

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND POVERTY REDUCTION POLICY

MALOLJETNIČKO PRESTUPNIŠTVO I POLITIKA REDUKCIJE SIROMAŠTVA

Ljubinka Lazić¹

¹ Centar za socijalni rad Derventa, Bosna i Hercegovina

Professional Article

Received: 29/05/2020

Accepted: 28/07/2020

ABSTRACT

The subject of this paper is to point out poverty and material insecurity as a social context for the occurrence of juvenile delinquency. Social security is what every state policy strives for and what every citizen, every man, wants. Therefore, poverty reduction policy is an important aspect of social policy and development of any country. Quality social planning and coverage of all risks is extremely important for poverty reduction, and the creation of such a socio-cultural context that will contribute to the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Such planning implies social planning and undertaking measures and activities aimed at economic, social, and educational development of the state that can meet the needs of young people, citizens and society in general for quality satisfaction of life necessities and proper development of young people.

Key words: social policy, poverty, juvenile delinquency, reduction

SAŽETAK

Predmet ovog rada je ukazivanje na siromaštvo i materijalnu nesigurnost kao socijalni kontekst za pojavu maloljetničkog prestupništva. Socijalna sigurnost je ono čemu svaka državna politika teži i što svaki građanin, čovjek, želi. Zbog toga je politika redukcije siromaštva važan aspekt socijalne politike i razvoja svake države. Kvalitetno socijalno planiranje i pokrivenost svih rizika od izuzetnog je značaja za redukciju siromaštva, te stvaranje takvog socio-kulturnog konteksta koji će doprinijeti prevenciji pojave maloljetničkog prestupništva. Takvo planiranje podrazumjeva socijalno planiranje i preduzimanje mjera i aktivnosti usmjerenih ka ekonomskom, socijalnom, obrazovnom razvoju države koji može odgovoriti potrebama mladih, građana i društva uopšte za kvalitetno zadovoljavanje životnih potreba i pravilan razvoj mladih.

Ključne riječi: socijalna politika, siromaštvo, maloljetničko prestupništvo, redukcija

¹ Correspondence to:

Ljubinka Lazić, Centar za socijalni rad Derventa

E-mail: l.ljub@yahoo.com

INTRODUCTION

Given that juvenile delinquency is a negative social phenomenon that has historically occurred in all societies and still exists today, in all countries, delinquency is a phenomenon to which, through social policy, planning and development, special social and state attention should be paid. The development of society and the development of the welfare state also influence the concepts of social policy that directs and refers to specific actions and relations of the state and society towards crises, social problems and risks. Thus, in recent decades, modernist concepts of observing social problems as more humane and multidimensional approaches have been increasingly developed. Under the influence of globalization changes in socio-economic and political processes in the world, emphasis has been placed in recent decades on the development of mechanisms for the protection of human rights, protection of children and families, access to education, as well as the development of new opportunities for finding and joint solutions to socio-political problems of marginalized social groups and social deviation. Social security is what every state policy strives for and what every citizen, or every man, wants. Therefore, poverty reduction policy is an important aspect of social policy and development of any country.

Quality social planning and coverage of all risks is extremely important for poverty reduction, and the creation of such a socio-cultural context that will contribute to the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Social policy and poverty reduction

There are different approaches and observations of states, i.e. public policies, towards social crises and different social problems. The forced quarantining of the sick, the engagement of the church, the care for war orphans, aid to the poor through charity and mercy have evolved over time to legislatively and systematically address poverty and help people in social need due to compromised social security. The systemic solution for the crisis of poverty as a social problem has its roots in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, because then poverty, instead of being observed as voluntary, was increasingly viewed as a condition caused by external, or social factors. In the sixteenth century there were changes in the social care of the poor in the sense that social protection and care are gradually taken over from the church authorities by civil authorities, and the roots of modern socio-political understandings of social development are found in philosophers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The works of philosophers result in the starting ideas of modern socio-political doctrines and theories of social development and social work.

Such observations of social risks are followed by a period of civil reform in countries where states have experimented with social care for the poor using different methods: "taxes for the poor", voluntary funds, social insurance, unemployment insurance, pension insurance for the poor, national pensions, laws for the poor, social laws, health insurance, etc.

Namely, during the development of states, social problems also evolved, that is, there were changes in their manifestations, so the attitude of society towards the problems that occur changed. Also, on the other hand, not all societies are advocates of the same procedures, primarily because they do not have the same problems and needs, nor the same value systems.

Thus, we can talk about more approaches of state policy towards social problems, about different elements of social and economic development and different goals of social planning. A. Halmi (1988) believes that social planning is a “programmed social action aimed at achieving an optimal relationship between social goals and the means to achieve those goals, which goes in the direction of meeting and humanizing the needs of people within a community.” (Gavrilović, 2010: 28).

The modern state has its roots primarily in the feudal state where the feudal lords were superior to the serfs and with a characteristic paternalistic relationship of disposal of the state and the system of government. Overcoming paternalism and administrative bureaucracy is one of the basic goals of the development of democracy and the process of human rights protection, so in the development of the state there are first labour movements aimed at protecting civil rights and then political rights, while in the 20th century social (cultural and economic) rights are proclaimed. Starting from the classical models of social policy (residual and redistributive) the state, i.e. society, developed further.

The literature discusses different criteria, i.e. different divisions of the social policy model. Nevertheless, neoliberal, conservative and corporatist models stand out as the most important, i.e. as the most significant, and liberal and conservative models stand out as the most modern models of social policy.

Liberalism or the Anglo-Saxon approach to social risks emphasizes the individual, the person, as the bearer of responsibility for personal life, and the protection of personal rights is set as the basic task of the state. Emphasis is placed on private ownership and free participation in the market. In this approach, social work is accepted as “part of subsidiary modest services of voluntary organizations or institutions (e.g. neighbourhood or interest groups, church, etc.), insisting on self-help and mutual protection” (Milosavljević, 1998: 69). The state's influence on social development, i.e. the planning of social actions, should be minimal. "If the mechanisms of the market, family or other forms of charity or voluntary solidarity do not eliminate poverty or other social cases due to the unfavourable position of individuals or social groups in the market - only then could the state social services act" (Gavrilović, 2010: 29). Neoliberals are calling for "less government", privatization, freedom of market participation for everyone, emphasizing universalism and strengthening social integration and inclusion, and on the other hand, the state minimally protects citizens from risks such as poverty while emphasizing redistribution of funds. This theory starts from the understanding that the economic development of a capitalist society, based on the *laissez-faire* market mechanisms, will eliminate poverty.

The social democratic or Scandinavian model of social policy starts from the proclamation of improving the lives of workers through social rights and social security, access to education and the like. The important values that characterize this political model are: freedoms, social justice and equality, and solidarity (Gavrilović, 2010: 30). According to this political model, social security in the state is achieved by such state actions where the state is the inviolable actor who decides on social security. Guided by basic and general interests and needs, and on the basis of assessment, the state makes the distribution of important national assets.

Active employment policies and inclusion of members of marginalized groups are pursued.

Originating in the developed era/state of capitalism, this model refers to the concept of poverty and the welfare state framework based on the idea that the state, through social programs, influences the redistribution of a part of national income in favour of the poor, thus achieving at least two basic effects: social peace and social justice.

Proponents of the corporatist model of social policy start from the classical social democratic model. The significant difference, however, is in the concept of agreement between the social partners. Labour and social rights are regulated by dialogue between employers and trade/workers' unions, and social security complements the relationship between workers and employers by participating in contribution financing. Countries that apply this model, such as Sweden, Japan, and Austria, advocate coordinated economic and social development, and full employment, manage to achieve a high level of social welfare, and the risks they face today are age of the citizens, rapid technological development, unemployment, education costs, the spread of poverty, etc.

At the end of the 19th century, in Great Britain, some pragmatists offered new solutions to solve social problems and risks, the so-called Fabian (strategy) approach, where they went between two extremes, i.e. liberalism and the socio-democratic system. Starting from the point of view that the market produces inequalities that most affect the working class, great importance is given to the state as an actor that can only reconcile these inequalities by redistributing wages, involving the working class in non-profit organizations, parties, institutions and elites. Thus, they believe, equality among citizens would be achieved, that is, access to employment, education and similar systems would be enabled. "Mass psychology + mass propaganda = mass hypnosis. The goal was to create today's principle of free trade that will unite the world through the idea of globalization, and strong individuals will be able to stand behind it all." (Србија данас, 2013).

On the doctrines of the above mentioned models and especially the social democratic model of social policy, other concepts based on the principles of solidarity and equality have emerged.

The combined model of social policy combines three sectors: governmental, private for-profit and non-profit, and emphasizes the individual who actively participates in the social policy system. In a similar sense, the term social pluralism (welfare pluralism) is used as a "wealth of differences" in a system where numerous social groups (political, economic, and religious) have the appropriate power and influence (Vidanović, 2015: 242). Today, the literature also states the integrative model of the welfare state, which advocates social integration "based on common values, interdependence of social institutions and social stability achieved through reforms and state intervention in economic and social change" (Gavrilović, 2010: 30).

Revising the basic starting points and results of the liberal and conservative socio-political model, we can conclude that social planning has gained importance as well as the fight against poverty, and considering different doctrines and approaches to poverty as a social problem, we can say that social planning is different and that it can act both progressively and regressively on the occurrence of poverty. The multidimensional view of poverty as a lack of food supplies, unemployment, social exclusion from the education system, etc., has shifted, in recent decades, society's attitude towards the problem of poverty.

There have been new social changes in society, i.e. the need to look at the problem comprehensively and for such social planning, which includes assessments of necessities, shifting the understanding from aid to charity to socio-economic planning and civic activism, and negotiating with various actors and beneficiaries. The main goal that the state should adhere to is to create a sense of equality among people, equal access to factors that ensure the satisfaction of social and economic needs, i.e. equal distribution of funds, and on the other hand encourage social action, suppressing the diffusion of individual responsibility and anomie of citizens' consciousness.

Humanity of approach is today what social policy adheres to, but still requires concrete results in the field of improving the economic development of the state, with the trend and the need to be included in current social trends. Facing the risks, the demands of modernization, crises such as wars, natural disasters and the like, social policy is also planned.

The European social model brings together historical, economic and cultural differences between EU member states and was developed in the last decade of the 20th century, stemming from the Lisbon Strategy (2000). The aim is for the union to achieve full employment, sustainable economic growth and social cohesion and integration, which will be achieved by harmonizing national policies with the improvement of the social security system and the elimination of social risks of poverty, unemployment, etc. (Milosavljević, 1998: 17).

Starting from the aspect of achieving the elimination of social exclusion, as a cause of poverty, the European Union sets the task of reducing poverty. With the Lisbon Strategy adopted in 2010, in order to achieve that goal, the European Community has set a common goal in the form of achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and development. The task was, by the end of 2020, to reduce poverty by 25%. According to Eurostat, the number of people at risk of poverty began to decline after 2012, so that in 2018 it was lower by 8.2 million compared to that number in 2008. Thus, within the framework of the "Strategy 2020", 11 thematic goals have been set for stimulating growth in the period of 2014-2020. In the European acquis, the European pillar of social rights stands out here, which in recent decades has been aimed at creating and improving conditions for life, work, and providing adequate social protection. By adopting a series of anti-discrimination directives, ensuring the availability of funds, and strategies for specific groups of citizens, Europe directs the social development of countries through social policy goals, which would achieve equality and combat poverty and social exclusion. (Kennedy, 2019)

Poverty reduction is, therefore, one of the basic goals of social planning and social policy. Social events, great social transitions, difficulties and the like affect the socio-economic condition of society. By reducing unemployment, developing the economy, industry, labour productivity of the population and improving the education system, the social policy plans actions and preventions, and therefore prevents the occurrence of negative phenomena. The World Bank's anti-poverty strategies are largely based on fostering economic growth. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund determine that an individual who has a daily income lower than one euro is extremely poor, and in 2030 there should be no more such examples - that is the goal of the World Bank. Economic and social policy measures are acts what will provide such demographic changes that can create a truly sustainable development of the country - statement of the World Bank (World Bank, 2016).

Anti-poverty measures, whether global or specific local ones, have wide implications. Social crises, such as the economic crisis caused by major natural disasters or even epidemics or pandemics like today's pandemic caused by the emergence and spread of Covid-19 disease, lead to disruption of social homeostasis and the emergence of social deviations. The state of poverty, i.e. the increase caused by the Covid-19 crisis, is difficult to measure. Namely, the World Bank reports, published in April and May of the current year, as well as the supplemented series of notes in June and September, state that the projection of macroeconomic impacts of Covid-19 on the Western Balkans showed a significant impact of Covid-19 in terms of economic and social impact, the impact on fiscal policy, and the external sector.

The World Bank, in the absence of official data, conducted a simulation analysis, i.e. an online survey conducted by the market research agency on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on social change, and it was found that approximately 45% of respondents live in a household where a member has had his/her employment agreement terminated, his/her shift hours reduced, or he/she had been sent to unpaid absence by the employer. This entails reduced income and the appearance of unfavourable material and financial condition of the household. The economic outlook is still uncertain, i.e. negative, due to the fact that the pandemic is still going on, so employers are facing problems with production, difficulties with the export of products, import of raw materials, lack of labour power due to illness and the like. Thus, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in recession due to the global financial crisis, and for explanation we can add the information provided in the reports and information of the World Bank of European Perspectives, which states that the number of unemployed citizens, compared to 2019, has increased by more than 19,000, and compared to the period until July 2019, the number of employed citizens decreased by about 3% until July 2020 (Luccheti, Rigolini, World Bank, 2020). The World Bank predicts that poverty due to Covid-19 events, without adjusted and necessary government interventions, will increase by approximately 3%, and the recession will take its toll in the sense that Western Balkan countries are expected to lose 1.7% of GDP in revenue due to the nominal contraction of BPD 2020, and Bosnia and Herzegovina will have the lowest fiscal deficit in the region, while, in terms of maintaining low and stable inflation, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is positive because there is an annual lower deflation compared to other states in the Balkan region. (World Bank group, 2020, An Uncertain recovery, Western Balkans regular economic report). States, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, independently, but also with the help of international institutions and bodies such as the World Bank and the European Union, try various measures to help and improve the work of the economy, health and social protection.

Those measures are such as minimum wage subsidies, information and educational work with experts, hygienic-epidemiological measures, measures to control the spread of the disease and the like. Such planning implies social planning and undertaking measures and activities aimed at economic, social, and educational development of the state that can meet the needs of young people, citizens and society in general for quality satisfaction of life needs and proper development.

The perspective of the future is not yet known, but one can expect an increase in social deviations such as domestic violence that has already been detected, and behavioural problems in children due to changes in schooling, the need to develop new defence mechanisms due to family member illness or trauma due to social isolation, or due to reduced levels of family economic opportunities.

Poverty and juvenile delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is a phenomenon that has negative consequences in relation to the youth, but also in relation to society. That is why countries are systematically dealing with the problem of crime and poverty, which can generate deviations. Thus, juvenile delinquency is such a social problem that requires social sensibility and full state integration into social policy and planning.

To understand juvenile delinquency, one must first start from aetiology, and there are a number of factors, approaches, and theories in explaining the causes. The concept of criminogenic risks and protective factors stands out as a development concept for understanding the occurrence, as well as for planning social prevention and correction programs. As risk and protective factors, this concept brings together individual factors, family, school environment, peer groups and the community. Family is an extremely important factor for a child's development and healthy maturation, but it can also be a risk factor if the parental style and relationships are of poor quality, disharmonious and conflicting. In the domain of the family, the factor of material condition, i.e. poverty, also stands out. Low socio-economic status / poverty is a risk factor for the development of a child aged 6-14, it is also stated in the presentation of risk and protective factors for the beginning of delinquency according to Josip Bašić. (Martinjak, Odeljan, 2016: 22, Bašić, 2009;).

After the aetiology, the phenomenology of the occurrence of juvenile delinquency occurs, followed by prevention measures. There are a number of international acts that states follow when creating social policy strategies, and they must certainly include the problems and consequences of juvenile delinquency, as well as work on the causes of the phenomenon.

Criminologists have proven in research that juveniles from families with unfavourable socio-economic status are "more prone" to the development of delinquencies and other crime-related behaviours. In contemporary literature, one can come across examples such as the study conducted by Shaw, Mackay and Eliot, in which they state that juvenile delinquents mostly come from families of low-skilled workers. The author Meryl, a criminologist, came to a similar conclusion, explaining that because of the difficult life situations, those children neglected their education and delinquent behaviour occurred. Criminologist Burt obtained similar results showing that 19% of juvenile delinquents live in extreme poverty, and 37% of them come from families with incomes above the extreme poverty line, citing the inability of members of the lower social class to avoid prosecution. (Dimovski, Mirić, 2013: 183).

In explaining the impact of the socio-cultural context of juvenile delinquency in Serbia, the authors address the importance of the link between unemployment and family deprivation that affect children by "increasing the risk of releasing negative social development factors or negative personality potentials." (Jugović, L., Ilić, 2011.: 393).

The socio-cultural context, as a context for the development of juvenile delinquencies and crime, must be viewed with elements of unemployment, social exclusion, and the general family context thwarted by family poverty, socializing functions and protective functions.

That the material status of the family, i.e. parental unemployment, refugee status and non-attendance at school are potential factors in the development of antisocial and criminal behaviour of minors is a claim made by analyzing the content of the report of experts from social work centres in Serbia conducted in 2014. (Krstić, Lj.. 2014:332).

Starting from the research of Singer and Mikšaj-Todorović (1989), where a significant role of the material condition of the family in providing conditions for healthy growing up and socialization of children was established (Macanović, 2014; according to Macanović, Dujaković, 2019: 63), and dealing with the phenomenology of juvenile delinquency, authors in Republic of Srpska investigate the relations between the socio-economic status of the family and behavioural disorders. Thus, in the analysis of the state of juvenile delinquency in the highly economically developed municipality of Derventa, it was found that, although no direct conditioning was shown, in 38% of cases the family does not have regular monthly income, and that all families have a socio-pathological problem (alcoholism 54%, conviction for criminal offenses 15%, propensity to inaction 13%, propensity to vagrancy 10%, prostitution 8%), i.e. some kind of degradation of the family. (Macanović, Dujaković, 2019: 62).

A survey of socio-economic characteristics of adult perpetrators of crimes (convicts) in the Republic of Serbia conducted in 2019 indicates an extremely high unemployment rate that is five times higher than the unemployment rate of the total population, and a low educational structure with a higher percentage of people with or without primary school (i.e. with low income). The above mentioned indicates the unfavourable social and economic status of persons with criminal behaviour. (Radović-Stojanović, V., Tomić, J., 2019).

Broadly speaking, given the analysis of the conditions of growing up and living of juvenile offenders/convicts, and unfavourable conditions for their correction and re-socialization, the crisis and emergent response of states to juvenile delinquency requires global measures, as well as social policy measures. Thus, we come to measures for combating crime in general and to general prevention, and, given the aetiology, these measures should be aimed precisely at the life conditions of children and families. Given that poverty is a widespread global problem and a topic of discussion of state and interstate strategies, plans and actions, it was given special importance within the socio-political measures to combat and prevent juvenile delinquency. Anti-crime policy can thus be linked to general prevention and treatment recommendations contained in acts such as the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines), the Beijing Rules, the JDL Rules, the Tokyo Rules, the Vienna Guidelines and others; given the importance of their incorporation into the domestic legislation of the states. Given poverty as a criminological feature of juvenile delinquents, for the successful combating against crime, the creation of conditions for favourable and desirable social development is also needed. This approach to juvenile delinquency, combined with measures and social policy of the European Union, can help create such a social context at the local or national level, to take such measures that will give the state a chance of achieving the conditions for proper early growth and development and maturation of children, as well as quality and satisfied life.

Quality social planning and coverage of all risks is extremely important for poverty reduction, and the creation of such a socio-cultural context that will contribute to the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Such planning implies social planning and undertaking measures and activities aimed at economic, social, and educational development of the state in order to meet the needs of young people, citizens and society in general for quality satisfaction of life necessities and proper development of young people. Socio-political doctrines are extremely important for the economic and social development of the state, because they direct the state and society to take such methods and such decisions that will control social relations, prevent and reduce social risks for social deviations.

CONCLUSION

There has been a lot of talk about the occurrence of juvenile delinquency lately, but it is also a current topic because it concerns a socially sensitive group of the population, i.e. children, and also because there is no universal solution for this kind of social problem and it requires constant monitoring and work on prevention and correction. Etiologically speaking, there are a number of causes that affect the generation of juvenile delinquency, and one of the social characteristics is the socio-economic status of the family, i.e. poverty. Historically, the disintegration of traditional social structures has required such state engagement that will protect citizens from social risks such as poverty, unemployment, disease, and juvenile delinquency. Thus, today, within the process of modernization, the task of socio-political development of the state is to provide an economically sustainable and at the same time adequate level of protection of citizens from social risks.

Effective poverty reduction requires a decisive analysis of risk and protective factors of children's development, and social planning adapted to domestic needs, but also to global trends and requirements of world development. Reducing the risk of poverty, developing a culture of living, reducing unemployment, eliminating social exclusion, strengthening social actions, developing national development policies and programs of social development and social planning are combat methods against juvenile delinquency; looking through the concept of risk and protection factors, and the way to improve the condition of the family as the first factor in the proper socialization of children. Thus, in addition to social control, suppression and prevention of juvenile delinquency, the emergence of deviance and mechanisms such as (re) socialization, social investment in youth and education and lifelong learning, social plans must be constructed in a manner to act on a system of norms, values, customs relevant to conscious and stable functioning of the individual and society. It is precisely with such attitudes that socio-political understandings are built when planning such measures and social programs that will be able to respond to today's challenges, and especially to the problem of poverty. An integral part of the social policy program is to ensure the actualization of problems and conditions and development needs, and to strengthen public awareness and the culture of living itself. Supervision and evaluation of social policy are essential to ensure the monitoring of developed development strategies as well as the monitoring of global trends and requirements. The challenge is to respond to the needs of citizens and the demands placed on the actors of social and economic policy of a country.

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