

The Social Need for Cohabitation Relationships. Sociological Approach

Abstract

The paper presents a selected aspect of the sociological empirical research on cohabitation relationships, conducted among the students of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. It has been indicated that the students' major (field) as well as the frequency of their participation, or its lack, in religious practices are significant independent variables differentiating students' attitudes towards this social phenomenon.

Key words: *cohabitation relationship, family, marriage.*

Introduction

Not until the last few years did the phenomenon of cohabitation arouse the interest of Polish social sciences researchers (A. Kwak 2005, K. Slany 2006). It has a different dimension than in other countries due to the fact that Polish family life has been shaped by different cultural heritage. Cohabitation ,which was and still is referred to as 'konkubinat', existed in Poland in earlier times. There was something shameful about being in such a relationship and this fact often remained concealed. Nowadays, however, cohabitation is gaining a new meaning. An increasing number of non-marital relationships has been observed, accompanied by tacit consent if not total acceptance. It is not the moral aspect of cohabitation that is being evaluated but its interrelations with other factors of family life such as divorce, fertility, marriage. Attention is drawn to the economic and social background of these changes (A. Kwak 2005, p.11).