

Blaž Mesec**A model of action research**

Dr. Blaž Mesec is lecturer at and vice-dean of the School of Social Work.

Action research is neither a general methodological approach in the sense of an "emancipation research" or a "new paradigm research" nor, strictly speaking, a research method. It is a way of organizing research for practical use, and its basic characteristic is that the time-space and social distances between researcher and practitioner are much reduced. Thus it is a functional relationship, a kind of developmental research and organizational counselling, open to various epistemological and methodological approaches. A model of AR is presented with a conceptualization of the functions of the approach, of the relationship between researcher and practitioner, of the principles of research and counselling, and of the processes of the production of knowledge, problem-solving and learning.

Sonja Borštnar**Evaluation research in the world and the evaluation of programmes**

Sonja Borštnar, sociologist, works at the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia.

The author describes the general development of evaluation research and explains its success despite criticism it was exposed to by its applicability, not merely as experimental research. She defines evaluation particularly as related to the expectations from it, to its purpose and the position of the evaluator. Evaluation of social programmes is studied in detail, stressing the notion of self-evaluation.

Nada Stropnik**Economical aspects of voluntary social work**

Nada Stropnik, M. A., economist, private researcher, works in the field of family and child care.

Comparisons between costs for social services offered by different sectors are not reliable, if they do not take into account quantitative and qualitative features of the services as well as the whole expenditure they produce. The difference

between the costs may be ascribed to different efficacy only if the same services are compared. The voluntary sector seems to be cheaper, if the value or the opportunistic costs of voluntary work are not considered. As data confirm, cost elements that are not related to personnel, hardly contribute to the entire difference between the costs of services performed by different sectors.

Lučka Lorber, Ivan Lorenčič, Majda Wozniak**Voluntary social work at the IInd Grammar School, Maribor**

Lučka Lorber, M. A., is expert collaborator of the University of Maribor Rector's office and tutor.

Ivan Lorenčič is director of the national Establishment for education and sports.

Majda Wozniak is teacher at the IInd Grammar School, Maribor, and tutor.

The chief purpose of organizing voluntary social work is to find and establish ways of inviting social groups to active contribution to modelling and changing our society, and helping volunteering pupils to their personal growth. The pupil undertaking social work is supposed to develop his/her capabilities and evolve into wholesome personality, capable of a productive life in society and a humane relationship with fellow humans.

Milko Poštrak**Where have all subcultures go? (I)**

Milko Poštrak, M.A., is junior researcher at the School for Social Work in Ljubljana.

The author reflects upon contemporary urban subcultures. His contribution is framed by a wider range of considerations about the human being as one of the most complicated phenomena, and by the context of the relationship among the entities individual-culture-society. He briefly surveys the origin and the first usage of the term, and then quotes several key authors who have been dealing with these questions in the most extensive and profoundest way. A range of terms is listed that are used in this framework and which demonstrate the complexity of the topic.

In conclusion to the contribution (introduction to a series), a plausible interpretation of the origin of subculture is offered.

Darja Zaviršek

Psychiatric department between illness and its cultural manifestation. A case study (I)

Darja Zaviršek, M. A., is assistant lecturer at the School of Social Work.

The article is based on anthropological research at the women's department of the psychiatric hospital in Ljubljana. The first part of the study deals with culturally specific and gender determined forms of mental distress. In Slovenia, it is characteristic for men to be dependent on alcohol and commit suicide, and for women, to be depressed and to attempt suicide. Since the traditional peasant mentality is prevailing, people somatize their distress and seldom talk in idioms of psychic feelings. The described cultural model is important for the microanalysis of female users of the psychiatric hospital and for the planning of new psychosocial services. The research proceeded in the forms of questionnaire, collecting life stories and key events as well as in the form of engaged observation. A reflection of the research proves that anthropological research is always in the cross-section between the biographies of "the others" and one's own autobiography. To collect biographies is to shift the boundary between the researcher and the informer; it is to mediate among different realities. However, the very listening to individual stories and languages can lead us to uncover the needs of different groups of psychiatric users.

Bogdan Lešnik

Advocacy

Bogdan Lešnik, M. A., is psychologist, psychotherapist, assistant lecturer, and tutor for community mental health studies.

The author reviews the topical issue of Social Work on advocacy of psychiatric patients and considers the practical and conceptual frames of the title subject. He finds the project to include possibly antagonistic activities. In his view, advocacy is basically a critical and reflexive ac-

tivity of articulating, promoting and safeguarding the rights of psychiatric patients, following the "principle of justice" as opposed to - and sometimes opposing to - the "principle of need" ruling the manifold forms of security, care and help. The essay contains numerous general remarks on the used terminology and remarks to the linguistic aspects of the topic.

Srečo Dragoš

Questionnaire for new social services

Srečo Dragoš, M. A., sociologist, is assistant lecturer at the School for Social Work.

A questionnaire (18 questions) was distributed among 48 social services which represent an innovation in this country and have been developed over the last four years. The questionnaire was designed for the (self)presentation of the interested respondents; its basic purpose, however, is information for the users, the services themselves, and the general public.

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