doc. PaedDr. JUDr. PhDr. György Pál Pápay, PhD.
ACADEMIA PRIMA, o.z.
ORCID: 0009-0009-1866-6357
ceo@eucult.eu

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN TERMS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK

PRZEGLĄD GŁÓWNYCH TERMINÓW W DZIEDZINIE PRACY SOCJALNEJ

PREHĽAD HLAVNÝCH POJMOV V OBLASTI SOCIÁLNEJ PRÁCE

ABSTRACT

The purpose of social work in medical facilities is to help eliminate negative social factors that could adversely affect the course of diagnosis and treatment. Social work in the healthcare system is an integral part of complex care for people in situations of emergency, lack or threats of a diverse nature. The paper aims to present an overview of the main terms in the field of social work. It is divided into three main parts: social work and social assistance services, social workers and their capabilities, the social dimension from the Church's point of view. Conclusions are presented in the last part of the paper. As a result, the most emphasised requirements for the personality of a social worker are moral integrity, humanity and a mature character.

The character of a social worker is a plus because social work cannot be done without personal interest.

Keywords: social work, social worker, social assistance services, social dimension.

ABSTRAKT

Celem pracy socjalnej w placówkach medycznych jest pomoc w eliminowaniu negatywnych czynników społecznych, które mogłyby niekorzystnie wpływać na przebieg diagnozy i leczenia. Praca socjalna w systemie ochrony zdrowia jest integralną częścią kompleksowej opieki nad osobami w sytuacjach nagłych, braku lub zagrożeń o różnorodnym charakterze. Artykuł ma na celu przedstawienie przeglądu głównych terminów z zakresu pracy socjalnej. Jest on podzielony na trzy główne części: praca socjalna i pomoc społeczna, pracownicy socjalni i ich możliwości, wymiar społeczny z punktu widzenia Kościoła. Wnioski zostały przedstawione w ostatniej części artykułu. W rezultacie najbardziej podkreślanymi wymaganiami dotyczącymi osobowości pracownika socjalnego są integralność moralna, człowieczeństwo i dojrzały charakter. Charakter pracownika socjalnego jest plusem, ponieważ praca socjalna nie może być wykonywana bez osobistego zainteresowania.

Słowa kluczowe: praca socjalna, pracownik socjalny, usługi pomocy społecznej, wymiar społeczny.

ABSTRAKT

Cieľom sociálnej práce v zdravotníckych zariadeniach je pomôcť eliminovať negatívne sociálne faktory, ktoré by mohli nepriaznivo ovplyvniť priebeh diagnostiky a liečby. Sociálna práca v zdravotníctve je neoddeliteľnou súčasťou komplexnej starostlivosti o ľudí v situáciách ohrozenia, nedostatku alebo ohrozenia rôzneho charakteru. Cieľom príspevku je predstaviť prehľad hlavných pojmov z oblasti sociálnej práce. Je rozdelený do troch hlavných častí: sociálna práca a služby sociálnej pomoci, sociálni pracovníci a ich možnosti, sociálny rozmer z pohľadu cirkvi. Závery sú uvedené v poslednej časti príspevku. Výsledkom je, že najviac zdôrazňovanými požiadavkami na osobnosť sociálneho pracovníka sú morálna integrita, ľudskosť a zrelý charakter. Charakter sociálneho pracovníka je plusom, pretože sociálna práca sa nedá vykonávať bez osobného záujmu.

Kľúčové slová: sociálna práca, sociálny pracovník, služby sociálnej pomoci, sociálny rozmer.

INTRODUCTION

The tradition of social work in Slovakia is long-term and primarily based on charitable organisations' activities. The primary motive of social work is the general good and social justice, which prompted the care of the sick, the infirm, the poor, the homeless, orphans and widows. Charitable organisations advocated a wide range of assistance, including social assistance. In addition to helping the client, his family and the wider environment, social work aims to mitigate or eliminate negative social consequences. The influence of the psychosocial sphere on a person is used to improve adaptation, overcome difficulties, motivation, and cooperation, thereby enhancing the quality of life. As the structure of society changes, problems in the social field increase, and this requires a higher level of education for social workers, the use of new approaches in social work, and a higher number of social workers in practice [Šustrová, 2012].

Social work is both a social science discipline and a practical activity which aims to reveal, explain, alleviate and solve social problems. If a citizen cannot take care of himself or his household and cannot solve his problem alone, with the help of his family or community, he will request the provision of social services. The paper aims to present an overview of the main terms in the field of social work. It is divided into three main parts: social work and social assistance services, social workers and their capabilities, the social dimension from the Church's point of view. Conclusions are presented in the last part of the paper.

SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Social work today has been influenced by the historical development of social work in the world and Slovakia. Already during the first Czechoslovak Republic, new concepts regarding social work appeared,

which are still applied today, that social work is a specialised repressive, preventive activity aimed at eliminating shortcomings, provided that it is carried out based on professional training. „Comprehensive education and preparation for the performance of social work can be obtained during the university study of education". Currently, public and private universities in Slovakia offer accredited first, second and third-degree study programs [Oláh et al., 2012, 23].

Social assistance service is a professional activity, a service activity or another activity or a set of these activities, which are aimed at [Levická et al., 2007]:

- preventing the emergence of an unfavourable social situation, solving an unfavourable social situation or mitigating the unfavourable social status of an individual, family or community,
- preserving, restoring or developing the ability of a natural person to lead an independent life and to support his integration into society,
- ensuring the necessary conditions for satisfying the basic life needs of a natural person,
- solving the crisis social situation of an individual and family,
- prevention of social exclusion of individuals and families.

The social assistance service provider for the type of social service he provides is obliged to perform professional service and other activities to ensure their performance or create the conditions for their performance to the extent specified in the Social Assistance Services Act. To increase the quality of provided social assistance services, the provider can perform, ensure and create conditions for completing various activities [Mojtová, 2010].

SOCIAL WORKERS AND THEIR CAPABILITIES

When dealing with issues related to ethics and morals in social work, it is essential to mention the personality of the social worker, who is, to a large extent, a fundamental pillar and tool in his profession [Jasečková, Konvit, Vartiak, 2022]. As a professional, a social worker is in constant contact with his clients and requires specific personal prerequisites. The character and type of personality, as well as the experience of the social worker in individual human life situations, often greatly influence the success or failure of the process and the overall work with the client. In addition to the theoretical knowledge of the social worker, personality elements, lifestyle, or social roles and status that the social worker holds in society are also very important in the proposed helping profession. This is because, when working with some clients, a situation may arise where the client sees the social worker as a role model that they want to be like. From a professional point of view, a social worker needs to have a neutral opinion. In the case of personality characteristics, we encounter the belief that a social worker should always maintain professional work behaviour and that his overall demeanour should be at a high level. From the information presented, it can be said that the main elements of a social worker are a mature personality, which should have certain specific characteristics [Javorský, 2023].

Social skills in helping professions, including psychologists, doctors, social workers, nurses and carers, have a specific nature of work, which consists of assisting people to solve various problems and difficulties, protecting health and life for the optimal development of a person's personality. Deficits in social competence may impair the client's social functioning, such as effective adaptation, communication, forming relationships, achieving goals, etc. It is assumed that the development and appropriate level of social skills and their cultivation will significantly help to manage daily stresses, find more effective solutions to interper-

sonal misunderstandings that have already arisen, and create high-quality and non-conflicting interpersonal relationships [Schlesinger, 2020]. Socially competent people play an active role in their personal and professional lives, asserting their demands and achieving their goals without handicapping others. Improving and developing social skills, social competence, and social intelligence is essential. They contribute to the helping process's efficiency and to its actors' personal satisfaction [Hupková, 2011].

The social skills of a social worker enable him to handle social situations and create positive interactions effectively. Behaviour considered appropriate in one problem may not be applicable in another. A social workers brings their own experience and an original way of interaction to the social situation [Schlesinger, 2023].

Social competence is the general ability of an individual to successfully and effectively integrate with the environment. It manifests itself mainly in the practical solution of situations and behaviour in certain conditions. This is not a separate personality trait but a general ability to adapt to the problem and choose effective forms and procedures of conduct. Social competence is related to a personality's social maturity, which includes personality traits that enable it to act in interaction, enter into social interaction and solve social situations [Krevová, Godiš, 2013].

Social intelligence is the ability to solve various social problems effectively. Soft skills are social abilities and characteristics linked to a person's social intelligence. These include empathy, managing emotions and stress, effective conflict resolution, cooperation, and assertiveness [Javorský, 2020]. This is the general equipment of an individual, which increases his value and applicability in the labour market. In the helping professions, such people are precious to the employer. They can understand the client, get to know him and choose an appropriate way of behaving towards him. In interpersonal relationships, they act wisely and effectively develop social interaction [Orosová et al., 2004].

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION FROM THE CHURCH'S POINT OF VIEW

The first three centuries of our era they have brought great persecution to the Christian Church. But even in these times, many Christians, despite being persecuted themselves, practised the commandments of love for one's neighbour. During these first three centuries, there were two forms by which alms were collected for people experiencing poverty. The first of them was the cash register, which was located in the Church. Each member was expected to contribute to it at least once a month. These donations were used to help the poor, to cover funeral expenses, educate boys and girls, and to help shipwrecked sailors and those who, because of their faith in Christ, were thrown into prison or deported to forced labour in the mines. The second form of charity was collections carried out during religious services and the Eucharist. Believers brought sacrificial gifts there, part of which was intended to celebrate the service, and the rest was distributed to people experiencing poverty [Matoušek et al., 2007].

The Church of Christ has a social dimension. An example of this is mainly the first three difficult centuries in the life of the Church. To persevere, to be a good person, to bear witness to Christ, even at the cost of one's own life, gives a social dimension, and thousands and thousands of Christians follow Christ in this direction. Even before the intentions of several benefactors of different eras, the Church of Christ knows how to care for people in the social sphere. We learn about this form of social assistance mainly from the Acts of the Apostles, which bring us news about the first communities that followed the law of love. People encouraged by the apostles' teachings participate in religious services, doing deeds pleasing to God and people. Early Christians of socially unequal origins knew how to live together. From the theological point of view, the basic thesis is that the service of love belongs to the Church's

essential nature. In addition to preaching the word of God and administering the sacraments, charitable service is expressly the task of the Church, which is sent to solve issues of a social nature in its activity. The Church's social teaching is normative. Pursuing social order means that in solving social problems, it determines and applies standards following God's law. Social doctrine, as an expression in the activity of the Church, is undoubtedly connected and perceived through service to neighbours. It is an expression of the overall activity of the Church, an expression of interest in people and the social background in society. Social science means introducing moral standards into the general social environment [Hudacký, Uháľ, 2014].

CONCLUSIONS

From the beginning, social service and social thinking played an essential role in the Church. The social feeling of Christians was always in the first place about all who needed their help. They did not consider who belonged to which nation or who belonged to which religion. The starting point of their social service actions was words from the Holy Scriptures. They saw the expression of love for their neighbours in the terms and deeds of Jesus Christ, the apostles and early Christians. From a Christian point of view, service is the second manifestation and expression of the foundation of the Church's life.

In the helping professions, work focuses on working with people. It is justified that the social service provider places increased demands on professionals' and employees' social skills, social competence and intelligence.

The most emphasised requirements for the personality of a social worker are moral integrity, humanity and a mature character. The character of a social worker is a plus. Social work cannot be done without personal interest. A social worker cannot take it as a necessary evil that allows him to ensure living conditions. An active orientation towards

one's professional growth is the basis for achieving and maintaining current and future trends in social work. During the work performance, the social worker gains experience, which moves his professional competencies to a qualitatively higher level. The professional competencies of a social worker include knowledge of tools, methods and techniques of social work.

The social worker provides practical and adequate help and support and monitors attitude changes. We work with the client in a targeted manner; we are concerned with improving the quality of his life. Knowledge of and adherence to ethical principles in social work contributes to creating and developing a quality working relationship. A recommendation for practice for today's apostles, priests, and social workers, in one word for everyone, is that no one should say that he cannot be close to those who need help because his lifestyle requires paying more attention to other things. This is a common excuse in the academic, business and professional fields, and even the church sphere.

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