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**Qualitative analysis of the newly impoverished families in the
Republic of Macedonia**

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Abstract

The years-long poverty measurements by applying the relative and subjective method have enabled identification of the basic poverty profiles.

The poverty measurement and observation by the double method and using the information on the basic structures of state benefits users have enabled identification of three basic groups of poor families: traditionally poor, newly impoverished families and chronically poor families.

The aim of this work is to examine, describe and explain the newly impoverished families, using the data obtained from the qualitative measurements.

It also gives an answer why the qualitative approach was applied in the measuring of this phenomenon.

Newly impoverished families are those that have felt the dynamic decline of the living standard during the transition period (households without a single employed member, households with employed members who do not get salaries on time, households having more members).

Various data sources have been used in the analysis: natural environment observation, an interview (individual and group), and various types of written documents. Without any additional interventions of the researcher, information given by the media were used, conversations of citizens and politicians were carefully listened to for this problem.

These families had difficulties adjusting to the newly emerged situation. They mostly try to find a way out of this situation in the grey economy. The reproductive situation of the second generation of poor from this kind of families is evident.

The generalizations made for the researched problem, the newly impoverished families, arise mostly from the research elaborated with detailed information for 20 families (newly impoverished) followed through a 10-year period.

Key words: Poverty, qualitative measurements, newly impoverished families.

Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon corresponding to certain living conditions which prevent (hinder) the participation in the social life of the community we belong to. There have always been and always will be poor people all over the world. Poverty is like the cold, says a fellow citizen, you cannot see it, but you can feel it; and in order to feel it, you must be poor. We do not fully agree with the statement, but in order to understand the poor better, which is the purpose of this work, we have used different data sources and qualitative techniques.

A particular retrospection of the qualitative data has been made in this work, which are obtained from the observations of 20 newly impoverished families in the period between 2003 and 2013. The aim is to provide a motion picture of the newly impoverished families in the Republic of Macedonia for the purpose of obtaining more definite knowledge of their living conditions, the manner of handling their lives, their attitude towards the education, health, nutrition, hygiene as well as the social consequences arising from living in poverty. At the same time, the aim of this work is to generate new hypothesis on this social phenomenon.

1. Poverty profile in the Republic of Macedonia

The poverty measurement and observation according to the double method using the information on the basic structures of state benefits users have enabled identification of three basic groups of poor families: traditionally poor, newly impoverished families and chronically poor families. (Donevska, Dimitrievska, Novkovska, 2011).

Traditionally poor families are those with low level of education of the family members, old members, low economic potential, often the basic source of subsistence is the income generated from small-scale agriculture.

Chronically poor families are those belonging to the vulnerable categories. Namely those are families having chronically ill members, old persons, handicapped and other.

Newly impoverished families are those that have felt the dynamic decline of the living standard during the transition period (households without a single employed member, households with employed members who do not get salaries on time, households having more members). These families are "victims" of the transition process in our country (Nikolovska, Davkova, 2001). Those are families whose members have lost their jobs or earn minimum salaries or their salaries are 3-4 months late. The actual incomes of these families are too low or they do not have any incomes. Those are families that used to be part of the middle social class (Haralambos, Holborn, 2002).

2. Methodological approach

We are aware of the opposition that certain number of methodologists have in relation to the use of the qualitative research approach (Lisa, 2008). Namely guiding ourselves from the research aims, this work has used a qualitative research approach.

Why a qualitative orientation in the research? Because our aim is to systematically collect data on the newly impoverished families by means of impressions, words, sentences, etc., directly from the members of these families. We think that by the interpretative and critical sociological approach, using the logic in the acting, speaking the language of “cases and contexts”, researching the newly impoverished families in detail and authentically, we will obtain a detailed, precise image of these families. In that manner, we get a clear image of the background or the context of this phenomenon, we will enrich the scientific collection for this social phenomenon and at the same time we shall justify the aims set. That is the reason the qualitative research orientation had been selected (Carl, Louise, 2003).

2.1 Interviewees – *For the purpose of obtaining relevant data of the researched problem, the quota sampling has been used.* The research was conducted on 20 newly impoverished families. Twelve newly impoverished families living in Skopje, one from each of the towns Gostivar, Tetovo, Kumanovo and Kavadarci and 4 families living in a rural environment (3 from the Tetovo region and one from the Kumanovo region) have been selected.

2.2 The research time line – Guiding ourselves from the aims, the necessity for giving a “motion picture” of the living conditions, the manner of handling their lives, the attitude towards the education, health and nutrition, and the social consequences, a panel longitudinal research has been used (Annabel, Bryan, 2008). The period between 2003 and 2013 has been encompassed for the needs of this work.

2.3 The research process– The language of cases and contexts has been used during the research, as well as bricolage techniques (Newman, 2009). An oriented case has been used – newly impoverished families in the Republic of Macedonia. A great range of variables has been researched: life quality, education, health, nutrition, social consequences, etc. The coexistence of several factors and events has been analyzed in the period of research. The explanation and interpretation are in the form of narratives, given through time sequences.

3. Results

Since the aim of this work is an analysis of the living conditions of the newly impoverished families, the manner of handling their lives, the attitude towards the education, health, nutrition, hygiene and social consequences, the inductive method has been used in gathering the data from the panel longitudinal research. Thereby new hypotheses and theoretical concepts have been generated for this social group. In this work there are motion pictures of only seven newly impoverished families presented as narratives.

Family 1 – 2003, 4-member family. The head of the family is 46 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary technical school. The wife is 45 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, finished secondary school. The son is 15 years old and a high school student. The 69 year-old father of the head of the family lives with them, he is retired.

Living conditions (2003) – They live in an apartment of 60 m². They have received the apartment from the factory where the spouses had worked. They buy off the apartment in instalments. Each fourth year they pay 800 EUR in order to buy off the apartment. It is well equipped. Most of the things inside have been bought after their wedding. The apartment maintenance is a problem for this family. The host says, we used to paint it every year (when both the spouses had worked), now every fourth year or so. They use woods for heating and they collect them by themselves (with a licence). They regularly pay the utility bills. They pay special attention to the electricity consumption. They have a car and use it only when necessary. Namely, the wife's mother lives in a nearby village. She provides them with various victuals.

Living conditions (2013) – They still live in the same apartment. Nothing has been replaced during the period of research, the things have been ruined. They cannot pay the regular instalment for the apartment or the utility bills. The electricity has been cut off several times. The car has not been licensed, the wife's mother passed away 6 years ago. As the head of the family says, we have no need for licensing the car, to get even

deeper in debts, we are already drowning in debts. The father of the head of the family passed away in 2010. Now they do not even have his pension, or any additional income from the village.

How had they lived in the period between 2003 and 2013? In 1989 when the wife had been blackmailed (to either leave the job or return the apartment), she was dismissed. The husband says, ever since then our life has been going downwards. We started living a very modest life. We are careful of every single penny. In the beginning (2003) the only income in this family was the father's pension. They had help from the wife's mother. She provides them with food. After the death of the father and the wife's mother (2010, 2007) this family has no income. They survive by collecting medicinal plants.

Today (2013), the husband says, that income has also been cut down. I need to ask for licence for collecting plants every year, and that licence needs to be paid but is not always obtained. Many times the plants rot because a sale is difficult. Now they often borrow some money (1000, 2000 denars) in order to survive, but that possibility is also gradually slipping away. We have no one to ask from, says the head of the family.

This family has no income. In the beginning (2003), 60% of the family budget was spent on food, 10% on utility bills and the remaining 30% on hygiene, clothes, gasoline, wood and other. In 2013 their condition is concerning, they have no money for food.

Youth and education – (2003) The son is in his sophomore year at high school and has no problem with the learning. The provisioning of books is however a problem. He goes to school on foot, he carries a home-made snack. Just like his parents, he has a positive attitude towards the education, wants to continue to the university. He goes out with friends once a month. The parents think that he should go out when he gets older and then they will try to provide him with more money.

Today (2013), the son is 25 years old. After finishing high school, he did not continue with his education. He goes out with his friend more

rarely. He says, I am embarrassed, I cannot pay for a single drink. He starts looking for a job, works whatever he finds, but not as an economic technician. He also was abroad, but he did not succeed. He has no girlfriend. The condition of his family, he says, “strongly affects me, I do not feel secure. I am very strained when communicating with the others. I am constantly afraid that I might embarrass myself.”

Nutrition (2003-2013) – Due to the good planning and the cooking skills of the wife and the fresh food produced by the wife’s mother, the family had a proper nutrition until 2007. They used to buy 1 kilo meat every week. Each day the wife has made various soups, home-made bread, has prepared a lot of winter salads, collected various fruits in the mountain and made juices, jam and other. The victuals used are mostly home produced or procured from the stores with the lowest prices. There has been a remarkable change of the food quality after the death of the wife’s mother.

Hygiene (2003-2013) – The personal hygiene and that of the home is at a satisfactory level. The hygiene habits have not been changed after ten years.

Health. - The members of this family have been exposed to stressful situations during the entire period. Insomnia and tension have been constantly present with all family members as a result of the situation. Due to the stress, especially with the parents comes to functional disturbances (heart beating – tachycardia, increased blood pressure) and the wife even has organic damages (stomach ulcer). The son has got a reduced immune system.

Social consequences – In this period, this family managed to maintain a good social communication with the family members, relatives and friends. However, it has changed its lifestyle. They have not been on a holiday since 1990. Their son has not been on holiday yet. In the beginning (2003) they went to various celebrations and weddings, cutting down the already small budget or giving as a gift something that they had previously bought (for example, bed linens). Now they go almost

nowhere, as they say "we are ashamed to go empty-handed, although our friends and family know our situations".

Family 2 - 2003 Four-member family. The head of the family is 47 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary education. The wife is 44 years old, left her job, secondary education. They have two children. The daughter is the third year in her junior year at high school; the son is in the eighth grade.

Living conditions (2003) – They live in a residential house, owned by the wife's mother. Their house is averagely equipped. There have been no significant changes ever since the house had been built. They regularly pay the utility bills.

Living conditions (2013) – They live in the same house. Nothing has been replaced in the house, it is literally being ruined both from the inside as well as from the outside. The things have already been ruined, the more valuable things have been sold in this period. They have no TV, the washing machine has been long broken, the wife says "I cannot buy a new one, I am drowning in debts." They cannot pay the utility bills. Their electricity has been cut off for a longer period.

How had they lived in the period between 2003 and 2013? As of 2003 the family lives from the wife's salary earning it by depilation and the minimal pension of her mother. She made a good earning for a certain period. Her income has been decreasing with each passing year. The husband works something privately, but he cannot find a permanent employment. They have been divorced since 2006. The children live with the wife. This family has no income. The wife's mother passed away 8 years ago. So far this family has not applied for state benefit, the wife says "I was ashamed". But the difficult and hopeless situation forces her to submit a request. She is in a procedure for appointing an allowance.

Youth and education – (2003) the daughter is in her junior year in high school, the son is in eighth grade. The parents' attitude towards their own education and that of the children is basically positive. The inferior

socio-economic status of the family has a strong influence on the children`s attitude towards the education, especially with the boy.

In this ten-year period, the daughter started working in cafes even when she was still in high school, many times she has spent the nights with suspicious clients. She has enrolled at the Faculty of Law. In 2013 we have no contact with her. The mother says that they have gotten into an argument and she lives with her father.

The son has finished high school, from time to time works with the neighbour who has a private company (because of compassion, not because there is a real need in the company for such profile). The son is not communicative, he is a very closed person.

Nutrition - Due to the wife`s mother, who provided the family with food, many times she had prepared various winter salads, pies and soups, until her death this family had a proper nutrition. As the family goes deeper in crisis, the nutrition gets worse. The reason is mostly lack of money, but also the non-economical attitude of the wife. When she has some money she spends it irrationally, when she has no money she starves. In the last period (2012-2013) according to the wife`s statement "sometimes we drink only water for several days".

Hygiene – In the beginning the personal hygiene and that of the home is at a satisfactory level. Today the condition of the house is worrisome.

Health condition – As a result of the situation the family is in, all members have health problems. The mother has mostly organic damages (stomach ulcer, vascular spasm, thyroid gland diseases). In the past years she has had noticeable mental problems (depression). The son acts very strangely. He is inside the house all day long. Their house is almost empty with no electricity. The daughter has visible mental problems (narcotic dependence).

Consequences – As a consequence of the permanent exposure to stress in the researched period, the members of the family suffer from functional disturbances, psycho-somatic diseases and mental problems. The parents get divorced. The daughter has set on a wrong path (narcotics, prostitution). The son is self-isolated, he does not communicate, has no girlfriend, no job. For a very short period, the mother tries to find a way out in prostitution, but fails to do so and is morally ruined.

Family 3 - (2003) 4-member family. The wife is 39 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, two daughters - students, and husband 45-years old, also unemployed due to bankruptcy.

Living conditions – (2003) live in their small house in the centre of Kumanovo. The house is in a good condition, not a lot of furniture, but it is clean. They have some difficulties paying the utility bills, but the electricity has never been cut off.

Living conditions (2013) – The live in the same house. There are small changes in the furniture of the house. They maintain the house regularly by themselves (painting, home repairs and other). They bought a second-hand car.

Youth and education – Two daughters, in the researched period, were finishing the university and have passed all exams from their master studies. They still haven't finished their master studies. Now the money is the problem. Namely, both should some fine because they failed to finish the master studies within the set deadline. The children are very humble, they have many friends, they go out and socialize, they also go on holidays. Their parents have made too many sacrifices and they say “we do not want them to feel poor”. The parents paid them driving lessons, although they needed a lot of money, they somehow managed to find it, they also bought a car so the girls do not go on foot at night. Employment is the girls' problem, they have not been employed yet. The older daughter works as a sales assistant, but with a deed contract.

How had they lived in the period between 2003 and 2013? During the entire researched period, this family lives with temporary minimum income generated by the wife's tailor works, the manual labour of the husband (grape vine pruning, excavation, water well excavation and other), and as of 2007 the salary of the older daughter.

This family is very harmonious, with cheerful spirit and all family members help each other and work in the fields they have in one Kumanovo village. There they produce, as they say "everything we need". They buy nothing from the market. They say: "we have almost every kind of fruits here, we plant everything we need for food, in spring we buy chicks we feed them several months and they we use them for food, our relative feeds one pig for us each year".

Nutrition – (2003-2013) During the researched period, this family has had a good nutrition. They lack products that they do not produce, but they do not complain, they are aware they the food they produce is of high quality and healthy.

Hygiene – The hygiene habits, both personal and of the home are at a high level during the entire period.

Health – some serious organic damages have not been identified in the entire period, except with the younger daughter who has a reduced immune system. Almost all family members have visible functional disturbances (increased blood pressure, sense of insecurity, heart beating – tachycardia).

Consequences – Observing the family from the outside, one may get the impression that this is not a poor family. They live in harmony and unity. The spouses are very economical. The parents are "victims" of the poverty. They have no social life, they are hard-working, as the daughters say, "as ants".

Family 4 - (2003) 6-member family. The husband is 46 years old, has finished 3-year secondary technical school. The wife is 43 years old,

unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary education. The son is 24 years old, unemployed, secondary education. The daughter is 22 years old, unemployed, secondary education. The father of the head of this family is retired, 67 years old and the mother is a housewife, 64 years old. In 2012 their daughter gets married and lives in Tetovo.

Living conditions – (2003) This family lives in a family house, built 45 years ago in a rural municipality. The house is in a good condition. This family lived on the second floor of the house as a separate household until 2002. After they have no income, they are forced to live together with the father and the mother. The house has all the necessary things. They have a bathroom, kitchen and relatively new furniture. They regularly pay the utility bills.

Living conditions (2013) – The still live in the same house, together as one household. The house is well preserved. There have been no changes in the house.

Youth and education – The son and the daughter have finished secondary school. They have no aspirations to continue their educations, although the parents asked them to do so.

How had they lived in the period between 2003-2013? Ever since the spouses are left unemployed, the family goes through a difficult period. The only secure income is the father's pension. They have not been employed although 10 years have passed. In the researched period, they work whatever they can find only to earn some money. The husband finds work much more difficultly. He wants to find a job suitable to his education (welder), because as he says, "he cannot work" something else. The wife bears the entire burden, she constantly tries to find a way out. She makes cakes, cookies and other food, sells them, sews for money, cleans other houses, goes to Turkey and buys various products then resells them. The son started working in Switzerland as a seasonal worker two years ago. This family used no state benefit, nor has it ever requested one. They think that it is shameful.

Nutrition (2003-2013) – This family survives on the products they produce during the entire researched period. The father-in-law also does beekeeping. They have many chickens. The wife and the mother of the head of this family are very skilful in cooking.

Hygiene – The hygiene is spotless, beside the fact that they do not use expensive cleaning products. They use natural products they prepare by themselves.

Health – This family has faced many health problems in this period. The daughter has kidney problems. The son had an eye injury that had to be operated. The wife had a womb cyst removal and endocrine system problems. The husband has vascular spasm.

Social consequences - This family puts the social communications at a minimum level. From 2003 to 2013 they have been constantly reducing. They only the celebration of the family's patron saint. There is an interesting fact that each year they have less and less guests.

Family 5 - (2003) 4-member family – Daughter-in-law 39 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary education. Mother-in-law 69 years old and two children (aged 16 and 14). The husband passed away in 2000.

Living conditions – (2003) They live in an old house which does not have an indoors bathroom and kitchen with water. They started building a new house, only the shell is finished.

Living conditions – (2013). Due to the material help they get from the deceased husband's brother, living in Austria, now they live in the new house, although it is not fully finished. They have an indoor kitchen with water, bathroom, living room and two bedrooms.

How had they lived in the period between 2003 and 2013? In the entire researched period, the family lives from the pension received by the sons, it amounts in approximately 4000-5000 denars, the help from the

brother-in-law and the agricultural revenues. Youth and education – The mother's attitude towards her own education and that of her sons is positive throughout the entire researched period. The inferior socio-economic status of this family does not affect the children's attitude towards the education. The older son, who is 26 years old, is exceptionally talented. He finished university and master studies in Vienna. The younger son is at the university, but has not graduated yet.

Nutrition – in the entire research period, this family has no nutritional problems. Due to the mother's effort, this family has a very good nutrition. She is exceptionally well-organized, this family produces all the necessary food. They have cattle. They produce milk and cheese, sour cream and other dairy products. They have many chickens. They sell the eggs. Each year they have 1-2 pigs and a calf for their needs, but also for sale.

Health – The health condition of all family members is normal, except of the daughter-in-law. She has a constant high blood pressure.

Hygiene – The hygiene is at a high level in the entire researched period.

Social consequences – There is an interesting data that the family members in the entire researched period have not reduced the social communications.

Family 6 - (2003) 3-member family. The husband is 46 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary education. The wife is 42 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary technical school. One daughter, 22 years old.

Living conditions (2003) – They live in an apartment of 55 m². They have received the apartment from the factory where the spouses had worked. It is very well equipped.

Living conditions – (2013) They still live in the same apartment, but it is pretty ruined. Part of the furniture and appliances has been sold out. There is a significant worsening of the living conditions from 2003 until 2013.

How had they lived in the period between 2003 and 2013? In the beginning, the family rents a space and opens a clothes shop. They procure the goods from Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and Hungary. Soon in 2006 they entered into big debts and faced a great difficulty. They could not return the debt they have borrowed from the usurers. The problems of this family began then. The husband committed a suicide. The wife was totally ruined. She started selling everything she could (car, appliances, music systems, etc.). The daughter ceased her studies in Skopje and started working. But they did not earn enough money. Their debts increased. Now, they sold the apartment. The family is on the edge of survival, because beside the minimum help by the son-in-law's parents (mostly agricultural products), the temporary employments of the son-in-law and the daughter, they have no income.

Youth and education – The parents' attitude towards their own education and that of the daughter was positive in the beginning. As the family started decaying, they lost interest in education. The inferior socio-economic status of this family affected the daughter's attitude towards the education. She neither finished the university, nor wanted to. She got married in 2011 and has a son. She does not have a permanent employment, or her husband.

Nutrition – This family has not had healthy eating habits in the entire researched period. In the beginning, they usually ate junk food (pizza, barbecue, sandwiches, etc) as they stated, "we have no time for cooking, and we are either on the road or in the shop". Later, they changed the eating style, when they started having financial difficulties. They buy cheap food in shops where they can pay by instalments. In the last years, they cannot buy products in that manner. Many times they say, "We cannot even buy bread".

Health – The health condition of all members is ruined in the researched period. The husband had psychological problems – anxiety and alcohol dependence. He ended by suicide. In the researched period, the wife has had organic damages (stomach ulcer and diabetes) and psychological problems (severe depression). The daughter has had frequent functional disturbances (increased blood pressure, heavy breathing, disturbed sleep, sense of tension).

Hygiene – The hygiene in the beginning was at a very high level, but as the family got into troubles, the interest for hygiene in the apartment and the personal hygiene was reduced, especially with the wife.

Social consequences – In the researched period, the family has suffered many traumas. Larger amounts of alcohol were consumed, especially by the husband. Frequent fights, violence, suicide, are part of it.

Family 7 - (2003) 4-member family – The husband 44 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary education. The wife is 42 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, higher education. One daughter, 19 years old. Wife`s mother, 65 years old, retired.

Living conditions (2003) – They live in a two-bedroom apartment of 60m², owned by the wife`s mother. The apartment is well equipped, but does not meet the needs of the family members. Three generations live here and have only one separate room. The kitchen and living room are together. There are frequent tensions among the members.

Living conditions – (2013) The living conditions have been drastically changed in this family. The apartment in 2013 is quite ruined. The wife is mentally ill, the wife`s mother is deceased, the daughter has gone abroad (they do not know where). The wife has been in a mental institution since 2012. Last time we contacted the husband was in 2012, he does not live in the apartment.

How had they lived in the period between 2003 and 2013? In the beginning, the family lived from the wife's mother's pension. Later on they had state benefit.

Youth and education – The parents attitude towards their own education and that of the daughter was positive in the beginning, especially the mother's attitude. As the family started decaying, they lost interest in education. The inferior socio-economic status, the mother's illness and the arguments between the parents affected the daughter's attitude towards the education. She finished secondary education. She failed to enrol at the state university with scholarship and did not continue her education. She started working on a cruiser.

Nutrition – This family has not had healthy eating habits in the entire researched period. In the beginning, the wife's mother prepared food. It was mostly unvaried.

Health – The health condition of all members is ruined in the researched period. The daughter has remarkable mental problems. The husband has nicotine and alcohol addiction. The severe financial condition and the stress had particularly affected the wife's health. She has organic damages and mental problems.

Hygiene – The hygiene in the beginning was at a very high level, but as the family got into troubles, the interest for hygiene in the apartment and the personal hygiene has been reduced.

Social consequences – In the researched period, the family has suffered many traumas. The husband has consumed large amounts of alcohol. Frequent fights, violence, mental illness of the wife, the daughter frequently ran away from home, all are part of it.

4. Conclusions

The conducted analysis of twenty newly impoverished families in the period between 2003 and 2013 has led to the following conclusions:

With regards to the living conditions of the researched newly impoverished families, they all live in a house/apartment, owned by their parents/themselves. In the period between 2003 and 2013 there have been changes in all families, depending how the family members handle themselves in life. There is an obvious relation between: duration of the poverty in the newly impoverished families and the condition of the house/apartment; duration of the poverty and whether they live as an independent family or household; duration of the poverty in the newly impoverished families and the manner they handle the life. We would like to put an emphasis on the duration of the poverty in the newly impoverished families and the cohesion among the family members.

Conclusions with regards to how they handle the life – The fact that it comes to family members who are not employed in the public or the private sector, they try to find their way out in non-formal employments. The men, women and children try to handle in different manners. There is a noticeable difference in the manner how the newly impoverished families handle their lives, depending on the fact if they can work in the agriculture, if they have saved some money and if they have some help from the parents, relatives, etc.

A special emphasis should be put on the relation between the male and female labour in the family and the way of living, when the family is in poverty. Namely, the research generates the presumption that the women in the newly impoverished families handle themselves on the labour market much better than the men. Due to her (female) resourcefulness and complete dedication to the family, these families mostly survive.

With regards to the parents' attitudes towards the education, it can be concluded that they are mostly generated by: the degree of their

education, duration of the poverty and the cultural attitude towards the education. The parents' attitude towards their own education and that of the children is basically positive. The parents' attitudes change depending on the duration of the poverty. The parents' attitudes towards their own education and that of their children change depending on the duration of the poverty. Namely, if they see no perspective and mechanisms for overcoming the poverty, their interest in education reduces.

The children's attitudes towards the education depend on: the duration of the poverty; the inferior socio-economic status of the family; inability to raise awareness in such inferior position for the need for education, as well as inability to raise awareness that the education is an important factor for a way out of the poverty. There is also the attitude of their parents, as well as the absence of a wider and more efficient social action for overcoming the unfavourable conditions of the members of such families. This does not apply to the particularly talented children.

With regards to the nutrition of the newly impoverished families, there is an indisputable fact that the poverty affects the quality of the food. However, the condition itself imposes a special nutrition manner, consuming seasonal fruits, home-made meals with seasonal vegetables, home-made winter salads in the winter period. The difficult situation forces them to try to find a way out (they produce various fruits and vegetables by themselves, if they can, they are well informed where and when the victuals are the cheapest, etc.). An emphasis should be put on the resourcefulness and the skills for survival, and consuming "healthy" food.

With regards to the hygiene, we can conclude that the personal hygiene and that of the home in the newly impoverished families is at a satisfactory level throughout the entire researched period. The hygiene products are mostly used in a reduced manner. There is only a difference in the hygiene habits, only in those newly impoverished families that in the entire researched period have continuously faced financial problems.

When it comes to the health, the fact that these families used to have financial means and now they do not (some families have no

financial means in the entire researched period), the stress is constantly present with all family members. Due to the stress, the family members of the newly impoverished families have functional disturbances, psycho-somatic and mental illnesses. Beside the general tendency of these families to protect the children against stressful situations as much as possible, only few manage to do that. The health consequences from the poverty are more noticeable with the parents. The cardio-vascular illnesses and the mental diseases are among the most common functional disturbances.

There are numerous social consequences from the poverty, however the common feature for all research families is the reduced social communication, especially the parents', as well as the moral and mental decay, especially if there are no minimal positive changes in their financial situation in the entire researched period.

Based on the published conclusions from the panel longitudinal research of the newly impoverished families in the Republic of Macedonia, the following conclusions and recommendations arise.

It is undisputable that the newly impoverished families have a bad quality of life by the fact that they are poor. Their living quality is directly related to the duration of the poverty. The longer the poverty lasts, the higher the risk is for worsening of: the living conditions, hygiene habits, nutrition, health condition of the newly impoverished families. The duration of the poverty affects the attitudes toward the education. Namely, the longer the period of poverty, the more parents' attitude toward their own education and that of the children goes from positive to negative. The duration of the poverty affects the manner how the men, women and children handle their lives in these newly impoverished families. The women in the newly impoverished families handle themselves on the labour market much better than the men. The longer the period of poverty the greater the risk of functional disturbances, psycho-somatic and mental illnesses is with the members of the newly impoverished families. The longer the period of poverty the greater the risk of self-isolation of the members of these families is. The findings related to the social grouping

are worrisome. Namely, if the period of poverty is longer, the children of these families tend to socialize only with other children like them.

An efficient way out of the poverty and improvement of the living quality of the newly impoverished families might be an investment in the education of these poor children, as well as building a wider and more efficient social action for overcoming the unfavourable conditions of the members of these families.

Literature

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