

Polish social rehabilitation needs a change!

For all those who professionally deal with the functioning of Polish social rehabilitation of minors, there is no doubt that both the very idea of social rehabilitation and its basic organizational formula implemented in specialized facilities need a philosophical pre-foundational change and a theoretical-conceptual substantive change, based on the contemporary achievements of science and the experience of socially and economically highly developed countries.

Polish social rehabilitation has repeatedly experienced and continues to experience top-down, centrally designed changes, sometimes grandly called reforms, which in fact have been and still are only destructive organizational changes, impairing the process of social rehabilitation of children and young people and not bringing positive substantive changes, which I have written and spoken about many times. It is not possible to change the scope and subject of social rehabilitation interventions without reaching for justified, modern concepts and theories from the field of social sciences, as well as for the assistance and active participation of practitioners and scientists in these searches. A profound substantive change implemented together with the above-mentioned groups is expected not only by charges of social rehabilitation facilities and institutions, but also by the whole society. The sooner this happens, the sooner we can rebuild public trust in the idea of social rehabilitation, which should provide real help to thousands of people struggling with the syndrome of social maladjustment.

New social rehabilitation pedagogue

There is no doubt that the change aimed at improving the condition of Polish social rehabilitation of minors should begin with the introduction of a new model of educating social rehabilitation pedagogues. For this purpose, a national commission should be established at the general academic level, whose

task would be to bring about the unification of substantive and organizational formula of educating social rehabilitation pedagogues at universities and other Polish institutions of higher education. An important basis and foundation for the education of social rehabilitation pedagogues should be: knowledge, competences and psychopedagogical skills that will ensure that the future educator will be both a pedagogue and an educator in a particular institution as well as an expert in the non-institutional environment. Examinations for pedagogical studies in the field of social rehabilitation pedagogy should also be reinstated, so that in the future people with a mature personality profile and high intellectual capacity would enter the profession. The profession of a social rehabilitation pedagogue is also a mission, and therefore the course of studies should include formative content and activities in this area.

The new facility as an educational environment

One of the reasons for the poor condition of Polish social rehabilitation is the basis of the organization of upbringing and educational work in institutions, which is based on a very outdated model of educational supervision. A far more modern and substantively better solution is the model of blocks of integrated social rehabilitation work. Instead of being assigned to educational groups, charges may be assigned to designated forms of interaction. At each level of social rehabilitation work, educators could change the profile and scope of their work with charges, guided by their developmental potentials. In addition to its educational function, the institution should have a preventive and socializing function in an open environment, supporting, among others, the educational work of schools. Perhaps a facility council consisting of outside experts should be established for this purpose. Social rehabilitation facilities serve an important, systemic social, care and upbringing, as well as socialization function. Most of them are closed facilities and their activities are based on outdated concepts and working methods. It is necessary to develop their modernized substantive and organizational concept, based on contemporary theories of education, upbringing, social rehabilitation, revalidation and therapy.

Commission for the Social Rehabilitation System

The creation of an apolitical Commission for the Social Rehabilitation System consisting of experts who are not politicians should currently be a priority to improve the state of Polish social rehabilitation. The Commission's task would be to prepare assumptions for a thorough reconstruction of the Polish system

of social prevention and social rehabilitation on the basis of the latest concepts and scientific research results. Otherwise, the Polish social rehabilitation of minors will continue to plunge into the chaos of changes with political overtones and will erode due to the lowering of the level of education of social rehabilitation pedagogues.

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