this group is a significant matter which cannot be excluded when describing initiative of emigrational families' members. Consumption implied to goods and services expenses in households is a natural phenomenon which favours meeting family members needs. Not only biological, financial and economical needs but also those deriving from complexity of personality such as psychical, social and cultural need are the core of consumption essence. Individual expressing certain consumption behaviours is led by two major factors, values hierarchy functioning in mind as well as economical possibilities to materialize them. Both, theoreticians and researchers indicate though, that variable determining character and consumption scale is income (Nowak, 2003: 72). Higher income in families with initiative is quite often related to possibility to buy more properties and determining family value only from this perspective.

It can be easily assumed that atmosphere in emigrational families, where there is no financial problem, should be positive and favouring correct development

and good disposition of all members. Unfortunately, as H. Marzec presents in her research, children are too often left alone with their problems in families with high financial status, since parents, or perhaps a parent staying in the country does not always have time for his or her own children. Contacting emigrational parents in this situation can a lot more difficult.

Individuals enlarged autonomy as well as lack of occupational stability are also mentioned among conditions favouring earning emigration. Subjectively, more and more primacy of family members personal goals in comparison to family goals and interests is expressed in acting for the benefit of autonomy and at least a relative independence in demanding widely understood own benefits (not only financial), as well as in devotion limited tendencies (Tyszka, 2003: 41).

However one should notice that even referring to professionally working family members, uncertainty in keeping this job and fear of being dismissed without sufficient explanation are disturbing and visible even at home. It appears that even highly qualified and competent workers live in danger of being dismissed, what is usually transferred to home or evokes immoral and antisocial behaviours. Hence, less prestigious but certain and quite well-paid job abroad favours family members foreign departures.

Earning emigration is undoubtedly conducive to family financial wellbeing, so it improves financial and economical situation of this family. However it is also a significant threat for its correct functioning in other spheres, especially emotional, protective and educational.

To sum up, it is necessary to be aware that emigrating parents, women especially, who do not take their children with them, are isolated from their parental role, thus, they are deprived of observing their children, of joy in seeing them grow up, as well as direct contact and influence on their education and development. During their absence, children grow up without mother or father's care, or sometimes even without both parents, without their tenderness and directly felt concern, which are basic for correct emotional and social development. Material possessions collected so religiously by parents cannot balance spiritual potential deficiencies (Krawczyńska-Butrym, 2008: 235).

#### **4. Family among unemployment, poverty and earning emigration**

Unfortunately, not all parents are resourceful and initiative is on high level. Living condition and financial situation of many families got worse since introducing market economy and since authorities in the country limited prestations and social guarantee. Family became an institution easing crisis consequences of previous year's transformation. Hence, there are less and less families living in relatively decent financial conditions (families' pauperization), family members although ready to take up any job, experience significant deficit of it. Accommodation difficulties are



also visible as well as dangers emerging on the basis of unemployment in some of working families and threatening family members' physical and psychological health, and proceeding cultural consumption degradation (Szymańska, 2007: 36–37).

Therefore, economical position of many families does not guarantee meeting sufficient financial needs or family's needs. The results of A. Molesztak's research (Molesztak, 2007: 66) show that nowadays one every eleven Polish considers his family conditions as poor and that it is very hard to meet basic needs. Two fifths (39%) estimate their families' lives as simple, which means that they have to be very thrifty in managing money. Increasing poverty of children living under the existential minimum and leading to biological impoverishment of their organisms (Ochocki, 2007: 172), as well as the scale of absolute poverty among families raising disabled individuals (Ostrowska, Sikorska, Gąciarz, 2001), is particularly alarming.

Poverty is very often a reason for many conflicts in families against financial insufficiency, tensions, stress, loosing faith in one's own effectiveness and low self-esteem – releases aggression towards family members and often leads to an “escape” into alcoholism. Children often become criminal offenders trying to find funds which will enable them to fulfill their own needs (often shaped on the basis of observing peers, but also ubiquitous advertisement). Sometimes, children look for them breaking moral norms (prostitution).

Major part of society becomes pauperized as a result of phenomena and processes mentioned above. Many families feel helpless and feel being harmed with regard to their financial position. This attitude affects negatively the whole family, its general functioning and family existence low satisfaction. Inter-familiar relations worsen (between parents, children and parents) and all educational constellations and familiar community of values break down when face poverty. Another result of proceeding poverty on society range, in certain local environments, vocational groups and family types is family disintegration (Kawula, 2007: 46).

“Situational syndrome” characterized as a set of economical, social and cultural status negative features in definite family functioning very often appears in described families. Children numerosness, low educated parents and their pathological behaviours towards other people – especially towards their own children are additional factors appearing together with family difficult existence (Kawula, 2007: 36–37).

People with initiative and with psychophysique efficiency generally have greater chances for better life standards and taking part in social life. People not having these features of character and who are affected by their fate (illness, old age, unemployment) have significantly smaller chance for an effective functioning in society. These people are very often affected by poverty as well. In this situation, they act in the sphere of unfulfilled basic existential needs: unfulfilled food or

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accommodation needs and other. Whereas, lack of integration with environment leads individual person to solitude and social marginalization (Balcerzak and Paradowska, 2001: 343).

Such a complex situation in macro and micro-social depiction as well as sometimes ineffective institutional and individual efforts to support families touched by unemployment and poverty seem to give a very effective way of behaviour – family members going abroad in searching for better and more stable employment as well as uplifting life quality measured with consumerism's scale.

### **5. Family facing unemployment**

Nowadays, work in every human life comprises for one of the basic existential conditions. It determines individual's place in society, shapes personality, influences human being physical and psychical development, liberates initiative and creative mind activity of this individual, delivers aesthetic experience and brings joy and satisfaction (Wiatrowski, 2005). Work is a source of earning and means, as well as it has the greatest influence on material needs scale and on family life (Wiatrowski, 2002).

Employed person expects proper salary and social esteem, parallel to qualifications and responsibilities required in the job. Unfortunately for many employees, work very often becomes a source of difficulties, worries and failures, leading them into dissatisfaction, discouragement and even frustration. Uncertainty towards keeping job and fear of being dismissed without sufficient explanation concerns professionally working people the most and reveal themselves as well in their homes. It appears that even highly qualified and competent employees live in danger of being dismissed, which usually transfers to their homes or evokes immoral and anti-social behaviours.

Unemployment leads to certain macro-social and micro-social consequences in family life as well as in its general situation (Tyszka, 2003: 109–120). The moment when a person loses job is very difficult because it changes individual's social status in a very sudden way. An active participant of exchange on labour market, this individual becomes an unemployed person, which means that this person becomes isolated from some social life structure beyond this person's own and individual choice. This situation makes this individual experience multiple deprivation and threat. According to H. Kubicka, change of individual's social identity is an immediate consequence of losing job. Man, when losing the job, stops devoting to everyday professional activities which results in two-fold consequences. On one hand, this person stops acting in the usual role in front of other people. On the other hand, the person does not have an institutional confirmation of it. Losing the job, usually because of external circumstances, individual feels hurt but on the other side one is accompanied by uncertainty and fear of own and family's future (Kubicka, 2007, vol. 1: 331).

The results in case of employment deficiency for men and women – families' supporters – are highly disadvantageous since they lead to poverty and even an extreme poverty as well as disturbs natural situation. Unemployment is the most immediate factor influencing economical family functions. Family members earning activity is limited or stops existing at all. Income – highly inadequate in comparison to family members' need – dwindles. Consumption, which is determined as giving away everything, undergoes limitations. Funding children's education by a family is impossible because of extreme poverty caused by unemployment.

Thus, unemployment strongly influences family condition leading not only to poverty sphere or very often to extreme poverty sphere (Graniewska, 2001: 333) but also destabilizing family life by accusations formed by family towards unemployed person, growth of conflicts number connected with unemployed retreating from social life, increased children development disorders of unemployed people – learning difficulties, long-term low self-esteem of unemployed person as well as marriage relations disorders. It is necessary to emphasize, that unemployed father loses his authority in his children's eyes and unemployed father's behavioural changes towards his children rely on strengthening of authoritarian style elements (Wiatrowski, 2007: 26-27).

Limiting contact with friends and acquaintance is a frequent reaction for long-term unemployment. Inability to clearly define you in relations with others forms isolation. Quitting previous professional role, individual takes up a new one – of an unemployed person, negatively valued by environment in an unemployed person's sense. Unemployed is convinced of losing other people's respect. Long-term duration of unemployment leads to passivity and apathy. Unemployed person is convinced that too few things depend on his activity which weakens people's intentions to change their current life situation (Kubicka, 2007, vol.1: 332).

Unable to find help and support in their families, unemployed parents or grown-up children feel helpless and frequently manifest various disorders. Family, of course, suffers the most – financially and socially. Long-term unemployment touching Polish families makes them come though specific states, i.e. concentrating strength in order to consider life problem, in case of greater problems activities are inhibited or looking for temporary ad hoc solutions. If, in the course of time, problem is still unsolved, there can be an ultimate stress coming out, inactive apathy, an outburst of distress or aggression. Long-term unemployment in family community (parents or quite often grown-up family members) may lead to life and health threat, endangered individuals' material existence and personal dignity, facing unfulfilled basic needs, especially children's needs, destabilization, functioning disorder and often losing life course (Wachowiak, 2001: 72).

Younger generations postpone their marriage decision due to unemployment, not feeling safe and growing problems with purchasing an apartment. Existing

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families are made to limit the number of children due to poverty. Inability to financially support family members reflects in protective and educational function. Instability and lack of material support and spouses conflicts based on basic needs deprivation influence parents-children relations. Moreover, awoken material ambitions facing difficult material situation or simply poverty, appears to be highly stressful for both, children and their parents (Graniewska, 2001: 339).

Many people endangered with unemployment or already unemployed decide to go abroad for work, when arrangement of complex social and economical conditionings, on one side including threats appearing in the course of work (low salary, worker's availability, work stress and possibility to lose a job) and on the other side lack of work – often long-termed, as well as proceeding family poverty. People emigrating for work choose these solutions because it forms some perspectives for wealthy family life. It is a peculiar escape from family members' social marginalization and minimizing the situation when a family is excluded from investing in human resources. Emigrant themselves are convinced that earning emigration acts against establishing among social classes of people living in extreme poverty and endangered with social exclusion, inheriting disabled way of family social functioning.

## **6. Poverty as family initiative dysfunction**

Poverty in both, subject literature as well as in popular understanding is usually considered as material shortage, making it difficult or obstructing fulfilling existential needs. It is associated with lack of everything; it is a painful indication of extreme social poverty (Radziewicz-Winicki, 2008: 236). Poverty phenomena leads to unfulfilling alimentary needs – which results in individual's malnutrition (disease), and accommodation needs (creates homelessness), as well as educational, cultural and social. Persons, families and population groups' lowering life standard beyond some accepted minimum is a consequence of this situation (Okólski, 2005).

Current social and economical situation favours families' poverty. Worsening life conditions and financial situation of families' majority were caused by introducing market economy and limiting prestations and social guarantees. Family became an institution easing crisis results of previous years' transformation. There are less and less families living in relatively decent material conditions (families pauperization), unemployment becomes a significant problem and individuals struggle with accommodation problems as well as there is a proceeding consumerism degradation, especially cultural consumerism.

Society commonly disagrees for couple of reasons. Firstly, poverty is simply imposed to children. They are not responsible for conditions they are living in, they cannot change their fate. Their situation is a result of their parents' situation

and social system insufficiency, which cannot create conditions equalizing chances of children endangered with poverty. Secondly, staying in the poverty sphere leads young people to social marginalization, which to some extent becomes a next generation heritage. Staying in the extreme existential poverty sphere, means that individual's psychophysical development is threatened, and in case of long-term extreme poverty – biological threat.

Unemployment touching family members, especially parents and grown-up children, is one of significant factors often leading family community directly towards poverty (Kwak, Pascall, 2005: 11). Unemployment is a very significant factor which limits possibilities to build family wealth.

Poverty image in family is in many cases fulfilled with elderly people material situation having its source in low pensions or lack of it, and the necessity to maintain on social care prestations. Moreover, their age, health and feeling lonely also have their reflection in poverty. Generally, mentioned factors limit abilities to improve income situation by being active. It leads to feeling helpless and hopeless. Decrease of fitness or agility often means that independent existence is impossible (Graniewska, 2001: 337).

This phenomenon also evokes inability to fulfill the need to integrate with environment, thus, leading to exclusion and social marginalization of both, individuals and groups. "Situational syndrome" characterized as a set of economical, social and cultural status negative features in definite family functioning very often appears in families touched with poverty. Children numerosness, low educated parents and their pathological behaviours towards other people – especially towards their own children are additional factors appearing together with family difficult existence (Kawula, 2007: 36–37).

It is necessary to emphasize that wider context of mentioned term was stressed above. Writing about set of unfavourable conditionings in a family it was indicated that poverty is determined through prism of individual or family as members of organized society, as well as certain conditions which let individuals (or not) participate in this community's life. Therefore, poverty is all circumstances limiting individual's social participation or leading to individual or family's exclusion from full participation in collective life (Balcerzak-Paradowska, 2001: 343–349).

People that are considered poor in perspective of some time, can be those included into households (families) providing for their families thanks to non-earning sources, such as unemployment benefit as well as social care prestations, badly educated people and low vocational qualifications working for companies with bad financial condition, as well as inhabitants living in certain farming regions with high unemployment rate living in incomplete families or in families with numerous offspring.

Unemployment problem in the context of leading family towards poverty is mentioned above. Parents with initiative are able to find a job and treat it as a source for earning money and gaining funds which enable them to fulfill family members material needs. However, such a situation is not always possible. Families experiencing permanently poverty are in particularly hard situation. Some problems in families affected with poverty are: not fulfilling some basic needs (e.g. food), children social isolation in peer group as well as quite often children earning to retrieve home budget.

Unemployment and inability to find work in the nearest region or in the country push family members to go abroad for work to make the vision of family members' poverty as distant as possible.

## **7. Family in the sphere of challenges and threats deriving from social and economical changes – conclusion**

Family always had a great value in Polish society awareness. It gives the feeling of stability, provides spiritual support and help for individual. Social, economical and cultural transformations make family community face numerous difficulties. Their conditionings can be found in the sphere of difficult material and existential conditions generating extreme poverty, difficult accommodation conditions, poverty, not fulfilling family members' needs, making salaries elite (Korzeniowski, Murzyn, Szuścik, 2007: 7).

On one hand, transformations going on in our country create new chances, favour imposing challenges they want to cope with by family members, on the other side though cause numerous threats for values which social progress is based on. Social disintegration, seen in the categories of creating inequality inside families, accompanies this situation.

It is important to notice, looking at family – people's community, its existence on initiative level – that the mentioned idea brings challenges and possibilities as well as disturbs drastically family's functioning rhythm at the same time.

Earning emigration in certain social conditions improves family's material status and estimates family in categories of possessing but at the same time it is conducive to loneliness of family members staying in the country, especially children, to breaking off marriage and parental relations and generates educational difficulties. However, rejecting the possibility to go abroad for work leads families towards poverty, no certainty about tomorrow, functioning in stress spiral, inability to fulfill family members' needs and inability to "follow" after other individuals with greater initiative incomes, especially when these families which stay unemployed and have no chance for work.

The discrepancy between expectations about families' life conditions concerning majority of society and reality intensifies. Families sense that arising phenomena

threaten their existence. Small household budget and lack of social support, especially for unemployed and poor people threaten basic family goods – health and its members' lives. People on lower grades of material existence become aware that very clear economical stratification does not enable social and economical promotion, on the contrary, it makes it very difficult.

Considerations mentioned above make clear emphasize on family, its meaning and great importance, emotional spaces of the most intimate feelings and children as well as adults experience. However, it may also turn into an environment with opposite image, place of emptiness where man feels lonely. It is done when family's functioning is disturbed drastically and emotional relations are replaced with community of interests, quite often from a distance.

### **Emigracja zarobkowa – bezrobocie – ubóstwo. Rodzina w kręgu zagrożeń społecznych**

#### **Streszczenie**

Rodzina jest naturalnym i jednocześnie najważniejszym środowiskiem wychowawczym, w którym dziecko uczy się zasad postępowania i przygotowuje się do funkcjonowania w społeczeństwie. To wspólnota ludzi pośrednicząca pomiędzy jednostką a społeczeństwem. Współcześnie owa przestrzeń rodzinnego funkcjonowania jednostki, gwarantująca bezpieczeństwo, będąca źródłem zaspokojenia potrzeb, stymulująca rozwój osobowość styka się z licznymi zagrożeniami, co nierzadko prowadzi do jej dysfunkcyjności, a nawet patologii. Powody takich trudności są zróżnicowane. Upatruje się ich w złożoności przemian społecznych, ekonomicznych, kulturowych i politycznych. Nierzadko wskazuje się na uwarunkowania tkwiące w konieczności odnalezienia się członków rodziny w nowych warunkach gospodarki rynkowej. Stąd też obserwować można często skrajne stany nadmiernego zanurzenia się rodzin w dobrobycie materialnym, konsumpcjonizmie, skoncentrowanie się przede wszystkim na funkcji ekonomicznej rodziny kosztem dysfunkcyjności w innych obszarach. Z drugiej strony dostrzec należy wysoki stopień bezrobocia, które dotyka członków rodziny, nierzadko skrajny poziom ubóstwa, trudne warunki mieszkaniowe wielu rodzin, jak też znaczną skalę emigracji zarobkowej. Dlatego też podjęcie rozważań poświęconych emigracji zarobkowej, bezrobociu i ubóstwu w kontekście postrzegania wymienionych zjawisk, jako zagrożeń dla współczesnej rodziny wydaje się być zasadne. Prezentowane opracowanie jest próbą wskazania zagrożeń wynikających z dysfunkcyjności rodziny w obszarze radzenia sobie na rynku pracy. Skoncentrowano się na wybranych aspektach emigracji zarobkowej, bezrobocia i ubóstwa członków rodziny i odniesiono owe kwestie do podstawowego zadania rodziny, jakim jest wychowanie dziecka. Stąd też znajdziemy w artykule refleksje poświęcone trudnościom, jakie napotykają rodziny doświadczające emigracji zarobkowej jednego z członków rodziny, bezrobocia, ubóstwa, a w konsekwencji wykluczenia społecznego.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Rodzina, emigracja zarobkowa, bezrobocie, ubóstwo społeczne, osamotnienie, przedsiębiorczość, zagrożenia społeczne.



### Summary

Family is considered a natural environment for family members. At the same time it is the most important educational environment where children learn behavioural rules and prepare to function in the society. Family is a community of people, a link between individual person and the society. An area of family functioning guarantees safety satisfies the needs and stimulates personal development. Nowadays, this space meets many threats, quite often leading to its dysfunction and sometimes even pathology. There are various reasons for these difficulties. They can be caused by complex social, economical, cultural and political changes. Conditionings lying in the necessity for family members to be found in the new circumstances of market economy may also be the reason. Thus we can often observe families immersing extremely in material welfare, consumerism in utter state, concentrating mainly on economical functioning of a family at the expense of dysfunction in other spheres. On the other hand, high rate of unemployment affecting family members, often an extreme poverty, very hard living conditions for many families, as well as earning emigration in significant scale cannot be unnoticed. That is why, deliberating earning emigration, unemployment and poverty in the context of considering these issues as a threat for modern families seems to be a relevant subject. Presented study attempts in pointing out threats which arise from family dysfunction in managing the labour market. This study concentrates on chosen aspects of earning emigration, unemployment and poverty touching family members, and relates them to a basic family task, which is raising and educating children. Therefore this thesis reveals some reflections concerning difficulties appearing in families affected with one-member earning emigration, unemployment and poverty, and consequently touched by society marginalization.

**Key words:** family, earning emigration, unemployment, social poverty, loneliness, initiative, social threats.

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