Children in conflict with the law in Slovakia

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SLOVAKIA

Statistical Template and Analytical Report

2. Children in conflict with law.

2.1. Criminality development of the adolescent perpetrators

In Slovakia situation expressed by number and rate of juvenile offenders participating in commission of criminal activity is stable and even records a drop in some indicators.

For example in 2000 it participated in registered criminal acts 9,724 juvenile offenders. In 2001 there was recorded a slight decrease roughly by 200 cases. The highest incidence of cases (9,854) was recorded in 2002. For following years it is characteristic annually decrease. For example in 2005 there were recorded 7,599 cases. Compared to 2005 it is decrease nearly by 12%. A similar development recorded a violent crime activity of juvenile offenders. In 2000 these ones participated in 1,721 violent crime acts and in 2005 in 1,410 violent crime acts. It means decrease more than 18%. Property crime activities of juvenile offenders recorded a gradually drop in the registered cases. While in 2000 it was recorded 6,174 cases, in 2005 it was only 4,931 cases. In this group of crime activity it means decrease more than by 20%. It indicates a favourable development in this kind of crime activity of juvenile offenders. Only in area of the other criminality it was recorded increase from 666 cases in 2000 to 740 cases in 2006, it means an increase more than by 11%.

It was recorded a significant fall in number of the convicted juvenile offenders in course period of last six year. In 2000 it was 2,713 underage persons and only 1,932 underage persons in 2005, it means decrease by more than 28%. The share of convicted underage persons in total convicted persons (representing on average 25,227 persons) was more than 9% (2,353 convicted juvenile offenders).

In the period last six year police registered about 113,425 crime acts annually. Juvenile offenders participate in above-mentioned total criminality by about 7.9%; it represents 8,927 crime acts and of this number the registered violent crime acts committed juvenile offenders represents about 17% (1,518 cases annually). The underage offenders participate in 6.7 cases murders on average. The registered property criminality of the underage persons had 65.75 % share in total juvenile criminality; it represents per year 6,084 cases. Other crime activity of juvenile offenders had a 7.9% share; it represents 677 cases per year.

In Slovakia in period of the last six years it was sentenced on average 25,227 offenders annually. Of above-mentioned number it was on average 2,353 underage offenders (9.33%); of which 95% were boys. By the kind of criminality there was sentenced on average 168 juvenile offenders for violent criminality; 1,340 ones for property criminality and about 105 ones for other criminality. To 1,654 offenders (of which 263 juvenile) it was given prison sentence. Boys were 98% of imprisoned juvenile offenders.
2. 2 Conception of prevention in school system of the Slovak republic
(By document of the Ministry of the Education of the SR)

2.2.1. Strategic plans and organizational forms of prevention in the department of the school system

The basic role of the prevention in department of the school system is creating of the complex conditions for decrease in the incidence of the socio-pathological phenomena in behaviour of children and youth including drug addicts. Dominant roles of the department of the school system are mainly in area primary and secondary prevention with stress on educational forms of assistance to children and parents within schools and school institutions.

The conception of drug addict in department of the school till 2003, which was approved at operational meeting of the minister 5.11.1999 (later on committee of the ministers), is focused on the all groups of problems in the areas:

- Preschool education in the school system and also in after school interest activities
- Active protection of child against socio-pathological phenomena
- Professional psychological and advisory care
- Cooperation with family
- Re-education and re-socialization
- Prevention drug addict and socio-pathological phenomena will be permanently focused on realization of three basic levels:
  - **Primary prevention** in schools and school institutions in meaning:
    - Goal-directed forming of optimal conditions for health development of children
    - Implementation of complex of measurements focused on reduction of reasons evocated disorder of psycho-social development
    - Implementation of activities focused on early elimination of emerging problems with children and youth
  - **Secondary prevention** on the level special care in the meaning:
    - Professional work with children with disorder of psycho-social development and behavioural disorder
    - Preventive measurements and programs, of which role is to prevent stabilization of socio-pathological phenomena
    - Cooperation of the schools and school institutions with family and relevant institutions
    - Ambulatory and sanatorium care with possibility to place children for short-term diagnostic or therapeutic-educational stay
  - **Tertiary prevention**, within of which will be:
    - Solved complex and professional care for children with serious behavioural disorder and social development disorder for whom was ordered institutional education
Re-educational and therapeutic approach to child, which correlates with kind of disorder and etiology of genesis of this disorder

Realization of prevention of drug addicts in school system requires implementation following roles in following period:

To monitor situation in area drug addiction concerning children and youth; surveys and research with stress on preparation of proposals regarding more effective forms of prevention

To ensure primary prevention of drug addicts in schools and school institutions within educational process

To focused on long-term and continual activities concerning prevention in contrast with inefficient a single action

To ensure professional education of pedagogical and non-pedagogical workers in department of school

To ensure support and development free-time and sport activities, promotion of activities of pedagogues of free-time activities, support free-time activities in meaning in meaning annually proclaimed Programs of support and protection children and youth

To ensure educational and professional care for problem children, children with special educational needs, children with behaviour disorders

The effective cross linking department institutions and cooperation mainly with health and social institutions

To concentrate activity of preventive and advisory institutions of the department of school system on early identification of problem children and to provide professional particularly psychological help

To form department of prevention and consulting at the level central bodies of state administration

To develop the department informational system in area of prevention

To realize preventive and projects with suitable emphasise on need evaluation.

2.2.2. Methodical guidance and coordination of prevention in sphere of department

The indispensable phase for attainment of efficient coordination of prevention in department of schools is to form institutional and personal assumption at central, regional and local level.

The department of care for teacher and common tasks of schools and school institutions of the section of primary and secondary school and school institutions of Ministry of Education was accredited to the methodical guidance and the
coordination of drug addict prevention, crime prevention and delinquency and also to the methodical guidance of educational and psychological prevention

Department of national schools of section of primary and secondary schools and school establishment of Ministry of Education was accredited to methodical guidance and coordination of pedagogical and psychological advisory centres, diagnostic centres and institutions of substituted upbringing are managed by department of special schools.

In the meaning resolution of government of the Slovak republic, the proposal for founding special department of prevention and consultancy of section primary and secondary schools was presented, which would solve problems within unify coordinated line.

Coordinators of prevention are accredited at the level schools and methodical workers at the level regions and districts.

Assessment of successfulness of prevention of drug addicts in departments of schools.

Assessment successfulness of implementation of preventive activities of the school system departments will be based on:

- Continuing monitoring and school surveys on drug taking implemented in appropriate interval of time
- Documents and assessments of level of prevention within schools and school institutions of individual districts and regions
- Annually submitted reports about implementation of National program of fight against of drugs
- Conclusions produced State School Inspectorate
- Independent surveys, eventually research tasks and situation monitoring

2.3. Absenteeism and problem behaviour of pupils of primary and secondary schools

In 2004 compared to 2003 indicator absenteeism has unfavourable development. It was recorded increase in number of unjustified lessons per pupils of primary and secondary schools excluding vocational schools, which recorded slight decrease. In primary schools increase was by 0.2 from (3.1 to 3.3) unjustified lessons (6%).
In majority districts (56) there was increase in number unjustified absences per pupil of the primary school, extreme increase was mainly in district Medzilaborce (from 10.0 to 14.9), Vranov nad Topľov (from 9.1 to 12.7), Rožňava (from 7.02 to 10.5) and Košice environs (from 13.2 to 15.4). In districts Prešov, Lučenec, Bardejov, Považská Bystrica and Sabinov there was recorded increase in extent 1 up to 1.9 unjustified absences, in another districts (45) unjustified absences did not go beyond 1. Contrary, decrease was recorded in 20 districts and in majority of them; this decrease was lower than 1 unjustified absence per pupil. Significant decrease was in district Trebišov (from 19.4 to 15.8) but this district belongs to them, which demonstrate the highest fingers of this indicator, and in district Gelnica (from 8.9 to 5.8), where decrease go beyond level 3 unjustified absences. Decrease by more than one unjustified absence per pupil was detected in district Trenčianske Teplice (from 2.5 to 0.98) and Košice II (from 8.8 to 7.03).

The Indicator absenteeism in national scale has increasing trend from 1998. If there is compared 1998 with 2004, it was recorded increase by 57% (by 1.2 unjustified absence per pupil). Till 1999 this figure was at level 2 unjustified absences; from 2000 to 2004 nearly 3 unjustified lessons except 2004 when this figure reached 4 unjustified absences.

The second recorded indicator of problem behaviour is share of pupils with downing mark in manners. Comparison of this indicator in 2004 with 2003 showed a slight increase from 2.4% to 2.6%, but if there is compared 1993 with 2004, it was recorded the noticeable growth (by 73%).

In secondary schools, the highest number of unjustified absences per student was in vocational schools (9.5), contrary the lowest number in gymnasiums (0.43). By regions and by type of secondary school in 2004 the highest number of unjustified absences per students was in Bratislava region in gymnasiums and vocational schools (0.9; 1.8); in Žilina region in conservatory (3.98); in Banská Bystrica region-in nursery college (7.3); in Košice region- in vocational schools (12.4). The comparison of development of this indicator in 2004 with 2003 recorded the growth of number unjustified absences in all type of secondary schools except specialized secondary schools (slight drop from 1.17 to 1.16), the highest growth of unjustified absences was in secondary vocational schools (from 8.03 to 9.49), nursery colleges (from 4.19 to 5.17) and conservatorium (from 2.24 to 2.75).

Similarly development characterised the rate of pupils with downing mark in manners and the highest rate was in secondary vocational schools (14.3%), vice versa the lowest in gymnasium (1.05%). Similarly as in secondary vocational schools the unfavourable situation is also in primary schools (8.4%) and in conservatorium (9.45 %). The development of this indicator in 2003 and 2004 characterized the considerable growth in secondary vocational schools (from 12.3% to 14.3%) and conservatorium (from 8.2% to 9.5%) and the drop in gymnasium (from 1.13% to 1.05%) and the same level of indicator in specialized secondary schools.

On the basis of analyses of indicator (number of absences per pupils and rate of pupils with downing mark in manners) resulted that development and state of the indicator is differential in primary and secondary schools. Differences are manifested among individual regions/districts but also among classes. In national extent in
primary schools it was recorded increase in unjustified absences per pupil till 2002
and in this year value of this indicator was at level 4.0; in 2004 there was drop to
3.31 unjustified absences. Rate of pupils with downing mark in manners have grown
till 2000 and from 2002 culminates at the level 2.5%. In secondary schools the worst
situation from point of view of mentioned indicators is in vocational secondary
schools. In these schools was recorded per pupil 9.49 unjustified absences and
14.33% pupils had the downing mark in manners. To the contrary the lowest values
of these indicators were recorded in gymnasium. The increasing trend of these
indicators was recorded in vocational secondary schools, specialized secondary
schools and conservatoriums.

Regarding mentioned discoveries it would by necessary to realize a
quantitative possibly a qualitative sociological research of absenteeism in
endangered regions (possibly in schools), to elaborate and implement programs of
absenteeism, to monitor and analyse indicators in area socio-pathological
phenomena children and youths (their trends in the Slovak republic, in individual
regions), to prepare minimal principles for implementation of preventive programs
focused on endangered group of children and youths in schools, to realize
monitoring of absenteeism and problem behaviour by means questionnaire in
designated region of Slovakia in 2006.

On basis of findings and comparisons it is possible to note, that existing
problems is not possible to solve only by warnings, instructions and
recommendations for schools and school institutions, but to form conditions for
systematic work and coordination of preventive programs and early intervention.
These activities are possible to realize only in cases of good coordination and on
conditions of effective collaboration of school, school establishment and family.

Data sources and used documents

Reports on results and attendance of primary school pupils
Reports on results and attendance of grammar school and specialized secondary
school pupils
Slovíková, M., Analyses of absenteeism and problem behaviour, Bratislava: Institute
of Information and Prognosis of System of Schools
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2.4 Prevention of drug addicts in school system
(Analyses adopted from Institute of Information and Prognosis of System of
Schools)

Authors:

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The School System Department has dealt with a decrease in risks of the danger of young generation of addictions in the long term and problems of prevention of drug addiction are integral part of education process. It participates in fulfilling of tasks resulted from National program of Fights against drugs, National program of health support, Strategy of crime prevention and Fight against criminality. Tasks from mentioned programs are developed in Conception of educational and psychological prevention in School Department.

The preventive activities on the basis of socio preventive-educational programs are realized as early as at the level of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and school institutions and in program “Schools supporting of Health “are participated more than 988 schools. In the majority kindergartens programs are focused on forming of the health life style of the pre-school children, for example strengthening of physical and mental health of preschool children, Step by step, Gold apple, we want to breathe fresh air. Project School without alcohol, cigarettes and other drugs guarantees Methodical centre in Bratislava, which implemented many educational actions. Project “While it is not too late” was realized for applicants for coordinate work from group of all type of teachers. Age-group programs are realized continuous within many primary and secondary schools and also at preventive and advisory institutions in School Department. At the level secondary school problems of drug addiction is included to the plans of the principal tasks of schools, subject commissions, working plans of coordinators, educational advisors, class teachers and methodical groups. Primary and secondary schools utilized within prevention many videos, school radio broadcasting, school journals, confidence boxes, thematic posters and work of pupil and student parliaments. In 1999 Ministry of Education, in the meaning Criterions for development of club activities approved by minister of education, provided for development of the civil association (clubs) of children 20 millions SKK and for direct activities of the children and the youth was provided through Programs of prevention and support of children and youth in SR for projects of the national extent 16 millions SKK and for project of the regional extent 18 millions SKK. The most supported projects were ones of civil clubs of children and the youth, which works with children and the youth in free time. In area of primary prevention, Ministry of Education forms better conditions in relation to children and youth for realization of interest and free-time activities, referring to after school activities, interest activities and creativity of pupils, through activities of civic associations in area of sport and through free time centres. In period 1995-1999 in compliance with Measurements for fight against drug it was formed 25 centres of educational and psychological prevention (CEPP) at the level regions and districts. The role of these centres with compliance with & 11 Act of National Council of the SR number 279/1993 of digest as amended to provide specific social, psychological and therapeutic educational care to children endangered by socio pathological phenomena. CEPP implemented many projects in area prevention in School department, continuously had share in education and methodical assistance to coordinators and parents of children.
The positive assessment has also special “peer” programs realized within regions and districts. Ministry of Education and workplace being under competency of Ministry of Education have shared in implementation of school survey on alcohol and drugs –ESPAD. Institute of Information and School prognosis (IISP) elaborated a proposal of information system for area of prevention of drug addiction in school system and implemented following researches -Drugs and free time as significant element of prevention; Socio pathological problems of the youth of the SR and comparative report- Opinions and attitudes of young people concerning of drug abuse.

On the basis of analyses of the current situation and results of European statistical survey on abuse of drugs (ESPAD) (survey was implemented via anonym questionnaires and respondents were students of secondary schools) and the repetitive population surveys on sample of young people it makes reference to often marihuana abuse and the growing trend in an abuse of synthetic drugs. The increasing number of drug addicted children records also diagnostic centres and re-education homes.

A current experience of experts on treatment of addiction refers to the fact, that heroin addicted patients (or with addiction to other synthetic drugs) started with the marihuana abuse, which was for them later insufficient. There are experiences that young people who were only marihuana smokers failed to manage school duties and to fulfil any duties and their life totally broke down. At present WHO highlights also fights against nicotinism. In consequence of tobacco addiction it died annually 4 millions people in the world. In the Slovakia there is unfortunately formed standard drug scene. In means that there operate organized groups imported drugs and drug dealers who sell drugs directly to addicts. The sale of drug moved from streets to flats. In Bratislava There is recorded such flats approximately 400 and another hundreds are found in rest of territory Slovakia. From overdose there died young people. Apart of it, the drug sale complicates life of all inhabitant of house where is localized the flat of dealer. Addicts desolate house entrances, disturb silence, threaten often inhabitants, parents worry about their children being out. Drug dealers do not deserve compassion. Vice versa decent people deserve maximal protection against drug and criminal surroundings.

In recent time, experimentation and abuse of illegal drug by young youths is very actual. Survey realized IISP in 1995-1999 recorded that there is the growth of number people experimenting with drugs at the age from 15 to 26 (from 15.8% to 19.6%). Many experts and public meditated on question how to stop these increase trend and they are in phase with opinion, that it is needed to focused on prevention. The guarantor in this area is the state, which set up tasks for some departments via National program of fight against drug. The fundamental tasks resulting from this program pertain to School department. In School department chiefly pedagogic-psychological advisory centres and centres of educational and psychological prevention dealt with Problems of prevention of drug addiction, but also other subjects have share in public education or realization activities, which have significant meaning from point of view of the use of free time. In present, drugs spread to all agglomerative units in Slovakia. Respondents who have had experiences with drugs belong to more often in group of smokers or bigger
consumers of alcoholic drinks and spent time with gaming machines. They have more free time as young people, who do not experiment with drugs and more often spent your free time with peers by visiting disco, casino, bars and pubs. Their way of life can be more under influence of peers and classmates who have also experiences with drugs.

The most effective factor of prevention against drug addiction and experiments with drugs is engaging in other meaningful activity in free time. In Slovakia the youth spends free time by passive form (watching television, listening music) in large extent and in less extent go in for activities of creative character, which develop interests as resulted from results of survey. Young people think that they have enough free time and they are satisfied as they treat with it and do not consider changing it. The significant roles for change of spending of free time of children have education institutions in school (as school club of children, school centre of interest activity, and centre of free time. By law number 279/1993 on school institutions, their role is to ensure suitable way of spending of free time children and youths in compliance with age distinctiveness, to develop interest and leisure activities, to share in developing of interests and talent, abilities and invention. These activities assist to eliminate incorrect habits of spending of free time and at the same time affect as factor of prevention of socio-pathological phenomena endangering children and youth.

In school year 1999/2000 there were 142 institutions in area of free time in all districts of the SR (except district Košice III where institution of this kind absents). Within regular interest activity there worked 5 081 interest clubs in cultural area, sport, ecological education, social and nature and technical science and language education (increase by 121 compared to 1998/1999). In regular clubs there work totally 71 228 members of which 61 274 children at age up to 15. Within casual interest activity there work 31 036 units and total number of participants were 1 627 062 of which 1 254 824 children up to 15 (76.6%). At individual institutions there was performed 1 225 professional lectures, in particular for teachers and educators (507), workers of institutions (225) and heads of interest clubs in which participated 31 799 participants. Centres of Free Time shared in publication activities (issued 474 titles) and realized 830 camps in which relaxed 26 498 participants (of which 8 606 members of interests club).

On basis of demand of Ministry of Education there were elaborated analyses of activity of the preventive and advisory institutions working in school system department (special educational institutions that which realized tasks concerning child protection against socio-psychological phenomena, prevention of problem and delinquent evolution of children). The primary role of the analyses was development of questionnaire by means of which was collected information about their activities.

On the basis of above mentioned survey there was found that almost all preventive and advisory institutions collaborate with teachers (98.3%) and parents (97.4%) and also with school physicians (93.4%) possibly with educational advisors and coordinators of prevention (92.2%) and ¾ utilize collaboration with members of police force. One half of these institutions cooperated within their activities with school psychologists and other specialists (for example social curators, university students-pedagogical and philosophical specialization, clinic psychologists,
educators, logaoedic assistant at primary school and Kinder gardens, officers for solving gypsy problems, nuns and pastors and so on.

The preventive and advisory institutions have a wide area of activities. Except psychological care, education and public and advisory activity, ensure also information advisory activity and devote to mainly activity concerning prevention of socio pathological phenomena/ drug addiction (especially CEPP). Another activity is focused on environment and life style, development of talent, free time activities and so on. On the basis of the survey it was found that preventive and advisory institutions in school department the most significant participated in public and advisory work (91.3%), prevention of socio pathological phenomena (83.5%) of which (67.7%) is focused on special socio-psychological training, (54.2%) on group therapy and (47.9%) on club activities.

These institutions issued also various magazines (11.3% subjects), bulletins (12.2% subjects) and the most frequent from issued prints information propagandistic documents (77.4% subjects) and information leaflet (59.1% subjects). In course of the evaluated period these institutions issued totally 218 documents of which the most noticeable share had information propagandistic materials (40.8%) and information leaflets (31.2%).

From total overview of activities is evident, that stress in advisory and preventive institutions in school department is focused on activities of information and advisory nature (28.1%) and special –pedagogical activities (27.1%). To lesser the extent but still in strong representation are activities psycho-diagnostic (21.3%) and psychotherapeutic (20.9%). The lowest focus is devoted to educational activities (1.5%) and relaxes activities (1.1%) in mentioned institutions.

The highest number participants participated in information and advisory activities (153 378- 45,8%). Within additional education of worker specialists mentioned institutions (1 666 activities) 4 680 workers participated in and within additional educations of peers there were realized 472 activities (with 3863 participants). In summary there were realized 2 936 various educational activities (at 115 institutions) on which were 26 826 participants from groups of clients, worker specialists and peer activists. It was found that the workers of advisory and preventive institutions in school department devote the highest attention to additional education own workers (39.9%) and training of socio-psychological skills (28.7%). The lower significance there has an additional education of peers (16.1%) and trainings courses (15.3%). The most frequently clients participated in trainings socio-psychological skills (13 139 –49%) and in minor number trainings courses (5144-19.2%). Additional education of workers of institutions represented 17.4% from total number of workers (4 680) and additional education of peers (total number 3 863) represented 14.4%.

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