THE EFFECTS OF LABOUR MIGRATION ON CHILDREN FROM ROMANIA

Andrea FABIAN¹, Dorottya Alice DOMOKOS²

¹“Babes-Bolyai” University, 2 Kogalniceanu Street, Cluj-Napoca, andrea_fabian_ubb@yahoo.com
²University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Calea Manastur 3-5, 400372 Cluj-Napoca, dotyoka@yahoo.com

Keywords: migration, regions, psychological and social neglect, vulnerability

SUMMARY

Concerning the geographical distribution data, (Toth et al, 2007) shows that in 2007, the most affected regions in terms of the labor migration of the parents are in the Western (Banat, Crișana, Maramureș) part of the country, where 27% of the total of pupils from gymnasium have their parents abroad, respectively Moldova, where the percent is 25%. According to the residential environments there are no significant differences in terms of persons of children with emigrant parents. However there are some differences in this regard within the regions. Thus in Banat-Crișana, Maramureș and in Oltenia the percent of children with migrant parents is higher in urban than in rural.

Compared to these regions, in Moldova the rural is much more over represented in terms of the considered phenomenon. According to Suceava News (2007, Febr.) 3,441 children from Suceava have their parents working abroad. This means that 2,443 families from Moldova are affected by the phenomenon. The most extreme case is that of Zvoresca village where more than 160 children are facing the so called “orphans with parents” situation meaning that their parents in most of the cases their mothers are working in Italy and Spain. Similar cases are in Margina - 151 children, Satu Mare (133), Bosanci (120), Radauti (108) Frătăuți Noi (108), Frasin (89), Horodnic de Sus (85), Udesti (81), Cajvana (77). In most of the cases parental migration determines the rising of the economical life quality of the family. Beyond the economical well-being, children from migrant families have been taken more frequently part in international trips, compared to other children. Psychological theories as well as our experience as psychologists and social workers indicate that on the foundation of these various types of neglect, children may develop several forms of specific psycho-behavioral manifestations which according to Social Alternatives Association (2007) are referring to: deterioration of school behavior, feeling of insecurity, sadness, anxiety, depression, attitudes of indifference, frustration, aggressive behavior, perturbation in attention (problems with concentration), lack of long-term aspirations (children can not project themselves towards the future or have unrealistic aspirations based on cognitive distortions of the actual reality), perturbation of self-esteem (sub- or supra-appreciation of the self), frustration, lack of motivation, apathy, tiredness, difficulties in adaptation, pre(delinquent) behaviors, suicidal behavior (exogenous reactive suicide). These behaviors and attitudes are strongly connected and are the results of those risks towards which such children are exposed: overwhelming duties, vulnerability towards, physical, sexual, psychical abuses; exploitation through work, trafficking and prostitution, insufficient development of those abilities which are necessary for dealing with certain everyday difficulties, insufficient knowledge of the ethical and moral norms, early debut of sexual life.