

## Position high school students to homelessness

Pavol Tománek

St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work in Bratislava

---

Recenzent/Review: prof. PhDr. Michal Oláh, PhD.

Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety, Bratislava  
Resocializačná komunita Antona Srhoľca

---

Submitted/Odoslané: 05. 03. 2017

Accepted/Prijaté: 29.03.2017

---

**CONTENT:** The study is dedicated to homelessness as a social-pathological phenomenon and attitudes and opinions of high school students on the problem of homeless people. Quantitative research conducted in the form of a questionnaire, as well as the statistical processing and evaluation, is a part of the thesis. According to our survey the level of aid to the homeless affects the opinions and attitudes of students, view of the seriousness of the problem is not related to the frequency of contact with the homeless, the learning process is not influenced with the confrontation of students and the homeless. The main contribution of study is the finding, that high school students do not pay enough attention to the problem of

homelessness and recommendations of raising awareness in society.

**INTRODUCTION:** Homelessness is one of the forms of social disjunction, and people who fall into this situation usually find themselves beyond civil society. Research shows that the number of homeless people around the world is growing. It is no exception Slovakia, where the situation from year to year more alarming and must be addressed effectively. Homelessness is like a socially pathological phenomenon subject to social research and policy, which looks for different ways of integration for homeless people and try to reduce their number and to facilitate their existence. The topic of homelessness is often taboo for the average citizen, whether this is due to common prejudices, negative

experiences from the past or fear. The study summarizes the situation in general, and can thus encourage readers to come up with new and more efficient solutions to homelessness than to have under control. The theoretical part of the study can serve as a basis for the preparation of presentations, lectures and conferences for teachers ethical, religious and civic education of secondary and primary schools.

**METHODS:** Analysis. Comparison. Questionnaire. Chi-Square. Questionnaire.

**RESULTS:** The main objective of the study was to find out how and understood homelessness secondary school students. We wanted to find out their views and opinions on the phenomenon of homelessness in society. Or it has an impact on the educational process of students, or the students themselves have the will and determination to help them. We wanted to see whether the opinion of homeless students have the same, or whether different opinions boys from girls. Hypothesis 1, we verify that "students who helped homeless people, a greater commitment to help, than those who did not help them.". The claim we have gained on the basis of research Hocking Lawrence and published in the Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless in 2000. These results we tried to check on

a sample of students in Bratislava. The sample of students we need first hypothesis divided into three groups on the basis of question. 4 "How many times have you helped homeless guy?". 46% of students helped more than once, only once, 26% and 28% did not help at all. Hypothesis 1 was verified Question no. 5 "Circle how much do you think is difficult to decide first help homeless people?" A no. 6 "Indicate which of the following obstacles preventing you from (prevented) decide to help homeless people?" The last group of students who did not help at all, was the prevailing view that the decision to provide assistance to homeless is difficult. All students' answers were divided only into two groups. The first group included responses inner motivator than fear, disgust, disinterest, distrust that pupils can overcome without the help of ambient, ie. own commitment to change its attitude or overcome fear. The second group of responses, we have included external motivator that a particular age group can not alone influence, because often times do not affect the status of their funds and Leisure them to a greater extent organized by the school and parents. Options to internal motivator that all three groups of students referred to the same extent. It is, however striking difference in the choice of external motivator, which were ringed especially

students who helped more than once. Based on the calculated values of chi-square for question no. 5, 6 and compared to the tables we reject the null hypothesis. Hypothesis 1 were verified. Among the independent variable - helping the homeless and the dependent variable - determination mean addiction exists. The result concludes that, as a student helped more than once, a greater commitment again to help the homeless. Hypothesis 2, we verify that "Students who have been in contact with homeless people perceive homelessness as a serious problem compared to those who were not in contact.". Given hypothesis comes from the same study that dealt Hocking scientists and Lawrence. The same students who worked at the shelter and showed greater resolve to help, while according to the results of the questionnaire perceive homelessness as a serious problem. This dependence we have on our sampling frame to verify the hypothesis of a second. File students we allocated on the basis of question. 3 "How often do you come into contact with the homeless?" Into three groups. The first group consisted of 22% of the students who come into contact with the homeless often, occasionally it meets with homeless 64% of students and other groups not come into contact at all 14% of the students of the third group.

Hypothesis 2 was verified Question no. 8 "Adjust these problems of society from the most serious to least serious.", No. 9 "It deals with homelessness you think enough attention?" A no. 10 "refers to the degree agreed on the following statement:" Homeless suits their situation and do not want to change. "The first group in question. 8 assigned homelessness severity scale most often third and fourth place. In terms of our hypothesis it is interesting that no one from the first group of students considered the most serious problem of homelessness among companies offering possibilities. The second and third group identified homelessness as moderately severe to least severe problem. According Questions. 9 to average 78% of students in each group thinks that homelessness is not given sufficient attention. The question no. 10 We examined the level of agreement with the statement using a Likert scale. The first group of students did not show prior opinion. In the second and third group of students is multiple choice questions divided between the opposition and I have no prior view. The disadvantage of using Likert scale for a given age group of students, we see that it gives them the opportunity has expressed an opinion, and thus not fail any effort and not to think over the issue. Chi-Square values calculated for

all individual questions were below the table values. The results show the validity of the null hypothesis, and thus falsification of hypotheses 2. The independent variable - contact with the homeless and the dependent variable - view of the seriousness of the problem we observed interdependence. From the results we can make the conclusion that contact with the homeless student does not affect his view of the seriousness of the issue. To verify that "boys are more likely to believe that if the homeless to work harder, he could have found decent housing than girls." We serve hypothesis third argument is based on the results of the Scottish Survey of public attitudes to homelessness, who worked in Ormston 2008. The survey showed that the 51% of men compared to 41% of women think that if homeless people have mobilized efforts, would be able to change their situation for the better. Respondents were divided by the question no. 1 for men and women. The research consisted of 74 men (60%) and 50 women (40%). Chi-Square values for individual questions verifying the hypothesis 3 were below the table values. The results show the validity of the null hypothesis, and therefore rejected the hypothesis 3. The independent variable - gender and the dependent variable - views on efforts homeless, we observed

interdependence. From observations it can be concluded that gender does not affect the differences of opinion on the efforts of the homeless. Although the school is situated in a location where we expect a higher incidence of homeless people, so any morning meeting does not affect the mental state during class. The educational process is not significantly disturbed by clashes between students with the homeless. Students are able to rise above the problems of homelessness, the fate of the homeless indifferent to them, and are able to concentrate on teaching, regardless of whether it is morning witnessed the poor homeless life. A very small percentage indicated negative impact of confrontation with the homeless on their concentration during class. It corresponds to the number of students who exhibit a higher degree of empathy, social maturity and social responsibility. In question. 11 reported 89.7% of the research participants that the topic did not pay for any of the lessons. The remaining percentage were divided among the four subjects. Identically 3.5% of students reported civics and English, 2.5% of ethics and geography 0.8%. We do not expect, however, that the geography lessons in the context that has been mentioned homelessness, participated in only 0.8% of respondents. We would expect, therefore,

that the subject of geography state at least 20% of research participants, representing about one class.

**DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION:** The results of empirical probe showed many interesting facts. One of the three of us set out hypotheses based on foreign researches on our sample confirmed. The other two hypotheses, we observed the same relationship between variables such as foreign authors, and could therefore not be verified by our sample of respondents. Evaluation of sub-objectives that were not directly linked to the hypothesis enabled us to establish the conclusion that contact with the homeless does not affect significantly the course of the educational process. From the results, it is apparent that the issue is not addressed enough space within school hours, and unless homelessness is the main theme of teaching, students often forget that it was ever mentioned. Prevention of social exclusion of students is part of ensuring the availability of interest groups. In the coming period we can imagine the intensity increase awareness among young people through projects, excursions and discussions. Experts from the social sphere should be more appealing to the informatisation of society as a whole, which would result in the suppression of a change of negative attitudes.

**KEY WORDS:** Homelessness. Social exclusion. Streetwork. Attitude. High school students.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

FITZPATRICK, S. 2014. *Sustainable ways of preventing homelessness: synthesis report*. Luxembourg : Publications Office of the European Union, 34 s. ISBN 978-92-79-44553-8.

KOCAI, E. 2007. Phenomenon of Homelessness in the modern society. Realities of the Homelessness in Lithuania. In *Economic and Administrative Series*. [online]. Nr. 1, 2007. [citovane 2015-02-28]. s. 92-110. Dostupné na: <[http://annalseas.faa.ro/download/Phenomenon%20of%20Homelessness%20in%20the%20modern%20society\\_Elena%20Kocai.pdf](http://annalseas.faa.ro/download/Phenomenon%20of%20Homelessness%20in%20the%20modern%20society_Elena%20Kocai.pdf)>.

MÁTEL, A. – SCHAVEL, M. a kol. 2011. *Aplikovaná sociálna patológia v sociálnej práci*. Bratislava : VŠZSP sv. Alžbety, 442 s. ISBN 978-80-8132-009-5.

MILÁČKOVÁ, M. – ROCHOVSKA, A. 2011. Bezdomovectvo, sociálno-patologický jav vstupujúci do priestoru slovenských miest. In *Acta Geographica Universitatis Comenianae*. [online]. Vol. 55, No. 2, 2011. [citované 2015-02-28].

- s. 191-216. Dostupné na: <[http://www.humannageografia.sk/clanky/55\\_2\\_04\\_Milackova\\_Rochovska.pdf](http://www.humannageografia.sk/clanky/55_2_04_Milackova_Rochovska.pdf)>.
- ORMSTON, R. 2008. *Public attitudes to homelessness: findings from a Scotland-wide survey*. [online]. Edinburgh : Scottish Center for Social Research, 2008. [citované 2015-02-28]. Dostupné na: <[http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/148472/public\\_attitudes\\_to\\_homelessness.pdf](http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/148472/public_attitudes_to_homelessness.pdf)>.
- MECIAKOVA, M., FOLTIN, V., KRČMERY, V., OLAH, M., RIDOSKO, J., GAZIKOVA, E., CAUDA, R. 2017. *Health emergencies during flights (Case reports and Mini-review)*. In *Clinical Social Work and Health Intervention*. Vienna: GAP, 2017. No. 3. Vol. 8. 54 - 57 p. DOI 10.22359/cswhi\_8\_3\_10. ISSN 2222-386X.
- POTOČÁROVÁ, M. 2006. *Mládež medzi slobodou a sociálnymi hranicami*. In LENČOVÁ, T. 2006. *Adolescencia: aktuálne otázky predčasného a predĺženého dospievania: zborník referátov z konferencie 7. apríla 2006*. Bratislava : Slovenská spoločnosť pre rodinu a zodpovedné rodičovstvo, 2006. ISBN 9788096889150. s. 158-162.
- SHINN, M. 2010. *Homelessness, Poverty and Social Exclusion in the United States and Europe*. In *European Journal of Homelessness*. [online]. Volume 4, 2010. [citované 2015-02-28]. s. 19-44. Dostupné na: <<http://feantsaresearch.all2all.org/IMG/pdf/article-1-2.pdf>>.
- HAIJ, P. A., DUDOVA, Z., KRČMERY, V., TOMANEK, P., HRINDOVA, T., POLONOVA, J., ZOLLER, K., DORKO, D., DURECOVA, B., BARTOSOVIC, I., SPANIK, S., BUJDOVA, N., RIDOSKO, J., MELLINGHOFF, F. 2017. *Spectrum of Bacterial Isolates and Diagnoses in Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Facility before and after Armed Conflict in Iraq (Research Note)*. In *Clinical Social Work and Health Intervention*. Vienna: GAP, 2017. No. 3. Vol. 8. 15 - 17 p. DOI 10.22359/cswhi\_8\_3\_02. ISSN 2222-386X.
- STAMPER, D. 2014. *What are the phases of Homelessness?* [online]. 2014. [citované 2015-02-28]. Dostupné na: <<http://pinministry.org/what-are-the-phases-of-homelessness>>.

*Assoc. prof. Dr. Pavol Tomanek, PhD.*

*Sociálno-zdravotnicke spektrum  
Social Health Spectrum*

TOMÁNEK, P. 2015. *Rodina – výchova – spoločnosť*. Brno : Tribun, 2015. 406 s.  
ISBN 978-80-263-0775-4.

---

**Contact to author:**

Assoc. prof. Dr. Pavol Tomanek, PhD.

St. Elizabeth University of Health and  
Social Work in Bratislava

Nam. 1. mája 1

SK – 810 00