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BOOK REVIEW

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Łukasz Wirkus

University of Gdańsk [lukasz.wirkus@ug.edu.pl]

Paweł Kozłowski, Values, Goals and Life Plans of Socially Maladjusted Youth Oficyna Wydawnicza "Impuls", Cracow 2016. p. 208

Paweł Kozłowski took up an important topic, deeply rooted in scientific literature, which required the author to read into it and take an interdisciplinary approach in the process of the creation of this work. Its originality consists in deepening the psycho-pedagogical and sociological diagnosis and analysis of the legal system concerning socially maladjusted youth, while at the same time presenting research conclusions of significant application value. In his book, the author undertook to implement specific objectives, which include the definition of the term "social maladjustment"; statistical analysis of punishable acts; development of conclusions and analysis of juvenile justice statistics, taking into account the basic variable of gender (so far there has been a lack of such oriented research) in connection with punishable acts and demoralization, as well as a theoretical analysis and empirical verification of factors determining the psychological functioning of socially maladjusted youth.

Friedrich H. Tenbruck (1996) writes that contemporary young people have already carried out a process of autonomization within the whole society, which unfortunately results in them being deprived of the social roles that were hitherto characteristic for them, as well as of clearly defined characteristics. Moreover, society's expectations of young people are constantly changing and are subject to different trends. According to Tenbruck, this causes greater susceptibility to social influences and manipulation from the environment, taking into account the concentration of the course of socialization depending on the peer group and the possible threat to the development of the identity of the young person. Marek Konopczyński transfers his sociological considerations to the level of rehabilitation pedagogy and points out that "Self-presentations of socially maladjusted youth are generally situationally inadequate and poor in terms of the content of self-expression. Their basic determinant are the objectives set out on the one hand by the directions of meeting needs, and on the other hand, the ways of achieving the assumed objectives are determined by the characteristics of socialization experiences. (...) Social interactions in which young people also participate require them to behave in accordance with their social roles. Young people with social maladjustment syndrome have scripts that are closely linked to the image of their identity. Therefore, young people are incapable or unable to fill the roles required of them with the accepted content. Modelling both goals, aspirations, scripts and plans for this category of young people (within the methods used by social rehabilitation pedagogy) is one of the main motives of the undertaken influence" (Konopczyński 2017, pp. 232–233). In this space, an important role is played by the phenomenon of the research conducted by Paweł Kozłowski in the context of the participants of his research – socially maladjusted youth.

In literature, we find several ways of looking at youth. One of them is to define it through the prism of the developmental stages of human life. Developmental psychology introduces the concept of adolescence, which takes into account gender differences and, within one of the existing proposals, distinguishes two sub-periods - early adolescence (from 10-12 years of age to 15 years of age) and late adolescence (from 16 to even 23 years of age) (Harwas-Napierała 2002, pp. 69--111), which is reflected in the age group studied by Paweł Kozłowski. The period of adolescence is a specific time, burdened with numerous problems, tribulations, a period of rebellion, anxiety, a time of shaping autonomy and rejection of authorities, but also an important period of shaping the identity of a young person, their independence, social attitudes and behavior characteristic of the subsequent stages of development. The author recognizes these correlations and evokes the works of Helena Sek and Laurence Steinberg (p. 11). Taking into account the orientation of young people towards the process of social maturation, entering into social roles, one can say that "from the sociological perspective, adolescence is an element of culture" (Obuchowska 2001, pp. 163-201). Today's youth is facing new transformations and challenges characteristic of the 21st century. The author refers to research which shows that the problem of social maladjustment concerns as much as 5% of the total population of young people in Poland (p. 12) and the process of constructing values in young people is fundamental for the functioning of the whole society, as knowledge of them alone is not a condition for their implementation in everyday life. Paweł Kozłowski quotes the recommendations of the Supreme Chamber of Control indicating the need for changes in the system of social rehabilitation and the need for a broader approach to the native and contemporary psychology of socially maladjusted behavior (p. 12). After all, the conditions of social life have changed significantly, the state's interference with the rights and freedoms of the individual has increased significantly. Therefore, the issue of building a value system is still one of the most important issues

in the process of raising children and young people in the context of providing them with conditions for psychosocial development. Every day, the school, the family home, the peer group, the media, the state provide young people with an offer of new interpretations of the rules of conduct, perception of important events and their impact on our reality, or the choice of the right life goals. In this context, the formation of a stable and appropriate hierarchy of values is a necessary factor for leading a responsible life, making various choices, or finally presenting certain attitudes and behaviors. This peculiar challenge, which so far has not gained a comprehensive analysis, was addressed by Paweł Kozłowski and offered a publication which is of significance in terms of application for the sphere of practice and methodology of working with socially maladjusted youth.

The reviewed monograph consists of as many as eight chapters, with the first three devoted to the phenomenon of social maladjustment, the theory of social maladjustment and a broad scientific query dedicated to values, goals and life plans dynamizing the development of the personality of young people. The following chapters include empirical aspects focused on the presentation of research results and their determinants.

It is no longer clear from today's academic output covering the functioning of minors that by analyzing terms such as social maladjustment, social pathology, problematic behavior, social maladjustment, or social derailment, as well as good or bad adjustment and several other definition approaches, we are faced with a multitude of different proposals. In the first chapter, the author utilizes statutory and dictionary interpretations and, most importantly, makes a broad query of the notion of social maladjustment, among others, in the context of outstanding scientific works by Urban, Konopczyński, Kołakowska-Przełomiec, Wójcik, Hołyst, Grzegorzewska, Lipkowski, Ostrowska, Pytka, Konopnicki or Achenbach (pp. 15–20). Paweł Kozłowski cataloged a minor in the context of the Polish legal codification (pp. 21–27) by analyzing punishable acts (pp. 27–33) and manifestations of demoralization (pp. 33–39).

In the second chapter, the author touches upon the theories of social maladjustment. Thus, starting from biological theories (pp. 41–44), he referred to the concepts of the Schroeders, Lorenzo, Wilson, Thomas and Chess. Paweł Kozłowski also referred to the research of the Institute of Forensic Expertise in Kraków, which indicates that as much as 45% of the examined juvenile offenders suffer damage to the central nervous system (p. 45). The author refers to Bielicki's research on people with biopsychological disorders, in which he indicates that an individual is more susceptible to environmental influences, often demoralized environment, which increases the possibility of entering the path of social maladjustment and crime (p. 46). In the book we also find a view on the theory of social maladjustment in psychodynamic (pp. 47–50), attachment theory (pp. 50–52), mental immunity theory (pp. 53–57), behavioral-cognitive optics (p. 58–65) interpretation and from perspectives of sociological (pp. 65–69), ecological (pp. 69–72) and cultural (pp. 72–74) theories.

In the third chapter, the author eruditely analyses the essence of young people's values, goals and life plans, efficiently navigating the achievements of native and foreign literature. The interest in the issue of values is reflected in the theoretical and empirical considerations of scientists from various disciplines. This is a challenge for pedagogy, because as Krzysztof Kaszyński argues (1994, p. 71) "(...) if values serve as a criterion for the choice of social aspirations, function as a standard for the integration of the individual into the society, influence the choice of an individual's life path, then research into the world of values is justified". On the other hand, psychology had already defined value "as an object of desire, a factor in the selection of motives and a criterion for the selection of objectives of action and means of achieving them" (Matusewicz 1975, p. 15), which emphasizes the multifaceted nature of the topic currently undertaken by the author and its significance for the social group of youth in general, and of particular importance for socially maladjusted youth. Paweł Kozłowski quotes the classic definition of Rokeach, who defines values as permanent beliefs that a certain manner of conduct or final state is personally or socially desirable rather than the opposite manner of conduct or final state (p. 75).

In the third chapter we also find a reference to an important study on values by Cieciuch, the division of values and people striving to achieve them by Allport, Vernon and Lindzey (pp. 76–77), or Schwartz's circular model of values (pp. 79–81).

In the subsection *Life Goals*, the author reviews their definition from their perception as one of the most important psychological categories (p. 83) through the division of goals by their type and hierarchy (p. 84) or consideration in terms of criteria (p. 86) and reminds that *it is important, however, that these goals, which* are generated by the pupils themselves, are not rejected as a rule (p. 89).

Włodzimierz Szewczuk (1990) treats the shaping of life plans as a longterm and open process and understands it as "a system of basic goals which an individual pursues through their actions and the general principles of their realization". The author mentions that it was him who introduced the concept of a life plan into Polish literature on the subject (p. 94). Paweł Kozłowski recognizes the complexity of creating life plans, in which attention should also be paid to the ability of abstract thinking, which allows the individual to perceive the relations and dependencies between social phenomena, their own activity and its effects (p. 91). Inhelder and Piaget emphasize that the ability to make plans for the future in human development coincides with a period of biological and social adolescence (p. 91). It is very interesting to include a proposal to define the activity of the individual, which is the result of its needs and is aimed at achieving specific objectives. Mądrzycki stated that life plans may differ in the scope of the whole catalogue of features that we find in the author's book (p. 93). Comparative studies on values by Allport and Gillespie carried out on several continents (p. 95), to which we also find reference here, are worth reflecting on.

The empirical part of the book consists of five chapters with a very interesting discussion of results and conclusions concerning application. The author begins chapter four by indicating the assumptions adopted in the methodological study and the implementation of scientific research, indicating that the project aims to determine the differences in the system of values, goals and life plans of groups of young people differing in the level of social maladjustment and to determine possible relationships with selected psychological predictors (p. 99–101). Paweł Kozłowski synthetically and clearly characterized the examined group of minors, which included students aged 13–18 years (500 sets of tools addressed to 500 people, 446 were finally qualified for further use) and, in accordance with the standards adopted in social sciences, he presented the research tools used – two tools he developed himself, i.e. the sociodemographic data questionnaire and the Youth Life Goals Questionnaire, and others. Paweł Kozłowski also described the organization and course of the research and justified the chosen statistical interpretation (pp. 101–110).

The author has made an empirical analysis of cognitively interesting, and at the same time extremely important in terms of application, results of research preferred by socially maladjusted youth, differences between groups of boys and girls and their preferences in the context of applied educational, corrective and sociotherapeutic measures. Paweł Kozłowski also referred the results of his own research to Cieciuch's longitudinal research and made interesting comparisons (pp. 111-123). Another element, apart from values, which dynamized the personality of socially maladjusted youth, were their life goals. The results obtained concerning family goals allow us to state that boys intend to focus on family life more than girls. It is interesting to note that in the shortest possible time frame these goals are to be achieved by minors with the highest and high level of social maladjustment. The author also presented interesting dependencies on prestigious, pro-social, ludic and professional goals (pp. 124-132). Paweł Kozłowski analyzed the life plans of minors in comparison with various levels of social maladjustment, which included their number and particular categories, which culminated in a detailed analysis of empirically verified relationships. Studies showed great diversity at this level (pp. 133-147). In Chapter Six, the author undertook to verify the selected sociodemographic variables and the means used with selected psychological variables. The research revealed differences in the level of self-esteem, sense of effectiveness (which consists of beliefs about one's own resources and perseverance), scale of anger expression, control of emotions (containing scales of anger, depression and anxiety), or sense of locus of control (pp. 148-160). The seventh chapter is devoted to the presentation of the interpretation of the conducted regression analysis allowing to explain which determinants have the greatest impact on the groups of minors identified in the study. The author determined to what extent, selected psychological variables explain preferred values, life goals and life plans in particular groups of minors in the adopted model (pp. 161–175).

Of particular note is an interesting discussion of the results, which is moderated by the author both in the context of the scientific achievements in general and his practical experience as a family probation officer working with minors on a daily basis and as the manager of the probation center in Słupsk. The presented analyses of the research are, as the author writes, a proposal for reflection on social maladjustment not only from a behavioral or social perspective, but above all in the optics of planes dynamizing the development of human personality (p. 178). Paweł Kozłowski included minor girls and boys in his research, showed their psychosocial functioning on the level of applied educational, corrective and sociotherapeutic measures and compared them with the results of young people from control groups in public middle schools, who have not yet had contact with the juvenile court. The intensity of social maladjustment in the studied groups differentiates them according to their preferred values. The analysis made it possible to conclude that minors with different levels of maladjustment focus on different areas of life goals, and what is very interesting and surprising to the author himself, it is precisely the socially maladjusted youth who generate more life plans than their peers from the control group (pp. 179–188).

The results of the research carried out by Paweł Kozłowski are certainly a solid foundation for discussion within various expert groups, and the analyses he has developed will certainly themselves be a good promotion of the idea of teleological rehabilitation of minors based on values, goals and life plans.

I recommend the reviewed monograph with full responsibility to a wide range of readers, and in particular, I would like to encourage the community of professionals involved in prevention, social rehabilitation and upbringing (school pedagogues, teachers, psychologists, court superintendents, streetworkers, educators in rehabilitation institutions, etc.), but also to the entire academic community, the judiciary and education sector to read it. It is obvious that the natural recipients of Paweł Kozłowski's monographs are also all parents who experience or will experience upbringing difficulties with their child during adolescence, which makes the author's book a universal publication and one that is important in the social space. The Monograph *Values, Objectives and Life Plans of Socially Unadapted Youth* by Paweł Kozłowski is undoubtedly of high substantive value, is very reliable and carefully prepared in terms of language, and the above-average list of literature will help those interested in the subject of young people's values, goals and life plans (and especially on the basis of the author's research on socially maladjusted youth) to search for and acquire new, valuable sources of knowledge.

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