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**Robert Opora, *The effectiveness of social rehabilitation interactions*
Wydawnictwo Akademickie „Żak”, Warsaw 2015, pp. 234**

Polish penitentiary literature has been enriched by another very valuable work by Robert Opora. The Author undertakes in it the fundamental and complex problem of the efficiency of the social rehabilitation process. In the first sentences of the communicative introduction we find the opinion that retribution does not bring rehabilitative effects. This view is quite debatable. It is true that the retributive theories of criminal punishment are turned somewhat by nature towards the past and order of retaliation and prevention theories towards the future and repair. However, this does not mean that retribution entirely abandons the possibility of positive transformation of criminals. Penalty proportional to the crime may also have the power of lasting, deep and internal reconstruction of the moral sphere of the criminal. We know that social rehabilitation brings, unfortunately, all too often only external signs of improvement, which are not accompanied by inner transformation and “pangs of synderesis”. Robert Opora’s monograph is indeed characterized by the forward-looking perspective and the expectation of a successful, so bringing positive results, implementation of new ideas or penitentiary programmes.

In the introduction of the work we learn the ambitious objectives set by the Author and which – it must be said at the outset – he realized successfully. The first of these was the conceptualization and operationalization of the titular concept, i.e. the effectiveness of social rehabilitation interactions, their forms and indicators. Another objective was a critical review of the theory of social rehabilitation proposing different models of this process. The next and, indeed very important objective of this work, was the identification of conditions for the successful implementation and factors hindering the implementation of new social rehabilitation ideas in a particular socio-political situation.

The first chapter of the book points out to the Reader the different theoretical approaches to the problem of dealing with offenders and ways of preventing crime. The Author included the following as the basic theoretical perspectives of dealing with criminals: retribution, deterrence, isolation, social rehabilitation, restorative justice and early social intervention or preventive measures. The competently and interestingly presented description of theoretical perspectives is concluded by the Author with a very accurate indication of the need for linking criminal theory and practice with social context and knowledge of empirical analyses supporting, or not, particular theoretical approach.

The second chapter refers to the orientation of social rehabilitation. The Author transparently shows us different ways of defining the term “social rehabilitation”, the complexity of social rehabilitation interactions and various theoretical models of the process of re-socialization (deficit of capabilities, responsibilities of the offender and the model of capabilities). The chapter ends with a convincing reflection of the Author on the future of social rehabilitation, its meaning and reasons, not only pragmatic, but also axiological and antipunitive.

The three next chapters of the book – the third, fourth and fifth – are closely linked. They concern the accepted forms of social rehabilitation interactions, the problem of their efficiency and its indicators. The Author directs our attention first to the principle of individual correctional interventions as well as social rehabilitation programmes mainly of a cognitive-behavioral nature (their advantages and limitations).

The main risk factors for returning to crime are – as experience teaches – unemployment (of the former prisoner or person under court guardianship), no permanent place of residence, and lack of funds for maintenance. These factors are usually the key elements of individual social rehabilitation interventions. Removal of the listed deficiencies can seriously increase the probability of success of the re-socialization process and successful readaptation.

Robert Opora also points to the model of social rehabilitation of offenders of crimes referring to the idea of restorative justice. Substantial restitution of the harm done to the victim can sometimes bring the perpetrators to revise their attitudes and beliefs.

The problem of exceptional importance is the question of the effectiveness of these forms of social rehabilitation interactions and the measurement of this effectiveness. Methods for assessing the level of effectiveness of social rehabilitation are also the subject of controversy. So, what criteria should be adopted: the criterion of juridical improvement (rate of recidivism) or criteria of improvement of a pedagogical-psychological character, and if so, which?

We know that the absence of recidivism, thus not committing more disclosed criminal offenses, does not mean achieved effectiveness of social rehabilitation interactions. Therefore, what is social rehabilitation effectiveness and what are the indicators of it?

The Author cites numerous definitions of these concepts and shows us the different states of affairs as evidence of effectiveness, mainly in relation to probation.

It should be noted that the Author does not forget about the methodological difficulties posed by research on indicators of positive changes under the influence of penitentiary interactions.

The results of previous studies on the effectiveness of social rehabilitation interventions or programmes implemented are not satisfactory, as the Author indicates. Creating the right tool for studying the effectiveness of social rehabilitation interactions could certainly contribute to improving the quality of assessments of these interactions. However, there is no such tool that would take into account all of the relevant variables associated not only with intervention itself but also with its participants and terms of realization. In chapter 5, the Author returns to the previously signaled problem of performance indicators of social rehabilitation interactions. It turns out that both the so-called objective evaluation of effectiveness based on the indicators of criminal history, as well as those that refer to, for instance, a sense of guilt, remorse, acceptance of the sense of punishment or restitution and the need to change attitudes towards people, are not clear.

The sixth chapter of the book concerns an extremely important problem, namely the question of what elements distinguish effective social rehabilitation programmes from ineffective programmes. Meta-analyses of dozens of studies on the effectiveness of social rehabilitation present in scientific literature and personal rich experience of the Author enabled him to formulate effective rules, and so, effective social rehabilitation interactions. These include: the use of intensive programmes primarily against the high-risk perpetrators, adapting the style of teaching convicts to their style of learning or consistency in the implementation of the intervention. The Author does not ignore here other difficult issues, e.g. the rule of adjusting the properties of the perpetrator to the style of work of the therapist, his competences and environmental conditions.

Chapter seven presents the factors of risk of criminal acts and methods of criminological programming. Both the determination of the degree of risk, as well as as programming, are part of the basic tasks of institutions related to the functioning of the justice system.

The last chapter of the book – just as interesting as the previous ones – is characterized by substantial “gravity”, and certainly deserves careful reading, cognitive reflection and judgment of the Reader. It concerns the implementation of new ideas and methods of social rehabilitation into practice and methodological aspects of formulating these projections.

The Author shows both the conditions for successful implementation, as well as the factors disturbing the process of successful implementation of treatment programmes. At the same time he reminds us that this process is not only fundamental but also very difficult to implement. The adaptation of ideas and

programmes requires the interaction between innovation authors, managers of institutions, staff and outside entities.

In the presentation of individual chapters I have already partly evaluated them. Now I shall point out the most important qualities of the reviewed monograph.

1. The work has a clear title and transparent structure. Its sections and subsections are a logically ordered whole.
2. The selection of content and the way it is communicated explicitly proves the extraordinary erudition of the Author and his excellent orientation in the extensive literature on the subject.
3. The Author of the monograph has made not only a thorough review and presentation of a great number of problems associated with the theory and pragmatics of social rehabilitation, but he has also pointed to the ways and directions for further research into this extremely complex reality.
4. The rich literature, accurately chosen and very skillful use of style and presentation of many judgments and reflections, also personal, evokes recognition.

In conclusion, I believe that the reviewed monograph is extremely valuable and worthy of dissemination. I am confident that it will find a wide circle of PT Readers and gain their high praise.

Małgorzata Michel

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Renata Szczepanik, *Becoming a recidivist. The institutional careers of people returning to crime*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź 2015, pp. 410

The most prominent theory and research trend in pedagogical social rehabilitation is the one which chooses prison reality as the subject of study. Researching the problems of determinants of crime, the effectiveness and efficiency of undertaken social rehabilitation interactions take up a large portion of Polish literature on social rehabilitation. Recent scientific penitentiary literature exposes the topic of issues relating to the process of social reintegration. The issue of returning to crime, or recidivism, is related to it. The reviewed book by Renata Szczepanik is in that trend, but it is noteworthy due to several issues, both theoretical and methodological. The Author presents the results of many years of research undertaken centered around the issue of the trajectory of fate of people returning to crime and their institutional careers. Thus she makes an effort to answer the question of whether there are “turning points” in that career that help to prevent recidivism, and at the same time can become spaces for social rehabilitation and therapy work.

In literature there are two research trends visible in the approach to the issue of returning to crime. The division, though often artificial and created only for the purpose of putting the reality in order, into quantitative and qualitative research strategies, causes that the majority of studies on the issue of recidivism is set in the normative paradigm. According to many researchers and theorists of research methodology, this division is the result of the mistakenly understood process of science, because the only justification for selecting the appropriate study strategy should be its subject. There are such phenomena of reality that we can grasp only from a quantitative perspective, there are those that expose their qualitative dimensions. Finally, the complexity of many subjects and problems forces research-

ers to take up quantitative and qualitative strategies. In the case of the issue of returning to crime, the researcher definitely has comfort in science, both in the mainstream of quantitative and qualitative research.

The Author of the reviewed book attempted to present the qualitative phenomenon of recidivism. It seems that so far the issue of crime, especially repeated, was not the subject of analyses kept in the interpretative paradigm, characteristic of the qualitative science. The presented study is therefore an attempt to fill this gap, especially on the basis of Polish social rehabilitation pedagogy.

Renata Szczepanik adopted a research perspective which makes it easier to look at the conditions projecting the dynamics of becoming a recidivist and the climb of a recidivist up the ranks of the institutional system of social rehabilitation. The Author does not explain these processes but attempts to understand them through the picture of subjective meanings, which participants of the study give reality, and the ways in which they reconstruct it. Due to the fact that according to the assumptions of symbolic interactionism people in interpersonal relations and in specific situations define and interpret their meanings and actions, a person is thus an entity producing these meanings and processing the information reaching him. At the same time, he learns new social situations and examines past experience, and as a result, acts accordingly. The Researcher was interested in reconstructing the process of becoming a recidivist with all its interactive and symbolic context. The subject of scientific analyses of the present study was to explore the ways in which repeat offenders interpret their own experiences and how they carry these interpretations onto their life activity.

The book is composed of six chapters. In the first chapter, the Author presents a theoretical approach to the research problem and focuses on presenting social and legal sciences covering the phenomenon of recidivism and persons returning to crime. Thus she reconstructs the legal, socio-demographic and criminological picture, outlining the silhouette of the person returning to crime. This chapter ends with leaving the Reader with dilemmas of Polish penitentiary pedagogy. The second chapter describes the theoretical and methodological basis of the research on the process of becoming a recidivist. Here, the Author focuses on the origin of qualitative methods of study on crime and presents to the Reader the assumptions of the interpretative paradigm with special emphasis on symbolic interactionism. It is worth noting the presentation of the interactive approach of the process of becoming a criminal.

What deserves special attention and makes the reviewed book especially valuable is the use of a specific procedure for collecting and developing empirical data, which is the methodology of grounded theory. It is also worth noting the high self-awareness of the Author and self-reflection associated with difficulties experienced in conducting the research in a prison, which can be found in the work. The author does not hide that the investigation was a personal experience for her, to which she devotes a separate subsection.

The third chapter of the book starts the presentation of the collected empirical data and their development and categorization. It contains an attempt to present the institutional career of returnees to crime from the interpretative perspective. Noteworthy are the separate categories of prisoners participating in various ways in prison isolation. Participation is related to roles and attitudes and perhaps strategies that prisoners adopt and implement within the prison.

Chapter four is a presentation of tactics of adapting to prison, which is undoubtedly a set composed of survival strategies in the institution of a total character. Chapter five constitutes a counterbalance to the previous chapter, and it is a presentation of tactics associated with adapting to freedom. How much is life in freedom determined by the lifestyle adopted in the penal institution and what are the turning points in the career of institutional recidivists? These are questions that the Reader will find answers to in this part of the study. A particularly interesting fact is that female partners of recidivists play a significant role in the development and inhibition of the institutional career of male returnees to crime. It turns out, what may be an important conclusion for the practice of social rehabilitation and readaptation interactions, that these roles are significant both in terms of the adaptation tactics in freedom as well as in terms of the turning points in the criminal career of recidivists.

The last chapter is an attempt to summarize the reflection in the educational and correctional context. It is completed by a proposal in which certain problems of the institutional career of returnees to crime, related to “resetting” the deviant identity, are located by the Author in the perspective of “new” social rehabilitation pedagogy.

The book by Renata Szczepanik is essential reading for a wide range of readers, both students of correctional pedagogy, psychology, sociology, as well as academics, but also for members of the justice system, educators at prisons and the entire prison staff, probation officers, mediators, social workers and even volunteers who are involved in the service of non-governmental organizations, where recidivists often come after serving their sentence of imprisonment. It allows to look at the career of becoming a recidivist from the perspective excluding judgment and evaluation, bringing the participant of interaction and social actors closer to understanding the phenomenon more than its interpretation.

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Barbara Adamczyk, *Street children in Poland and in the world. Definition, typology, etiology*, Akademia Ignatianum/Wydawnictwo WAM, Kraków 2015, pp. 479

Among the books on issues of social rehabilitation and social prevention, the monograph *Street children Poland and in the world. Definition, typology, etiology* by Barbara Adamczyk, a researcher of Ignatianum Academy in Kraków, has a special place and is therefore worthy of note. In the publication we find scientific considerations based on specific research. Every Reader can draw conclusions for social prevention addressed to children of the streets from the presented theory. For this reason, the book is valuable, and its purpose can be extremely broad, as the problem of street children is a global problem.

The phenomenon of street children is very complex, associated with morality, subcultures, destruction. Street children can be classified as those who have their own homes but spend most of their time in urban backyards, neighborhoods and even in shopping malls, clubs and discos where they fulfill their needs.

Street children are a group of young people looking for their own, often unsuccessful, ways of dealing with the world, with the problems of everyday life. The phenomenon of street children is associated not only with a pathological family environment (most common opinion), but also the expanding area of social marginalization resulting from job loss and unemployment of adults, life helplessness of the parents in the new economic conditions, poverty and misery. Moreover, this phenomenon should be combined with parents' lack of time, the pursuit of success and career, while leaving children to themselves, with the phenomenon of Euro-orphans. At the same time it is hard not to mention the role played by media in recent years, which promote a fashion for a ruthless, aggressive, strong hero type who copes with problems. Such personality patterns are often represented by street children.

The problem of street children is discussed in the book in the context of other countries, and it is visible that the differences here are small, that the risk of young people is everywhere, although its scale differs.

In the first chapter of the book the Author introduces us to the topic of street children by providing definitions and categories of street children. The definitions of specialists are cited here, such as: A. Kurzeja, W. Seelisch, W. Kolak or L. Pytko as well as definitions developed by different organizations, e.g. UNESCO or Ci-toyen des Rues. The Author also presents the most important typologies of street children according to W. Kołak, I. Pospiszyl, G. Olszewska-Baka and L. Pytko or T. Kołodziejczyk. The author notes that “it is not possible to adopt a universal typology, for instance due to the differing contexts of individual countries” (p. 42). An interesting touch is the presentation of filmed stories of street children.

Chapter two: *The structure and scale of the phenomenon of street children in the world and in Poland* introduces us to the statistics trying to determine the number of street children in the world. The Author presents the different methods used for counting street children, which highlights the difficulty in determining the exact extent of this phenomenon.

In chapter three, in analyzing the determinants of the phenomenon of street children, the Author divides them into direct factors (family), hidden factors (cultural expectations, lack of access to education and the charm of living in a big city), and structural factors (co-occurrence of migration, economic and political crisis, inequality in regions, climate change, HIV/AIDS pandemic, armed conflicts and trafficking in children). These factors are described in global terms; many examples from different countries in the world are cited, which makes this chapter extensive and extremely interesting.

In the fourth (methodological) chapter, the Author defines the purpose of her research: “the acquisition of knowledge on children and young people staying or living on the streets of Poland and the world in the area of definitions, typologies and etiologies. This multi-faceted exploration of this phenomenon is a necessity dictated primarily by fragmented research in Poland. As far as the global reach of this phenomenon goes, we want to learn the data available in many countries representing various continents. Assuming that the phenomenon of street children is a global problem, we are deliberately not narrowing our objective to obtain knowledge about street children of only one continent” (p. 135–136). The global approach to research is undoubtedly one of the main goals that make this book extremely valuable scientifically. The study included the inhabitants of all continents.

From the methodological chapter, we learn also that for the realization of the objective of scientific goals the method of diagnostic survey was used, a questionnaire technique and an original survey questionnaire was created, which was the primary source of information obtained directly from the examined street workers. The value of the scientific work is also affected by the general population of

respondents, which amounted to 250 people, of whom 96 were from Poland and 154 from abroad.

The fifth chapter presents ways of defining street children and their classification made by street workers. Here the division of children due to age is included. The Author also describes the function of the family overtaken by the street: care giving, material and economic, educational and socializing. The empirical chapter is rich in examples of answers of respondents, which the Author additionally analyzes by comparing with the theories of experts (e.g. T. Pilch, B. Ubran). Such a comparative analysis additionally increases the scientific value of the work.

In analyzing the research results, by giving examples of definitions, the Author divides them into those coming of respondents from different regions of the world, which makes the analyses even more interesting.

Barbara Adamczyk takes the following typology of street children: children in street situations (street children); children living on the street, children demoralized, working children, and the second typology, which originated from the responses of street workers from around the world: sick children, children-migrants, children-victims of armed conflicts and children accused of witchcraft.

Chapter six presents the etiological factors in the process of becoming a street child in the opinion of street workers. And here, analogous to the third chapter, the Author distinguishes: direct factors (family), hidden factors (exclusion from education, boredom of children and adolescents, the influence of different people, cultural expectations), and structural factors (socio-economic problems, labor migration, contemporary threats, such as HIV/AIDS pandemic, armed conflicts, natural disasters – cataclysms). The Author adds, “that with a deeper analysis carried out in different countries, even more structural factors can be obtained contributing to the formation and perpetuation of the phenomenon of street children” (p. 413).

At the end of the study cognitive conclusions were presented of the analysis of the definition of street children in the opinions of the examined street workers from Poland and from around the world, cognitive conclusions from the analysis of the typology of street children distinguished in the opinion of street workers from Poland and from around the world, cognitive conclusions from the analysis of causes of the formation of the phenomenon of street children in the opinion of street educators from Poland and from around the world, as well as indications for further research.

As a social rehabilitation educator and social prevention expert, I try to answer the basic question: if today, not only in Poland but throughout the world, social rehabilitation is practiced, then what needs to be done for it to attain its goals in respect of street children?

When reading the book by Barbara Adamczyk, we see all sorts of opinions, examples and comments, which can be successfully used in educational practice. The essence of the book lies in the fact that it can be useful both for students,

as it is a scientific reading on the phenomenon of street children, as well as for educators, sociologists, guardians, teachers, probation officers, catechists, street workers, social workers and parents, which is why they should read it and it should have a special place in their libraries.

The book raises a very important issue. A street child is a young person who spends a large part of its life on the streets. The lack of emotional ties at home, support and spending time together causes that they prefer to be in a group of peers on the street, where they feel at least partly needed. Children living on the street form subculture groups as well as criminal groups, they conduct begging, theft and prostitution. They often have contact with psychoactive substances. The book shows why such a situation takes place and how to help these children.

The presented research is valuable; the respondents were street workers or teachers familiar with the forms of assistance to street children. It is a very well structured reading, which brings us closer to the problem affecting an increasing number of children. It is an attempt at a comprehensive assessment of this phenomenon and organization of the existing knowledge about street children. The rich bibliography, interestingly presented information will certainly enable better awareness of how important this problem is in the modern world. I recommend this book.