

Suicides and Attempted Suicides of Children and Adolescents in the Slovak Republic and Possibilities of Their Prevention

Abstract

The study analyses the rate of suicides committed by children and adolescents in the Slovak Republic. It elucidates statistical data about reported suicides and attempted suicides of children and adolescents over the years 2005–2010. Special attention is paid to possibilities of prevention. The paper is one of preliminary outputs of the project VEGA No. 1/0168/12 Professionalizing Prevention of Social and Pathological Phenomena in the School Environment in the Slovak Republic from the aspect of the social pedagogue profession - present situation, problems and comparison with foreign countries.

Key words: suicide, attempted suicide, causes and motives of suicides by children and adolescents, prevention.

Suicide is classified as a social and pathological phenomenon. Suicide means deliberately killing oneself. It is a violent conduct with the intention of ending one's own life. Suicides may be completed as well as attempted. They occur not only in the adult population, but also among children and adolescents. They are a serious educational problem not paid appropriate attention to in terms of prevention.

P. Ondrejko (2000, pp. 172–173) mentions several types of suicide:

1. **Demonstrative** – they are typical of women and young people, they are coercive in character. In their background there is an endeavour to reach a certain goal or a distress call. The person is not fully determined to die; he/she wishes to be found.