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### **Social roots of adolescent girls' prostitution– cultural aspect**

“Special pedagogy is characterised by specific aim – the social revival of the mentally retarded children, the ill people, people, who *are not adapted to social circumstances* or people deviated from the norm in another way”<sup>1</sup>. **Contemporary rehabilitation is located in the field of special pedagogy as a sub-discipline with interdisciplinary character. It deals with the process of *going off the rails of youngsters* (considered in socio-legal and pedagogical aspects), the conditioning of early juvenile delinquency, prevention and dynamic, the measure and methods of effectiveness of rehabilitation’s influence**<sup>2</sup>.

We can single out two basic forms of social deviation: criminal and moral one. The basis of this division is the character of social norms, which are broken. Going off the rails in criminal sense, means breaking legal norms, whilst in moral sense - breaking moral and social norms. In Polish system of norms, the people deviated in criminal sense are burglar, bandit or a person, who takes part in a collective rape.

Socially deviated specimen is a **prostitute**, alcoholic or drug addict, as well as ‘free-rider’, parents neglecting their children or people morally ill-treating the weaker<sup>3</sup>.

The prostitution is a social problem that for long time has not been resolved. McCaghy, on grounds of length number of titles, claims that the prostitution is defined by three premises<sup>4</sup>:

- 1) behaviour, which has sexual meaning for client and is heading for satisfying his drive (regardless of form of this behaviour, even if the form is perverted)
- 2) element of economic transaction, payment for this behaviour ( regardless of its form, but mostly it is determined in advance)
- 3) emotional indifference – behaviour of both partners is headed for exchange of services.

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<sup>1</sup> Grzegorzewska M., *Pedagogika specjalna*, Warszawa 1968, s. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Sękowska Z., *Wprowadzenie do pedagogiki specjalnej*, Warszawa 1998, s. 59.

<sup>3</sup> Tamże, s. 68.

<sup>4</sup> Cyt. za Nowak A., Wysocka E., *Problemy i zagrożenia społeczne we współczesnym świecie. Elementy patologii społecznej i kryminologii*, Katowice 2001 s. 153.

The prostitution is determined by combination of many factors: cultural, social, economic and also physiological.

The cultural conditions (i.e. the morality, customs, historical traditions, norms) determine society's attitude toward the prostitution, which results from attitude toward human sexuality, that is expressed not only in law regulation but also in all social regulations that refer to this phenomenon – beginning with supporting prostitutes, regarding and tolerating them till the total banning of fornication and victimisation of prostitutes. Besides social organization form of prostitutions are influenced by changes that taking place in man and social system, which facilitate or hinder establishing interpersonal bonds. The prostitution by itself is shaping manners, customs and fashion so in some way it is influencing on culture. This influence is usually limited to the social group that is more or less connected with the prostitution<sup>5</sup>.

J. Pabian claims that main reason of prostitution are disorders in emotional sphere. The prostitutes cannot establish correct emotional relationship, they are characterised by weakness or even disorder of emotional sphere and low intellectual level. This personality's characteristics are deepened by alcoholism and lack of ability to defy life's adversities<sup>6</sup>.

It happens, that because of life's difficulties, into the prostitutes are turned women, who emigrate to another countries. In Poland, in 1990s came into being *escort agencies*, that were a cover for an activity, which range of activity was totally different from their official claims. Moreover "invasion" of Russian women to the higher categories of restaurant and hotels effectively eliminated native pimping system. The separate issue of this activity are spaced out, as the wayside post, Rumania's citizens.

In this context R. Gardian shows conditioning of prostitution:

- a destitution and poverty;
- a low level of education;
- a low economic status;
- a low remuneration;
- an unemployment;
- an economic crisis or growth;
- a family structure;
- a patriarchal family;
- a value system preferred by parent;

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<sup>5</sup> Sztobryn - Giercuskiewicz J., Psychologiczne aspekty prostytucji, Łódź 2004, s. 49

<sup>6</sup> Nowak A., Wysocka E., Problemy i zagrożenia..., op. cit. s. 157.

- parent's problematic married life, which causes unpleasant atmosphere;
- parent's passivity and life's helplessness;
- alcohol and drugs abuse of other members of family;
- membership of deviated group;
- family members' criminality;
- school failures and dodging school duties;
- increase of consumer needs;
- desire for quick achievement of high standard of living;
- inclination to laze, flair to dressing up etc<sup>7</sup>.

One of important results of social-economic changes in Poland is juvenile prostitution. It is more and more common phenomenon and simultaneously more difficult to diagnose.

In the area of Middle-East Europe U. Świątochowska selected following model of kid's prostitution:

- kids offering sexual services gathered within rail stations; their clients are recruited from poor social stratum, so they cannot afford to expensive sexual services;
- sexual abuse of children from Polish and Rumania orphanage by paedophiles\_ (inviting them for summer holidays);
- minor girls from Middle-Eastern Europe delivered to western brothels;
- street prostitution;
- international trade of boys;
- boys are used also in production of pornographic cassette.

To the enlisted models we can add in Poland category of 'szlaufy'. 'Szlaufy' you can meet in every big shopping malls. They are 14-15 years old girls, who have sex with sponsors even 30 years older than they. 'Szlaufy' - it is the term that stick thanks to association with the "szlauch"- a rubbery pipe.( German. *Schlauch* '; a rubbery pipe')<sup>8</sup>

In Galeria Mokotów, one of the biggest shopping centre in Warsaw, for some months had been gathered materials about prostitution of minor girls, which was also used to produce film and radio reportage<sup>9</sup>.

We learn from reportages<sup>10</sup> that the 'szlaufy' are in every junior secondary school, it is no matter for them how old the boy is. Only money is important. They look very similar,

<sup>7</sup> Gardian R., Zjawisko sponsoringu jako forma prostytucji kobiecej, Kraków 2007, s. 43.

<sup>8</sup> translator's footnote

<sup>9</sup> „Polityka” nr 30 (2564), 29 lipca 2006, Hanna i Adam Bogoryja – Zakrzewscy, Szlaufy. Dziewczyny do kupienia, s. 78-80.

double-coloured hairs, tight jeans, boots with high stilettos. The bigger shopping centre, the better.

The crowds in Arkadia... Quite a lot of young girls, every look similarly. Innocently. They keep Coca-Cola in hand, only for making a pretence of shopping. They have provocative make-up in order to look older. One of the heroes reportage (15 years) claims that in the beginning she is always paying attention to the man's shoes. They should be original, smart. Then she looks on clothes. She comes up to men without scruples, telling that she wants to meet them. She seeks men older than she is, because they at her age are to childish for her. *“ I could show that I'm important. For example, I'm eating dinner in a exclusive restaurant. I thought that I'd been plying with man, exactly his wallet. I was in a big demand. I had bloke even 14 years older than me. He had a very nice Audi.”* Kate boasts – *“ I'd many boyfriends, the last was 29 years old, he had wife and children and loved me very much. I was with him, because it a honour for girl to have older boyfriend. Mum knows what I'm doing – my mother has a lover, so I have to cover for her. But if dad had known...for him I'm still his little daughter.”* The new telephone is very important for her, she ever has chosen a particular model, so she is agreeing for sex in a rented flat.

Jola, 15 years old, attractive with brown hair, in a bag mobile phone (in pink colour – the favourite colour of 'szlaufy', because it draws men's attention ), long nails, but nail polish is flaking in some places. Make up – strong, provocative and also pink. She tells about everything with details. Apparently she wants to boast, to impress. Her “first time” took place in caravan during summer holiday. He was 17, and she 12 years old. Since then she has had six men. – *“ I was with him for money, satisfaction and pleasure. Now I am with a twenty-six-year-old man. He can spend for me 300 zl, when we go shopping for stupid trousers, blouse, cosmetics or underwear.* When asked if she used contraceptive device, she admits smiling that she does not, because she dislikes. The smile is disappearing when asked if what she was doing was not prostitution. She concludes that it is not prostitution. After all, she does not get money at once after sexual intercourse.

*“My friends come here to Arkadia to seek boyfriend, dressing up in translucent clothes and go out of cloak room worn them – it is the best way”.*

From the provocative talk with sponsor:

- *“ I am 45 years old and you are 15 – the sponsor tries to rise doubts.*

Kate – *“ My father is younger”*

Sponsor – *“ Do you mind it? “*

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<sup>10</sup> Por. tamże.

Kate – *“No, I do not. Because that mobile phone is very important for me.”*

Boys, peers, who rap, write a song about this girls. Rappers with disdain and nonchalance tell about ‘szlaufy’. They call them ‘razówki’(raz: how many time – because they count how many time they have to have sex with sponsor in order to get from him a blouse or chocolate), ‘blachary’(girls who like good cars), ‘fotelik’ ( fotel:chair; because of quick sex in car). – *“Maybe, when they listen to it, they pull themselves together and stop what they’re doing. For me it is paedophilia, when there is 30 years of difference. A girl’s 15 and he’s 45. As her father, isn’t it? He buys a rubber ring or a silver chain her – and she’s excited by it. Just ‘szlaufy’”.*

- *“Szlaufa’s parents are busy, go to work and don’t have time to check what their daughter is doing- the authors of rap song explain – the majority of this girls stem from pathologic homes, where very often father is drinking and beating them.*

- *But I know one from good home – rapper Wojtas speaks – an attractive girl, but she slept around. She was 16, and her bloke was 30. But he had Mercedes of class A, villa, swimming pool. However he had also a wife and kids.”*

Even they, are surprised that parents are not interested how their daughters have such expensive things. The girls explain that parents let them for everything as far as there will not be a child from it. – *I went once for nameday party to a friend – Jola tells – I was to go back this same day, I got home a week later. Mum during this time read my diary, which lay on top. I wrote there that I had slept with Michał, what we had been doing, how fantastic it had been. Marcin was then 21 and I 14. Mother didn’t comment on it.*

In academic year 2006/2007 on classes<sup>11</sup>, after screening of ‘Szlaufy’, the students answered to question about prevention and methods of effective rehabilitation influence.

In the prophylaxis, the students point out:

- streamline school pedagogue’s activity
- control of behaviour in peer’s group
- increasing effectiveness of social service’s activity concerning family functioning
- verifying work of Social Service Centres, Family Help Centres and non government organisation in order to assure in family economic, care and pedagogical and psychohygienic function

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<sup>11</sup> W Akademii Pomorskiej w Słupsku – na zajęciach z patologii społecznej, Uniwersytecie Szczecińskim – metody pracy socjalnej, WSP TWP w Warszawie Wydział Zamiejscowy w Szczecinie – socjologii wychowania.

- bigger involvement of school and local authorities in organizing youngster's free time
- the bigger police interesting of youngsters, who stay on streets and in shopping centres while they should be at school
- carry out the preventive and informative campaign for what we called a risk group
- sexual education at school

To the effective methods of rehabilitation influence students include:

- placing girls in therapeutic centres
- therapeutic work with girl's all family
- talk with psychology and pedagogue at school
- talks, meetings, talks with prostitute or film's screening in order to aware to this young girls that... *it is the simplest prostitution. If they've started, have gone on this way, they finish like we do* – Violetta, forty-seven-years-old Warsaw prostitute tells, giggling.
- assurance legal and medical advice for women
- assurance shelter for girls and women

As the factors that exist in family and determine prostitution, the students class:

- low material status of family
- low parent's educational level
- breaking of family
- alcoholism of family members
- lack of authority
- cold-heartedness of family members
- family's ineptitude and helplessness
- wrong methods of bringing up
- absence one or both parents resulted from foreign trip or many jobs
- seeking a father in a older man

Surprising was that no one, from 735 persons, pointed to people who buy sexual services. Unfortunately our legal system against prostitution rarely punish their clients. People who purchase sexual services are not arrested or chased, and during legal proceeding their identity is not revealed. A. Giddens claims that “ Much less works are devoted to the clients than to people, who sell sexual services, and most people are inclined to ascribe psychical disorders prostitutes rather than to clients. This imbalance in field of research certainly reflect

acceptance of orthodox sexual stereotype, according to which it is *normal* that man actively seeks different forms of satisfying his sexual needs, whilst people who enable him it are condemned. Author comes to conclusion that “prostitution is expression and in some sense also causative factor of men’s tendency to treat women as a thing which can be *used* to sexual purposes. The prostitution expresses specific context of men and women inequality. There are also many different matters that are important. Prostitution is a form of sexual satisfying for those, who because of physical flaws or restrict moral norms cannot find sexual partners<sup>12</sup>. Prostitutes provide theirs services to men who out of home, want sex without commitment or have specific sexual liking, which are not accepted by other women. This factors do not explain general nature of prostitution but only size of its occurrence<sup>13</sup>.

Ula and Jola<sup>14</sup> – the girls after ordeal in the end have advice and questions – “*You’ve told that you’ve got twelve-years-old daughter, haven’t you? You should be careful, at this age you’ve got so disorder in your head that you don’t know what are you’re doing. You should pay great interest and spend a lot of time with her. And talk with her. First of all talk.*”

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<sup>12</sup> W tej sprawie warto wskazać na pracę: Buss, D. M., *Morderca za ścianą*. (A. Nowak, Tłum.), Gdańskie Wydawnictwo Psychologiczne, Gdańsk 2007.

<sup>13</sup> Tamże, s. 159-160.

<sup>14</sup> Por. „Polityka” nr 30 (2564), 29 lipca 2006, Hanna i Adam Bogoryja – Zakrzewscy, Szlaufy..., op. cit. s. 80.

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