

Importance of the Institution of Marriage for Polish and Slovak Students

Abstract

The article presents a selected aspect of broader sociological empirical research into the issues of family and the phenomenon of cohabitation conducted among the students of the University of Constantine the Philosopher in the Republic of Slovakia and of the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland. The presented analysis of the survey research results focuses on the determination of the importance of the institution of marriage for the youth belonging to academic environment. The results of the research have proven that in spite of the increasing level of liberalisation of marriage and family life a large percentage of students both from Poland and Slovakia perceived marriage as a valuable institution of high importance to the questioned individuals.

Keywords: family, marriage, cohabitation.

Introduction

Family constitutes one of the basic social institutions in all societies and, as was rightfully stated by E. Durkheim, it is an institution within which individuals feel socially integrated and that is crucial for the welfare both of the family itself and of society (cf., B. Powell, C. Bolzendahl, C. Geist, L.C. Steelman, 2010, p.1). Moreover, as stated by W. Świątkiewicz (W. Świątkiewicz, 1998, p. 10) family also constitutes “the smallest and simultaneously the most important particle of social life”. Throughout centuries it has been assumed that families are responsible for the production, distribution and consumption of goods and also for the reproduction