

Prevention of Drug Addiction at Primary and Secondary Schools in the Slovak Republic

Abstract:

In this paper we analyse possibilities of drug prevention at primary and secondary schools. At the same time, we present some selected results of the research implemented with the coordinators of drug prevention and the pupils of primary and secondary schools in all the regions of Slovakia.

Key words: *drug prevention, primary and secondary schools, children and youth, prevention coordinator, social pedagogue, pupils' interest activities, projects of prevention work.*

At present, taking drugs and the origination of drug addiction represent one of the most serious socio-pathological phenomena of children and youth. P. Ondrejko (1999), J. Hroncová (2007) and I. Emmerová (2008) emphasise that with respect to the fight against drug addiction, it is necessary to transfer the core of society's activities into prevention. The national program of drug prevention specifies a national strategy of drug prevention, and it states that with respect to the effect of influence, currently and in perspective, the most important sphere is prevention at all its levels. At present, the need for the professionalisation of prevention processes is accentuated, which is pointed out by several Slovak and European reports as, for example, the National Program on Fight against Drugs for the years 2004–2008, the Strategy of Criminality Prevention in the Slovak Republic for the years 2007–2010, the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005–2008 and the EU Drugs Strategy 2005–2012. Within the framework of their priorities, they emphasise family, school environment as well as other organisations and institutions that contribute to the prevention of all socio-pathological phenomena. P. Ondrejko