

Vesna Leskošek Control and help in social work

Vesna Leskošek, social worker and pedagogue, is team manager of Youth Aid Centre at the Centre for Social Work Ljubljana Moste Polje.

The author deals with the sensitive topic of the conflict between the roles of control and counselling in social work. To explain the conflict, she applies the concepts of deviance, welfare and social control. Due to the concept of welfare state and the welfare concept of deviance, classical institutions are more in the role of controlling than of offering help. Since main social functions have been taken over by the state, the information on the people's interests and needs is spreading among the institutions rather than coming from the people themselves. The institutions deal with the information on the deviation from the "normal" rather than on the actual needs. Consequently, the response of the institutions is mainly directed towards the correction of individuals and not towards a suitable social action that would satisfy the actual interests and needs of individuals and the community.

Srečo Dragoš Social work - a system view (I)

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

Since the development of the profession of social work as well as its circumstances feature growing complexity, the system approach is becoming more and more important. Therefore, it is essential to introduce and use the distinctions by which a (professional) system facilitates its own outward and inward orientation. To differentiate outward (i. e., towards the surroundings) is necessary for overcoming the functional interdependence by the interpenetration of the systems, which is particularly relevant in the Slovenian circumstances. To differentiate inward, however, is necessary for a self-orientation or an organisation of the internal complexity of the system that enables its reproduction. The author demonstrates the first with an ex-

ample of the integration of the profession of social work into European currents, while the criteria of the British association for social work serve as an instance of the second.

Darja Zaviršek Psychiatric ward between illness and its cultural manifestations - A case study (II)

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

The second part of the study is an analysis of the symbolic structures of the institution. A psychiatric hospital is a limited place charged with stigma, in which different spaces determine the mode of communication and encode social situations. The space with the strongest symbolic significance is the one designed for isolation, being the space of punishment and therapeutic intervention at once. There the process of ego mortification is the most powerful. A particular culture of time governs the institution and transforms users into a waiting group whose time has a lesser value than the time of the staff. In the psychiatric institution, a waiting culture is produced. The symbolic organisation of the institution is linked to unconscious mechanisms of overcoming anxiety.

Tanja Lamovec Advocacy as a form of counseling

Tanja Lamovec, Ph.D., tenure professor at Ljubljana University, Department of Psychology, is chairperson of the Advocacy section of Altra, association for innovations in mental health.

The article describes the psychic injuries that originate from psychiatric hospitalisation as well as how an advocate can help relieving them. These injuries are: drug dependence, life-long stigmatisation, low self-esteem and self-confidence, reinforcement of a "false ego", repeated suppression of a "felt ego", altered relationships with family, friends and at workplace, and loss of goals in life. The article stresses on the counselling work of the advocate, but his range of action is much wider, including legal and psychosocial interventions into the user's surroundings.

The basic goal of advocacy is to redirect power towards the user, so that he may gain as much control as possible over his own life.

Luj Šprohar
Qualification as ideology

Luj Šprohar, social worker and sociologist, has been successful as musician, puppeteer and writer; at present he is devoted to the critique of the situations the blind people find themselves in.

The article deals with the ways of control and punishment in the second half of the sixties in the Establishment for blind and weak-sighted youth in Ljubljana. The Establishment had all the attributes of a mild prison, even though the inmates were there only on account of their disability. They experienced their selection and segregation as a major injustice and mistake on the part of the society, but also as self-understood. This situation has not met any essential changes. The blind people are still educated in institutions established and organised specially for them, they are still separated from their natural domestic environment, they are still alienated from their peers; the consequences are the inferiority complex and the absence of a social immune system.

Ida Bulatovič

Formation, development and methods of work of the Juvenile Disciplinary Centre at the Social Work Centre in Maribor

Ida Bulatovič, defectologist, specialist for behaviour and personality disorders and penal pedagogy, is counselor at the Juvenile Disciplinary Centre of the Social Work Centre in Maribor and expert collaborator at the categorizing office for mentally and physically handicapped children and adolescents.

The Juvenile Disciplinary Centre was established in Maribor in 1967 as a special service of the Social Work Centre. The activities are basically preventive, aiming to solve the juveniles' developmental problems that often result in criminal actions. Using suitable methods and techniques, they include: finding and encouraging, together with the juvenile, his/her strong points; work on re-establishing dialogue within the family, verbalising their current problems and conflicts; and finally, helping the juvenile to realize his or her expectations and the expectations of others.

Franc Hribernik

Who is taking care of aged farmers?

Dr. Franc Hribernik is Assistant Lecturer of Rural Sociology at Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana, Department of Agro-nomy.

The number of aged peasants who need various forms of social care has increased rapidly along the process of demographic ageing. The care for the aged peasants is in most cases left to the traditional intergenerational solidarity within the individual household on the farm. When aged peasants are left to themselves on their farms, unable to take care of themselves, general social institutions and in some cases social asylums take them in. In the period between 1980-1992, among 9,704 persons institutionalised in general social institutions 8.5% were peasants by profession, while in special social asylums, the share was 7.1% of 992. The number of persons institutionalised in the general social institutions is rapidly growing, and among all the peasants, there are more women (56%). However, the number of persons institutionalized in special social asylums remains fairly constant; among all the peasants, men are more numerous (62%).

Milko Poštrak

Where have all subcultures gone? (II)

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

In this sequel of his considerations of subcultures, the author attempts to place them within a wider concept of culture. He cites, briefly, the historical survey of the origin and development of the more contemporary struggle with cultural variety. In particular, he considers the notion of cultural segmentation as related to the conflict and contrast between the so-called "elite" and "popular" culture. In this framework, the author endeavours, by citing the views of other theorists, to show the complexity and controversy of such dualist distinctions, as well as the difficulties of defining the phenomenon of subculture or popular culture as such. In conclusion, he introduces rock and roll as the starting point for the next sequel.