

SUMMARY

Child care in Piotrków Trybunalski in the interwar period (1918-1939)

Traditions of social care in Poland were shaped under the influence of structural changes taking place in the contemporary society. The need of helping another man appeared everywhere where wealth and poverty coexisted. Such terms like: *social policy, social work, social security and social care* became widespread known. The obligation to take care of people in need of support from the state, as well as social, religious and charitable organizations was legitimized through the series of legal acts. The local authorities also made every effort to achieve the objectives of care of people in need.

Such a situation also took place in Piotrków Trybunalski in years 1918-1939. The efforts made in that time were mainly focused on creation of so far non-existent institutions and care facilities as well as on other forms of assistance, especially in the fields of social and health care. To ensure proper care of children became the one of guiding principles.

The paper presents materials showing the extent and complexity of care and educational issues, thereby confirming the thesis about the rich care and education traditions in the city. It also briefly shows the beginnings of the actions oriented towards helping children and the way from philanthropy to social care of the child, which the community in Piotrków had to go. In addition, all the actions concerning children, taken not only by municipal authorities but also by Piotrcovian charitable institutions have been discussed. Much attention has also been paid to the introduction of social security system and public social care, which is perceived by the author as a breakthrough moment in the history of the reborn state and its social institutions including child care ones. The paper widely presents initiatives in the area of social care of the child taken in the city. It has been demonstrated the functioning of institutions of total and partial child and youth care. In those days orphanages, boarding schools and pupils' hostels emerged, summer health camps and children and adolescents supplementary alimentation were organized, nurseries, kindergartens and day care rooms were built. The role of open institutions in the system of child care has been reflected in a separate chapter of the paper, similarly the function of those providing total care.

Facility care system has been described in detail. Simultaneously, particular types of contemporary child care facilities have been characterized. It has also been presented the situation of the orphaned child both in Piotrków Trybunalski and interwar Poland as well as the stages of formation of legislation and organization of total child care. Because of the

undertaken subject a lot of attention has been devoted to the range and functional effects of closed child care centers. The important projects aimed at restoration and improvement of putting children to foster families for education have also been described.

Special attention has been paid to protection of maternity and the role of mother and child care stations, both in therapeutic and prophylactic aspect. In this part of the paper, dealing with sanitary and hygienic care of the child, coexistence of different forms of organization of students' healthcare has been shown. The reader has been acquainted with activities of public schools and the significant role of health centers in this field. Raising the issue of school hygiene, the author mentioned also the problem of the tasks of medical staff aimed at improving the health of students. A separate part has been devoted to the duties of doctors and hygienists specified by instructions, morbidity of children and the assesment of the actual state of hygiene and medical care in Piotrcovian schools. Particular attention has been paid to preventive and propaganda activities carried out by medical personnel aimed at fighting particular diseases, preventive vaccinations among students and dental care.

The last, closing chapter of the paper entirely covers the main directions and forms of emergency activies carried out by the community of Piotrków Trybunalski, its local authorities and all self-government institutions. The author has taken into consideration all periodic and occasional initiatives aimed at children and young people, beginning from supplementary alimentation and summer camps through material, financial help to cultural and educational activities. In this section it has also been shown the active attitude of inhabitants of Piotrków Trybunalski, especially towards fundraising for children from the poorest families on the occasion of organizing of various commemorative events. They brought extremely satisfactory results.

All forms and efforts of help mentioned in the paper then played a very important role in helping thousands of children in Piotrków Trybunalski waiting to meet the basic needs of social and living conditions. The collected source materials and detailed analisys of literature on subject has revealed that there had not only been seen the elements of necessary interventionism but also prevention in social practice targeted at children. They were implemented in a purposeful, conscious and organized way. Consequently, this makes the interwar period outstanding in terms of achievements in the field of help for people in need, Moreover, many measures taken in that time are still applicable in contemporary care and educational work.