

A B S T R A C T S

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ANALYSIS OF THE POSITION OF EXCLUDED SOCIAL GROUPS IN SLOVENIA AND PROPOSALS FOR THE DECREASE OF THEIR EXCLUSIONS IN THE SYSTEM OF SOCIAL CARE RESEARCH REPORT

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The research, commissioned by RS Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, analyses the problem of economically, socially and culturally excluded social groups in the Slovene system of social care. A detailed analysis is carried out of the position of women, people with problems in mental development, aged people, children who experience abuse, and people with special needs. The authors describe the main contradictions that maintain the process of exclusion and suggest proposals for change, e. g., individualised care planning, independent advocacy service, mechanisms of complaint, pluralisation of service offerers, deinstitutionalisation, revision of the care system, and direct financing of care in the community.

Keywords: excluded social groups, empowerment, inclusion, living in community.

Marino Kačič

COMMUNICATION, ACTION AND COUNSELLING IN INTERACTION WITH THE BLIND AND WEAK-SIGHTED *Marino Kačič is a social worker.*

The author points out the importance, from the standpoint of effective psycho-social counselling to the client and his or her family on the one hand and social fulfilment of the professional on the other, of the relationship between the social worker and a blind or weak-sighted client. He elaborates on three areas: (1) how to understand the relationship in a working context, (2) communication between the "seeing" and the client, (3) what the professional and the client, respectively, bring into the inevitable interaction. The introductory part presents the erroneous idea that the efficiency of social work increases without limits along with the optimisation of counselling procedures, technical means and money. Next, the author argues that the efficiency of the helping professions increases significantly, if the building of a relationship is included with the classical working procedures. The usual troubles in communication with the blind and weak-sighted people are listed, such as may lead to misunderstanding, discontent, or even inefficient help. The experience of the person who is blind or losing sight is described, as well as the ways to the rehabilitation of the individual and the family. In conclusion, the alternative is presented for the social worker to choose between professionally "polite" and the "curative" relationship, together with their advantages and disadvantages for the client and the professional.

Keywords: blindness, crisis, rehabilitation, curative relationship.

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SOCIAL WORKER AND THE AGED PERSON

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The mission of social care (and social work) is to increase life opportunities for its clients, without prescribing "the best solution". However, old people, in particular those who are dependent upon others, do not have many possibilities to make decisions. The current network of institutions and

supply of help at home does not meet the needs of the growing number of old people, which enhances the significance of voluntary social work. The latter combines all the methods of professional work and expands the professional roles of social workers. The author carried out a quick enquiry, in which 40 aged social work users selected three most important out of five desirable characteristics of social workers. The main choice was trustfulness, professional expertise, and the ability to listen.

Keywords: old people's needs, decision-making, expectations of social work, voluntary social work.