

Slovenská rodina a jej poslanie

Slovak family and its role

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Abstract: The paper focuses on the importance of family in the society with its irreplaceable role in upbringing of new generation. Further it points out on the fact of changing the institute of family and marriage in the period between years 2005 and 2014.

The change of society approach towards the institute of family leads to changed birth rate numbers in the Slovak Republic with its impact on demographic trends in society.

We focused on current concept of family as a social group, in which children are born and raised.

The emphasis is placed on fulfilling three, from our viewpoint, very important functions of the family, where we indicate the functions failures and related consequences. Failures of the family in their functions cause relatively high number of divorces and family breakdowns bound particularly with negative impact on children, which implies the need for adopting the legislative measures by the State.

Key words: Family, marriage, divorce, functions of the family, birth rate, social and legal protection of children and youth.

Introduction

Family in the Slovak Republic has remarkable importance for a person as well as for society. For each person it should create such an environment in which the person is able to perform even in the

most difficult life situations, and at the same time just the family is the first social group that gives the hand in the case of the most serious social events.

The importance of a family we usually realize only when we lose it. Family with its bundles and mutual interactions becomes the first social network for a child that allows him fulfilment of his needs and creates the environment for his socialization.

The family should be a place where a person feels good, safe, where experiences the first praise but also the first admonition. Family values, norms and behaviour patterns are transformed to raising children, and these values are carried during the whole life.

Each family is very individual, creates the basic system of bundles, where each bundle consists of subsystems made up by its members. "Today is the family seen in the surrounding world as an institution with rational, pragmatic, functionally vertical hierarchy with cultural restrictions, and at the same time as a separate private world of authenticity, genuine equality and emotionality." (Sobotkova, 2007)

Family cohesion, atmosphere, as well as the family lifestyle play very important role. Person as a social being exists in

different groups, either peer or social groups, but just the family as a group ensures satisfaction of his fundamental needs, and teaches him to fellowship and solidarity. Family in its family environment does not only create place for work duties, but also for relax, further it reinforces mutual relations and experiences the sense of peace. In the family we have a role of a child, husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, aunt, uncle, and just the family is the place providing us the environment to perform the roles. If you as a child experience such interconnection in the family, then as an adult you tend to start your own family.

Recently, the most common form of starting the family is the marriage conclusion, entered based on a free and serious choice. Marriage is a legally recognized bond of a man and a woman, and this bond should form the family basis.

Marriage as the basis of family

By adoption of Act No. 36/2005 Coll on Family and amending certain laws (hereinafter as "Family Act"), adopted January 19, 2005, the Slovak Republic became one of the modern states, with significant position of a family in society. Under the adopted legislation, a marriage

is considered a union of a man and a woman, and this unique union must be universally protected, assisted with solving the problems for the marriage and also a society benefits.

According to Article 2 of the Family Act, "Family established by marriage is the basic unit of society and society universally protects all family forms." (Act No. 36/2005 Coll.)

Act No 460/1992 Coll., the Constitution of the Slovak Republic (Act No. 460/1992 Coll.) of 1 September 1992, Chapter II - Fundamental rights and freedoms Art. 12 § 1, grants all people freedom, equality, dignity and justice which is also observed in the family act, that grants equal rights and duties to husband and wife. The main mission of a marriage is establishing the family and bringing up new generation of society. In the developed countries is the family considered a basic unit of society with its irreplaceable role.

Since the end of 19th century, countries geographically located in Europe, strengthen the influence of welfare states over relaying some traditional functions of a family. The family, however, further fulfils and supports socialization function of its members, namely the area of children-rearing, mutual support of family

members, mainly from the point of relations, economy, emotions, etc.

In the historical development of society, the institute of marriage has been changed, and recently it does not exist in the same form in all countries of the world as it is with us. The legislation of the Slovak Republic only recognizes marriages concluded by a man and a woman, what means a monogamous marriage, arising from voluntary decision of the engaged couple and is a subject to meeting statutory conditions.

Monogamous form of marriage is one of the most widespread forms of coexistence. Although we speak about connection of one man with one woman, it may not be an absolute relationship, mainly due to possible marriage dissolution as an initiative of a husband or a wife.

The other possibility of repeated entering into marriage is the death of a spouse, when a widow or a widower can re-enter the marriage. "This form of marriage is called a serial (periodic, chain) monogamy. This is a series of consecutive monogamous marriages." (Skupnik, 2010).

This way of marriage comes out from the historical development, especially from the Catholic Church views on marriage.

The Slovak Republic does not only recognize civil marriage concluded before the municipal body of a community or municipal district that keeps the marriage register, but also the marriage concluded before the authority of a registered church what means a religious marriage. The body of the church, before that the marriage was concluded, is required to deliver a record of the marriage to registration office, in whose jurisdiction the marriage was celebrated within three working days, and in this way the concluded marriage shall be entered in the Family Register (Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Decree No. 302/1994 Coll. implementing some provisions of Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on Registers).

Act No. 154/1994 Coll. on Registers regulates keeping the registers and related rights and obligations of individuals as well as the roles of public authorities (Act No. 154/1994 Coll.)

The State Registry keeps records on personal status of natural persons who are or were born, got married or died in the Slovak Republic and Slovak citizens who are or were born, got married or died abroad. Keeping such records is extremely important for a society, it does not only keep proper records, but it may also specify the circumstances that rules out a

marriage, for example, of a married man or a married woman. In the case, such a marriage is concluded; it is annulled by the Court without the application for annulment of the marriage, and is considered as invalid. The Family Act also states that marriage may not be concluded between ancestors and descendants, siblings, and the same applies to a relatives based on the adoption. (Act No. 36/2005 Coll.). In the case, that came to such conclusion of the marriage the court also rules on its invalidity.

Legislative amendment rules out the relations between relatives and prevents incest, which is regarded as a sexual intercourse between close relatives. Clear incest definition has not been adopted until today, so from our point of view it regards prohibition of sexual intercourse between consanguineous relatives in a horizontal or vertical line, as well as the prohibition of the sexual act between close relatives, where foster children, adopted children, children acquired by marriage etc are also considered close relatives.

The purpose of marriage is creating a harmonious and enduring community that ensures proper children bringing up in family environment. A family is considered a social group composed of two or more persons living together in one

household bound by matrimony, blood or adoptive bonds.

Hroncová et al. reveals that family is a unique and unrepeatable social group with its own operating rules, specific forms of behaviour, mutual communication and interaction (Hroncová et al., 2000). The family as a small social group plays and plays irreplaceable role in upbringing of new generation, but also in the terms of ensuring the basic living needs of its members. Experts stress the importance of the family mainly through its functions, features, position in the society, phases, running, typology of family environment, etc.

Ondrušová (2009) focuses on determination of basic family characteristics, as follows:

- " Family is socially approved form of permanent coexistence;
- Family consists of people mutually connected, where prevailing customs recognize blood, marriage or adoption ties;
- Family members usually live under one roof;
- Family members cooperate with each other within socially recognized task division, where

upbringing children is one of the most important tasks of this cooperation. "

Gabura sets following family functions: biological and reproductive, educational and socializing, emotional and psycho-hygienic, protective, economic, rest and relaxing, value and cultural, manufacturing, nursing (Gabura, 2006).

As it is seen from the previous divisions, definite definition of the family does not exist. It comes out of different authors' views on family. From our point of view, the family also fulfils spiritual and ethical function, which teaches children to faith and attitude to ethical norms.

According to the Statistical Office data, which evaluates the number of entered marriages, as well as the age of fiancés and fiancées entering the marriage, is visible that the attitude of society to marriage is changing.

Table No 1: Characteristics of Marriage in Slovak Republic, 2005 - 2014

Indicator	YEAR									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of marriages	26 149	25 939	27 437	28 293	26 356	25 415	25 621	26 006	25 491	26 737
Amount of marriages per 1000 inhabitants	4,9	4,8	5,1	5,2	4,9	4,7	4,7	4,8	4,7	4,9
Average age at entering the marriage										
male	30,5	31,0	31,2	31,4	31,7	31,9	32,4	32,6	32,9	33,2
female	27,4	27,9	28,2	28,4	28,6	28,8	29,4	29,6	29,9	30,3

Source: Statistical office of the Slovak Republic

Table No1 shows data from the period 2005 to 2014 and amount of marriages per 1000 inhabitants, which was in 2010 and 2011 only 4,7 marriages per 1000 inhabitants, in 2014 increased the amount of marriages to 4,9 per 1000 inhabitants. The highest marriage rate per 1000 inhabitants was in 2008, when it increased to 5,2 marriages per 1000 inhabitants. Based on the Statistic Office of the Slovak Republic source, the highest rate of marriages were in Slovak Republic in the seventies, when were entered 44000 marriages per year.

In the monitored period was significantly higher age of men entering the marriage, when in 2005 was the average age of men 30,5 compared with 2014, when the average age rose to 33,2. The average age of women entering the marriage was in 2005 27,4 years of age, and in 2014 it was 30,3. From the mentioned data it is clearly visible, that older fiancés and fiancées enter the marriage, so we can assume that they are mature personalities, who realize their obligations and are ready for marriage.

From the statistic data comes out, that increased age of newlyweds only partly influences decrease of divorce rate in the Slovak Republic.

Divorce rate in the Slovak Republic

The Family Act allows dissolution of marriage by divorce only in specific justified cases, in the case that came to a serious breach and permanent marriage disruption or the marriage cannot fulfil its purpose, nor can restoration of marital cohabitation be expected. During the divorce the court takes into account spouses' breaching of obligations. The spouses have equal rights and obligations, live together, are loyal and mutually respect their dignity, help each other and share care of their children and create healthy family environment. The spouses obligation is also the mutual care in securing the family according to their abilities, possibilities and property situation. Their duty is meeting the family needs. In order to solve the problems it is necessary to come to a collective consensus within decision taking (Act No. 36/2005 Coll.)

Table No 2: Selected characteristics of divorces in SR 2005 - 2014

Indicator	YEAR									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Amount of completed divorce proceedings	14 346	14 007	13 048	13 412	13 415	12 731	11 767	11 650	11 637	11 232
Number of divorces	11 553	12 716	12 174	12 675	12 671	12 015	11 102	10 948	10 946	10 514
Amount of divorces per 1000 inhabitants	2,1	2,4	2,3	2,3	2,3	2,2	2,1	2,0	2,0	1,9
Amount of divorces to 100 entered marriages	44,2	49,0	44,4	44,8	48,1	47,3	43,3	42,1	42,9	39,3
Average divorce age										
male	39,6	40,0	40,2	40,4	40,6	41,1	41,5	41,8	42,1	42,5
female	37,0	37,4	37,5	37,7	37,9	38,4	38,7	39,0	39,4	39,7

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

From 2005, when the number of completed divorce proceedings reached 14,346 gradually came to their reduction in 2014 to 11,232. The number also lists the requests that have been completed, then withdrawn back. The highest divorce rate was recorded in 2006. The amount of divorces decreased to 10,514 in 2014. Comparison of divorce rate per 1000 inhabitants show, that in 2006 it represented 2,4 divorces per 1000 inhabitants, compared with data of 2014, when the divorce rate was 1,9 per 1000 inhabitants. Compared divorces data per 100 entered marriages were the highest in 2006 when it reached 49 divorces per 100 entered marriages. In 2014 was the number of divorces per 100 entered marriages 39.3. As it is indicated in Table No.2, the average age at divorces in 2014 increased

among men to 42.5 years of age and with women to 39.7.

Although the average ages are just statistical valuables and they point to the fact that the marriages were entered because of family creation, what is the natural environment for giving birth and upbringing of a new generation, and just at a time when they have to fulfil their mission, comes to divorce.

Nativity in the Slovak Republic

The increased average age of engaged couples entering into marriage manifests postponing of marriage, but many couples live together in a society without the wedlock, they break up due to the instability before entering into marriage. According to Statistical Office data, in 2014 the total number of born children out of wedlock was 38.9% of children, and the share is still growing. Since the 90s of the 20th century, according to Statistical Office data, the amount of children born out of wedlock increased from 10% to nearly 40%. This is the alarming state, as the child shall have the right of both parents and should be brought up in a harmonious family environment. As can be seen from the data, young people do not enter into marriage as the family basis, but a large number of couples make up

unbound relations or single-parent families where a child is raised by a lonely mother or lonely father. Characteristics of births in the Slovak Republic are presented in the Table No.3 which indicates the total number of born children. The highest amount of children were born in 2009, as well as the highest proportion of alive born infants per 1,000 inhabitants, and the proportion of dead born infants per 1,000 of alive born infants. The largest number of children were born in 2009, when was reached the highest proportion of live births per 1000 inhabitants. Extremely positive was the decline in dead born infants per 1,000 births in 2014, which represented only 3 dead born infants per 1,000 births. As increases the age of engaged couples entering into marriage, (see Table No1), increases also the average age of woman in labour, when in 2005 it was 27.51 years of age and in 2014 it reached 29.36. This phenomenon is mainly due to postponed motherhood into a higher age because of economic and social reasons.

Table No 3: Characteristics of birth rate in SR, 2005 - 2014

Indicator	YEAR									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total born infants	54 625	54 122	54 631	57 586	61 445	60 599	61 003	55 715	54 986	55 199
of it										
alive	54 430	53 904	54 424	57 360	61 217	60 410	60 813	55 535	54 823	55 033
dead	195	218	207	226	228	189	190	180	163	166
alive born per 1000 inhabitants	10,1	10,0	10,1	10,6	11,3	11,1	11,3	10,3	10,1	10,2
dead born infants per 1000 born infants	3,6	4,0	3,8	3,9	3,7	3,1	3,1	3,2	3,0	3,0
Average age of a women in labour	27,51	27,78	28,07	28,31	28,56	28,83	29,13	29,11	29,22	29,36

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

From 2012 are not counted the infants born to mothers out of the Slovak Republic with permanent residence in SR

Fulfilment of basic functions of the family

The family, known from the past, as a relatively stable one has been changed, and the changes have many reasons. One of the reasons considered as a crucial one, is the changed status of women in society. In the past, the man was considered the breadwinner who provided a protective function of the family, and the role of a woman was primarily to provide educational, emotional and psychological and hygienic function. This family type can be called a single income type, what means that the financial funds were brought to the family mostly by males. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the family model was changing, and women largely began entering the employment process, became economically active, and started bringing the additional income to

the family. In this case we can talk about double income family type. Such changes in the family functions bring on one hand, better economic status of families, on the other hand, a shift from traditional patriarchal nature of family ties to the preferable partner family model and division of spouses' roles. Hroncová characterizes the family as a bio-social group, which performs several functions to its members as well as to the society. These functions are interconnected and affect each other, thereby they affect inner family functions, as well as the social function. As a basic function of the family is considered a biological function, especially its reproductive function, ensuring continuation of the family as well as social survival of the society, because it propagates creative and productive forces. Biological function is also reflected in the erotic relationship between spouses, which are strong stabilizing factor of a marriage and a family (Hroncová et al. 2000).

In our paper we want to have a closer look at three functions, we believe have a great impact on the family and its stability. We are aware that within the paper scope, we cannot point out the consequences of failure of all the family functions performance nor the other internal and

external factors influencing family stability and mission fulfilment.

Biological and reproductive function of the family

Considering the viewpoint of society, the biological function of the family is extremely important because it represents future of society. In our opinion, we can watch the reproductive function bound with society in three levels. The first one is slowed reproduction, when is in the society during the year born lower amount of alive born infants compared with number of dead citizens, what means reduction of population in a society, occurrence of many social problems, such as population aging and shortage of labour, etc. It is disadvantageous trend for the society if it lasts for a long time.

We can meet this demographic development in the Slovak Republic mainly after 1989. The next level of reproduction function is a simple reproduction. This type represents the case when a family has at least two children, which mean replacement for father and mother. The third reproduction level is expanded reproduction, which means that parents have at least three and more children. This was in the past a traditional behaviour model of Slovak families, where

families had more children. Of course changes in behaviour occurred under the influence of other internal and external factors of present time.

Trends in families development in the Slovak Republic can be characterized as inconsistent, where the economically more secure families prefer one, maximum two children, a greater number of children are preferably desired in socially disadvantaged families. From the social work perspectives, the largest problems arise among lonely parents, it means in single-parent families.

Childlessness can be considered as a failure of biological and reproductive function in the family, it means the inability to give a birth to alive-born infant by natural means or by assisted reproduction. Further problem can be unplanned parenthood, when a child can become unwanted and unaccepted; pregnancy of minors, when children have children, and when other family functions are not fulfilled, inability to look after a child for health reasons, but also for economic reasons.

Economic function of family

Economic family function is important in the terms of ensuring basic life needs of

the family and its members. After transformation of society in 1989, came to significant changes mainly in the area of economic transformation of society, which had negative reflection on the status of family in the society. "Many families found themselves near the brink of poverty due to increased unemployment, increasing living costs and negative phenomena accompanying political and economic transformation of society. Slovak family occurred in crisis so many families were unable to fulfil their tasks adequately without the society help." (Hroncová 2000).

The society must cope with unemployment, poverty, homelessness and other social problems, which in the past did not impinge in such amount. The newly-set, transformed system of social welfare consists of a social insurance system, state social allowances, social assistance and support underwent many changes. "Significant changes occur also in the family perception, when long-lasting care type of one generation about the other is released, and active family members want to become independent." (Olah, Iglarová, 2015)

Problems in the economic functions fulfilment have wider population groups, also the families, where both parents work,

but their income is as low as they cannot cover the family costs, despite the set minimum wage in the Slovak Republic.

According to the Slovak Government Regulation establishing the minimum wage for 2015, where the monthly paid employees get € 380 per month as the minimum wage (Government Regulation No. 297/2014 Coll.)

Keller named the problem as "working poor", the welfare state recently stands in extremely dramatic phase of its paradoxical development, with permanently growing requirements for social protection, that are results of labour market and the family institute failure (Keller, 2006).

In order to ensure basic social guarantees in the Slovak legislation, recently was adopted Act No. 417/2013 Coll. on assistance in material hardship amending certain laws. The State help and support is provided to the household members if the family members cannot secure the subsistence minimum, via their own work, through exercising of the ownership rights or other rights to the property. In this case, the state provides the assistance in material hardship as a type of specific contribution or a single payment (Act No. 417/2013 Coll.) The assistance in material hardship

is paid monthly. When calculating, a family is assessed as a whole unit and its total income, while some parts of calculations take into account only certain volumes. It is necessary to mention, that the amount can be increased in the case of a pregnant woman from the beginning of the fourth month of her pregnancy, which fulfils all the conditions stated by a law or in the case of a child parent, who personally, daily and properly takes care of a child less than one year of age.

In order to motivate family members to ensure higher income it is possible to receive an activation allowance. It is a type of allowance paid to a long-term unemployed when studying at secondary school or participating educational training for the labour market, actively participating in smaller municipal works and services at least 64 but not more than 80 hours per month, or volunteers working at least 64 and maximum 84 hours per month (Act No. 417/2013 Coll.).

Iglarová mentions that the activation allowances under § 52 of Law on the Employment Services belongs among the "instruments dealing with inappropriate or no qualification with long-term persistence in the records of job applicants, who do not have working habits and are in material need (Iglarová, 2011).

Activities of family members can improve the economic situation of a family. Activation allowances may not be paid for child labour, as the Slovak Republic does not allow the child labour. (Act No. 311/2001 Coll.).

Table No4 : Number of created work places within § 52 on activation works

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of created work positions	21 497	18 844	16 991	26 200
Amount of used funds	3 398 101,34	2 720 588,33	2 185 422,00	5 734 928,00

Source: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

The table No 4 mentions the number of created work places in the framework of § 52 on activation work, as well as the volume of paid funds for activation works from 2011 to 2014. These funds are paid as an excess payment to the calculated allowances in material hardship provided to families. The aim of this measure is to increase the activity of long-term unemployed, and at the same time enable the jobseekers to improve their income to the family funds.

Despite these measures, disruption of economic function of family has negative consequences and signs also in the divorce rates.

Educational functions of family

Educational function of the family is extremely important function for the society future. The family is the first place

of socialization "parents are the first educational patterns for their children, who usually have great authority in children and enable the effectiveness of family education." (Hroncová, 2000).

Through the educational function the family should mainly provide upbringing of a new generation. Young generation means continuation of a tribe as well as the continuation of the nation. Children are our greatest wealth so they should be given more attention, support and assistance. It is necessary to accompany them at the journey-of-life beginning, teach them behaviour patterns, instil the values, and simply give them bases for their future life. It is says what we give them it returns back to us (to society as well).

Many times come to various mistakes during upbringing children, mainly in cases when education is authoritarian, uncompromising, perfectionistic, brutal, liberal, mercantile, querulant or pathological. Every single of mentioned types of education will reflect in the child's behaviour that can also lead to deviant behaviour.

The most appropriate type is democratic education, based on respecting the child individuality and personality and on interaction and dialogical relationship

between parents and children. (Hroncova, 2000). Not all families can fulfil their responsibilities and are able to manage their children education. The state must interfere in the most critical situations.

Table No 5: Amount of children in orphanages

Amount of children placed in orphanages by the end of the year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	4579	4511	4423	4423	4701	4798	4720
of it							
disabled children	456	546	547	547	696	730	746
full orphans	66	68	78	78	101	73	65
unilaterally orphaned child	615	621	592	592	594	610	575
minor mothers	3	4	13	13	13	14	11

Source: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Table No5 shows that in the state care was since 2008 4,579 children. However, the number over the years gradually increased; to 31.12.2014 were in orphanages placed 4720 children. In 2013 were in orphanages placed 78 more children than in 2014. The negative trend in placing the number of children in orphanages is also in the group of disabled children where their number also increased to 746 from 2008 to 2014. The parents, when aware of the necessarily provided care for a disabled child often give the child up and leave him or her to the state care. In percentage terms, there is increasing number of children with disabilities placed in orphanages, compared with 2008 it was 63.59% in 2014.

In orphanages should be placed the children who lost their parents and even from their wider family environment there

is no one who can or be able to care for them. If we look at the number of such children, full orphans, who lost both parents, the number varies during the period from 65 in 2014 to 101 children in 2012.

The number of unilaterally orphaned children, which were placed in orphanages, was not significantly changed in the reporting period. It varies from 575 in 2014 to 621 in 2009. These children, despite the fact they have at least one parent, are placed in orphanages because of failures in parental functions performance.

Extremely undesirable can be considered the state when children have children. In 2008, were in orphanages placed only three minor mothers. In 2013 there were already 14 of them.

When we look at the numbers we can see that the largest numbers of children in orphanages are the children of living parents. The failures in fulfilling the parents' duties are mostly felt by minors, placed in orphanages.

The state provides children placed in orphanages conditions for their comprehensive development, but it cannot give them the family love.

Recently we also meet the failures of the well-off parents who, however, pay their

greater attention to their social status and neglect education of their children. (Olah - Roháč, 2008)

Slovak families under threat

Clear stereotyping of any family type into divisions according to fulfilling their functions, or according to prevailing types of family education are almost impossible. The way of family behaviour may be changed under the influence of environment, events, life stories, which can also affect its members. Changed are the family relations, environment, situations that cause them to conduct based on the changed circumstances. Assuming the family behaviour in certain social situations can be only partially based on the knowledge of their behaviour in the past. For example: when the family fails its function with bringing up children, during worsening of the family economic situation, this failure cannot improve; more likely it gets worse. If the family fails because of alcoholism or drug abuse of one family member, during worsen economic situation of a family member the situation will not improve, on the contrary in an effort to raise funds for alcohol or drugs such addicted member is willing to commit a crime or any antisocial activity. Eventually, the family gets to bigger

problems. The biggest shortage can be considered failure of parents in fulfilling their duties, where children mostly suffer from it.

The State through Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Curatorship amending certain laws is interested in preventing the crisis situations in families, protection of rights and legitimate interests of children to prevent deepening and repeated disturbances of mental, physical and social development of children as well as adult people, as well as prevent the increase of social and pathological acts (Act No. 305/2005 Coll., § 1).

Any help to families at an initial stage of social problem can stop further negative development, or at least can mitigate it. In any case, any change or interference of state authorities, public or legal authorities or organizations operating in the third sector is possible only with active participation of the whole family at problem solving, namely the active participation of every single family member. In the case there is a problem with an alcoholic in the family, it is insufficient that other family members give maximum effort, but when the alcoholic does not change the attitude and behaviour, the family problem will not be resolved.

The efforts to change other family members usually only lead to the situation that the family give their efforts to solve the problem and graduate it to the final stage, but if the alcoholic himself does not change, it leads to the family breakdown. Nor family breakdown, nor divorce of spouses can automatically solve the family problem.

The children mostly suffer from the family breakdown and we cannot assumed that the alcoholic will actively play the role of father respectively mother (if mother is the alcoholic). Child care and filing the maintenance obligations usually remains on the shoulders of a responsible parent, who can get to other social and economic problems, at the same time parents do not fulfil their educational function and other duties to ensure healthy development of children.

Problem of Slovak family's behaviour is also a long-term preferred neglect of the surrounding. One of Slovak proverb says: "Do not wash your dirty linen in public". Our families exactly work according to this proverb, whether because of fear, shame, or the inability to deny and solve problems. From the long-term horizon the problems are unsolved in families and are waiting that perhaps they will be improved on their own. Long waiting and unsolved social

problems more likely lead to their further increasing and balling the others. We are still willing to wait for a long time. We start to address the problem only when it is too knotty, or when it develops into other problems, e.g. long tolerated alcoholism of a parent resulting in the alcoholism of the minor which is taken as heredity, not as an educational problem. Minor children accept alcoholism as an acceptable form of behaviour; they fail with school duties, and often experience social and pathological problems such as delinquency, drug abuse, etc.

If we addressed the primary problem - alcoholism of a parent, then it would be easier certainly to solve the problem of the whole family as well as the alcoholism of a child. A problem of contemporary Slovak family is also the fact that there is a lack of sufficient work on prevention, but consequently we have to work much more and solve more complicated social problems in remediation of the troubled and collapsing family.

Collapsing the families in fulfilling their functions is not only the recent achievement, the problem also existed in the past and it was in the society solved via various measures, through the convention or the power of authority (an important

role played church), neighbour relations, etc.

Social freedom, brought by recent time, uses such procedures only to a limited extent, because people become to be aware of the rights, unfortunately not their obligations; furthermore society prefers a high degree of individualism (I do not care what others think, I can do what I want, etc.)

On those grounds, the society has to solve many problems by legislative regulations, where are determined the powers and obligations, whether of the state or the public institutions, but also to the employers, schools, physicians, the extended family or the police.

Knowing about the problem in its early stage is easier for finding the ways of solution, mainly at a time when the social problem is relatively and still more easily solvable. We believe that further strengthening and implementation of preventive measures can be only beneficial for recent family.

An example of such a precautionary measure can be strengthening the role of the state at dealing with unemployed people. Act No. 5/2005 Coll. on Employment Services and amending certain laws, works with unemployed

people, registered at the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. A problem of the act is that it has limited competences in the employment policy, because it works with employed people only in a very limited extent, and does not work with unemployed citizens out of the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family records.

Unemployment as one of the most serious social problems cannot affect only the particular unemployed person, but it affects the whole family. The law on employment services, however, does not work with the family of the unemployed person.

We can here see a lot of space for social workers, mainly in the prevention aimed at the whole family of the unemployed person. We recommend establishment of appropriate forms of family of the unemployed counselling, which would be carried out directly in a family environment, and not at the authority premises, so we could have the opportunity to find out the reality of the family with its real needs.

It is clear that such a measure is not necessary to be applied for people who are only short time registered with the Office of labour, social affairs and family. We recommend to undertake such preventive

measures among the families, where at least one member, whose registration as a job seeker is longer than 12 months (such jobseeker is considered as a long-term unemployed person according to §8 of Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services). Such a measure, we propose to realize at least once a year, if the problems were identified, then more often, of course based on the family agreement.

In the records of Office of labour, social affairs and family are the unemployed people, registered over more than 24 months. According to the Regulation of the Commission (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of help, compatible with the internal market, such jobseekers are considered as severely disadvantaged, in the case they did not have regularly paid employment of at least 24 months. Suitable would be, after the family agreement, to hold regular counselling, but at least twice a year. Via direct contact with the family are experienced and trained social counsellors able to distinguish the behaviour of family members, the family dynamics, so the social problems can be captured in an early stage.

For the unemployed who are not registered with the Offices of labour, social affairs and family, we recommend to conduct

such a preventive measures by the municipality offices, with competences for social issues. (Act No. 369/1999 Coll.)

The family must have the feeling, that government or public bodies are really interested to help them and accompany them in solving the family problems.

In the families where were identified educational problems, it is necessary to implement the family counselling more often, in accordance with the needs, as well as the specifics of "supervision" over the agreed processes implementation (eg. if a child skips lesson, after the agreement with the family, can be monitored fulfilment of the measures to tackle the minor's truancy).

In practice, we face the fact, that particularly in the socially disadvantaged families, families with pathological behaviour, in problem families, the social situation temporarily improves if they are planning their duties, with a certain degree of control during performing their functions. In that case, they feel a certain social control, either from the municipality or Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, they undergo some change in their behaviour. For such members of families it can be a certain type of "authority", on which they are dependent through a system

of social allowances and the social assistance system, or through a certain "threat" that in the case of not filling the obligations could come to families remediation (removal of children, withdrawal of benefits, non-implementation to activation work, exclusion from the job seekers register, placement of children in re-education facilities, etc). The society recently pays much attention and focuses mainly on children from problematic families, what is considered as extremely good, but can you remember that these children live in their families. If we want to change the children lives, it is necessary to pay great attention to the families in which they grow up. We agree with the Pope Francis opinion, who said: "The family is the foundation of coexistence and a guarantor against social fragmentation. Children have the right to grow up in a family with a father and mother capable of creating a suitable environment for the child's development and emotional maturity. "Pope Francis (2014)

Conclusion

The family also in contemporary society must fulfil its important mission. For this reason, we disagree with the view that "You cannot teach an old dog new trick."

This type of approach is lax and pushes hardly adaptable people at the society margins, which cannot have only the result for the individual but also for the whole family. In our opinion, the elderly person may change, but it just takes time, a systematic approach, clearly stated and kept rules, humanity, motivation to change as well as immense patience.

The approach of the state to the change in favour of families can ensure the family stability and integration into society. We are not the advocates of the viewpoint that if you fail, you must give up. Social work gives us plenty of methods and procedures aimed at individuals and the group, which should lead us to understand reasons why the individuals or families fail, what is the primary problem of their social problems, and what changes should be adopted. Through legislative standards the State should set conditions of social assistance, social support and social services in order to help in solving the social problems of individuals and families. It is necessary to use all the tools that can stabilize the family as the basic cell of society.

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