Family problems of today

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Zuzana Budayová

FAMILY PROBLEMS OF TODAY



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INTRODUCTION

The scientific monograph entitled "Family problems of today" identifies basic views on the functioning of the family as a whole, but also the family as an institution that has an irreplaceable position for the proper development of a child.

The family is a place that is constantly and dynamically changing. A family can be identified as a small or large social group, which is made up of parents, spouses, children and other blood or bloodless relatives. Behavioral patterns are created in the family, each member of the family fulfills and has his or her role as well as social role, he / she has his / her roles and functions.

Marriage is closely linked to the family. It is a legal, but also a social institution, which is defined by legislation. In marriage, two individuals meet who share common interests, hobbies, and with the arrival of children, this focus shifts to them.

However, family and marriage are threatened by various pathological phenomena that can come from the external as well as the internal environment of the family. It is at such moments that the family and marriage need all their strength to solve these problems, particularly through good and organized relationships. Problems in the family or in marriage can disrupt the relationship to such an extent that the stability of the marital relationship is irreversibly disturbed and so one of the partners begins to think about divorce.

Divorce is not only a legal act, but also an irreversible step that will mark all family members not only in the present and in the experience of divorce proceedings, but also in the future. Discomfort occurs and this can manifest itself in the adult age of children who have survived their parents' divorce.

In this scientific monograph, field research to reveal not only the opinions and attitudes of respondents to marriage and divorce, but also to the causes of divorce, the impact of divorce on the further development of the child and last but not least, the needs and problems of divorced women and men, has been conducted.

In the scientific monograph we used literary-descriptive, but also

analytical, deductive, inductive and comparative method, the method of empirical research by the questionnaire method and the empirical part was evaluated by the Pearson's chi square.

The scientific monograph is the output of the NKS Gr. 10.12.19 entitled Religio et Societas V., which was implemented in 2020.

The scientific monograph is designed for academic purposes, but also for the general professional public, which is interested in any information on the issue.

Based on studies and data from the Statistical Office, it may be argued that the number of divorces has been declining in the last two years. However, the growing number of couples of young people who form a family with or without a child, and who do not consider marriage to be a necessary institution in their lives, has increased.

It is therefore good, and from the point of view of the upbringing of children, it is necessary to pay attention to the fact that family, marriage and the upbringing of children is not only a common, but mainly an individual good.

PhDr. Mgr. Zuzana Budayová, PhD. author

1 FAMILY - THE PRIMARY PLACE OF SOCIALIZATION

"Marriage and family make up one of the most valuable treasures of humanity"

Every child is born into a family that can take several forms. The family is the primary subject not only of its development and evolution but also of its origin. In the context of interpersonal relationships, a person is born but also dies. The pilgrimage of life begins, but also ends. In the family, the child develops not only physically and mentally, but also morally and spiritually. In the family, he comes into contact with many problem situations, which are constantly solved and created in the dynamic process of life. The family is of irreplaceable importance for the development and life of man. It creates individual, but also group needs, interests, the family provides a background, which consists not only of material resources for life, but especially people who are in connected families. The family is a constantly dynamically evolving group of people who strive for a basic goal - harmony, soul maturity, love, understanding, security, and especially satisfaction and finding peace in the fast-paced, dynamic, consumer society. Every family has its roots in the past, it exists in the present in real time and space, but its individuals together with it are heading for the future. The current family has a history. It gradually became isolated as a "private" space in which family members became increasingly interested in being together, sharing a certain intimacy, and becoming more sensitive to the quality of their relationships. The gradual separation of public and private space is expanding hand in hand with the growing importance of emotions in the regulation of intra-family relations.2

The origin of the word family in Indo-European languages points to its economic basis. For centuries, family relationships have referred almost exclusively to property and authority, not

¹ JÁN PAVOL II. Familiaris Consortio. [online]. [cit. 2020-07-21]. Available at: https://www.kbs.sk/obsah/sekcia/h/dokumenty-a-vyhlasenia/p/dokumenty-papezov/c/familiaris-consortio.

² Cf. DE SINGLY, F. Sociologie současné rodiny. Praha: Portál, 1999. p. 11.

to love. The ancient Greeks used the word oikop for the family. However, the word also referred to property as well as housing. In modern languages, the word economics has evolved from it. The first economy that our culture knew was the family economy, because property was produced and consumed in families. Latin then introduced the word "familia", which adopted Germanic and Roman languages as a designation for the family (German die Familie, English the Family, French l'famille …). However, the Romans did not use the word to describe blood relations, but also for all household property - fields, houses, money and slaves. Famulus means servant in Latin, the plebeian form of the relationship in ancient Rome was that a man bought a woman and she was legally recognized as his property - it was his familia, his property.³

In the Late Stone Age, a man of today's type appears. It is certain that this man lived in groups and that they were blood-related groups. People at this time subsisted on hunting and gathering. It is assumed that the division of labor was by gender, hunting was the domain of men and women harvested various crops.⁴

We can already talk about the family at this time, even though it was not yet a family of today's type. In the 8th and 7th centuries BC, Greek society was divided according to broad genders. The genus, Gr. genos, formed a set of families whose men derived their origin from a common ancestor whom they worshiped and used his name.⁵ Greek society forced men to start families. Men did not marry out of love, but to provide a male offspring to maintain the family cult. The position of women in the family was inferior to their task was to take care of the household.⁶ In the Middle Ages, the family is an institution without which the individual would find it difficult to exist. Without belonging to a feudal lord and to a family, no one had a place in society. The Middle Ages were a period

³ Cf. MOŽNÝ, I. Rodina a společnost. Praha: Slon, 2008. p. 176.

⁴ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. *Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť*. 3rd iss. Praha, SLON 2003. p. 23.

⁵ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť. p. 25.

⁶ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť. p. 26.

of coexistence of wider families. Apprentices and companions also lived together with the family. It is believed that during this period, especially in the villages, they were all relatives, which determined their relations and also strengthened their mutual solidarity. The turn of the 19th and 20th centuries is a period of industrialization, and women also began to work in industry during this period. Industrialization has triggered greater social mobility. §

This not only changes the appearance of the family, which had a patriarchal appearance in terms of meeting ones needs⁹, but also the position of individual family members. Since women were also involved in the work process (not only the father is the breadwinner of the family), they contributed financially to the running of the family, the course of the daily life cycle of the family, is naturally changing.

However, the increase in urbanization meant that the city was not prepared for a sharp increase in population, and so the culture of family life was at a very low to alarming level. Families have narrowed from multi-generational to nuclear, but although their relationships with the wider family and community have weakened, they have become stronger within the family. In addition, with the weakening of the overall collective feeling of society, families closed in on each other and increasingly protected their privacy. The family is often characterized as a natural group made up of two adults of the opposite sex and the children they fathered. However, this definition is not exhaustive as it does not include other possible constellations, e.g. single-parent families, families

⁷ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť. p. 31.

⁸ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť. p. 34.

⁹ Author's note: the type of traditional family in which the father has the highest authority among all family members. The concept is derived from the hierarchical position of family members and the quality of relationships between them. However, the name describes a form of family that does not necessarily indicate the quality of relationships between individual members. The position of the father was related to the way inheriting property in the male line, in practice it lasted until the 20th century. Inheritance also affected the **principle of seniority**, the superiority of the elderly over the younger ones. 10 PARTON, N. *Safeguarding childhood: early intervention and surveillance in a late modern society.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2006. p. 9.

with adopted or otherwise entrusted children, participation of divorced spouses in the upbringing of children, etc."¹¹

However, it is also necessary to be aware of changes in the perception of the family, which relate to registered partnerships, marriages and adoptions of children by same-sex couples. In many countries of the world, these opportunities for marriage, adoption of a child and thus the creation of a family for gay couples are possible and supported by the constitutional courts of the country in question. In some countries of the world, laws have been passed that encourage marriage and the adoption of a child by homosexual couples.¹²

Despite political pressure for legislative "equality of all family forms", from the point of view of both the child and the adult, the ideal for life is a complete family, based on marriage.¹³

1.1 Historical view of marriage and family

According to T. Keller, various forms of marriage have emerged throughout history. They were based either on the principle of polygamy, which allows a man to unite with several women at once, or on the closer principle of monogamy, which limits marriage to one partner. While in prehistoric times women were ruled in tribes and the choice of partners was often characterized by incest, marriage in ancient Greece and Rome was characterized by a strong influence of man not only in marriage

¹¹ LABÁTH, V. et al. Riziková mládež. Praha: Slon. 2001. p. 95.

¹² Author's note: The Netherlands was the first country in the world to allow gay marriage, including adoption, in 2001. This was followed by Belgium (2003), and in 2005 Spain joined as EU's third country. This was followed in 2009 by Norway, Sweden and Portugal (2010), but without the possibility of adoption. Iceland, which is not a member of the EU, joined in 2011, in the Czech Republic (2016) with the right to adopt children, Austria (2015) with the right to adopt children, Luxembourg (2015) with the right to adopt children, Germany (2017) with the adoption of children, and others. On other continents, same-sex people can marry and adopt children in Canada (since 2005), the Republic of South Africa (since 2006), Argentina (since 2010), and in the United States in nine out of its 50 states.

¹³ Cf. MIKLOŠKO, J., ŽARNAY, Š. Ohrozená rodina na Slovensku, p. 67.

but also in the family, i. patriarchy.14

"Marriage in ancient Rome was legally understood as a permanent and complete communion of the life of a man and a woman, the purpose of which is to produce legitimate children. The legitimacy of children with civil rights and the emergence of paternal power applied only to marriages concluded between persons who had Roman civil law."¹⁵

In Judaism, a woman was the property of a man, and he had the right to have an unlimited number of women. It only depended on his ability to feed the household. The man chose other women for his sexual gratification from among his slaves, who often became the mothers of his children if his "chief" wife could not give them to him. While men entered into marriage between the ages of 18 and 24, women often wore only 15 years old. His father's wife was chosen by his father from among the Jewish women, while the interest of future husbands was not taken into account. The bride's family demanded some compensation from the future groom, e.g. cattle, slaves, etc., because they lost labor due to extradition. Great emphasis was placed on loyalty, but only on the part of women. A man could maintain sexual intercourse with other women, including buckwheat, but only if they were not the wives of other Jews. Infidelity on the part of his wife was punishable by death.¹⁶ In Christianity, any valid marriage between two baptized is considered a sacrament. "The relationship in marriage also includes a relationship with God as its foundation and purpose, and marriage is considered a way of bringing Jesus and the church into the world. This sacrament is administered to each other directly by the couple, the priest acting only as a required witness of the ecclesiastical act. The basis of a marriage contract is therefore the marriage vows of the spouses. Unless there are marital obstacles, marriage can be accepted by all the baptized. Natural marriage,

¹⁴ Cf. KELLER, T. $Man{\check{\it z}elstvo}$. Bratislava : Slovenské evanjelizačné stredisko, 2013. p. 13.

¹⁵ LIBRI, T. *History of marriage*. London: Encounter Books, 2001. p. 26. 16 Cf. HALLMAN, L. a kol. *Exploring Europe's basic values map. In The cultu-*

ral diversity of European unity. Leiden: Brill, 2003. pp. 24-26.

in contrast to sacramental marriage, is a marriage between two unbaptized people. The effect of marriage is a marriage, which is exclusive in nature and concludes for life, so that a validly concluded and completed marriage ends only with the death of one of the spouses."¹⁷

The 2nd Vatican Council became a turning point in the understanding of marriage, which tried to detach itself from the legal view of marriage and highlighted as the main goal of marriage the mutual love of spouses in addition to childbirth.¹⁸

It follows that in both Judaism and Christianity, marriage is traditionally a necessary precondition for sexual intercourse. Sexual relationships before marriage are not encouraged because they are considered fornication.

At present, the topics of family and marriage are the subject of much debate, also in the light of the recent referendum. The family referendum initiated by the Alliance for the Family was invalid, as turnout was only 21,41%. One of the possible explanations is the statement that the form of social relations in the area of Western civilization today is determined mainly by relativism¹⁹, under the influence of which marriage is no longer perceived as an absolute value. There is talk of a crisis of family and marriage, which is manifested by an increased rate of divorce. People enter into marriages with the conviction that if they do not succeed in marriage, they can divorce and enter into a new union. This is not the case in Slovakia either, as evidenced by the fact that almost half of the marriages divorce.

1.2 Marriage and family status

The word marriage has its origins in the Latin "matrimonium" and means the protection of the mother. On the other hand, the

¹⁷ KRESŤANSKĚ CHÁPANIE MANŽELSTVA. [online]. [cit. 2020-01-13]. Available at: http://dechtice.fara.sk/krestanske-chapanie-manzelstva >

¹⁸ Cf. EKH, R. a kol. *O vzťahoch, manželstve a výchove detí*. Bratislava : Slovo života international, 2013. p. 16.

¹⁹ Cf. POLAČKO, J. Kresťanská kultúra ako základ fungujúceho ekumenizmu. In *Súčasné trendy a výzvy v katolíckej teológii a religionistike 4*. Prešov: GTF PU v Prešove, 2019. p.138.

institution of marriage is much older than Latin, because it is already mentioned in the Bible, according to which Adam and Eve were married.²⁰

- I. Plaňava defines the conceptual features of marriage:
- union of a man and a woman this characteristic distinguishes marriage from other partnerships, e.g. from registered same-sex partnerships,
- a monogamous relationship (ie a relationship between one woman and one man), which is protected by criminal law,
- equal relationship spouses are equal in rights and obligations not only to each other, but also to third parties,
- permanent relationship the legislation does not allow for the conclusion of a marriage for an agreed time, the permanence of the marriage is interrupted by natural extinction (death of one of the spouses or his declaration as dead) or unnatural extinction (divorce).²¹

From a sociological point of view, marriage is "a socially recognized, legalized sexual relationship between partners of the opposite sex, which is sooner or later to become the basis of the family. Marriage is an institution whose main purpose is to ensure human reproduction."²²

Although the individual definitions agree on the sign of the permanence of marriage, we agree with M. Košč, who claims that the divorce rate of more than 40% in Slovakia raises the dilemma of whether marriage can be considered a permanent union of men and women and the traditional understanding of marriage. did not get into a crisis.²³ In our opinion, the modern way of life,

²⁰ Cf. SEDLÁKOVÁ, M. Manželstvo v civilnom a kánonickom práve. In *Manželstvo dnes. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok: Verbum, 2009. p. 42

²¹ Cf. PLAŇAVA, I. Manželství a rodina. Brno: Doplněk, 2000. p. 18.

²² SEDLÁKOVÁ, M. Manželstvo v civilnom a kánonickom práve. In *Manželstvo dnes. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. p. 42.

²³ Cf. KOŠČ, M. Rozlučiteľnosť vp. nerozlučiteľnosť. manželstva ako sociálny problém. In *Manželstvo dnes. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok: Verbum, 2009. pp. 23-33.

based on consumption, makes a significant contribution to these claims. If a crisis arises in a marriage, instead of overcoming it and consolidating the bond, marriages end and new ones emerge.

The previous definitions clearly speak of marriage as a union of a man and a woman. J. Sopóci and B. Búzik bring into their definition the possibility of concluding a marriage between persons, without defining their gender or number. The authors state that "marriage is a socially recognized and usually formally closed union of two or more persons, which forms the preconditions for the emergence of a nuclear or extended family and from which spouses derive many social rights and obligations. Every society regulates marriage with many social norms, patterns, regulations, etc."²⁴

In modern societies, the only legitimate reason for marriage is considered to be the love of the partners and their free will to enter into marriage. Conversely, traditional societies are characterized by marriages arranged by parents or other relatives.

In our quantitative field research, we also asked a question that aimed to determine the attitudes of respondents to marriage as a union of women and men.

The statements of the respondents responded to the research sub-objective no. 1: Find out the respondents' attitudes towards marriage as a union of a woman and a man.

Table 1 Respondents' attitudes towards marriage as a union of a woman and a man.

	n	%
Positive	304	91,6
Negative	28	8,4
Together	332	100

In the closed question, we found that 304 respondents have a positive attitude towards marriage (which makes up 91,6 percent of the total number of respondents), and only 28 respondents have a negative attitude (which makes up more than 8,4 percent of the

²⁴ SOPÓCI, J., BÚZIK, B. Základy sociológie. Bratislava: SPN, 2006. p. 47.

total number of respondents).

In the following table 2, we divide these attitudes based on the age of the respondents.

Table 2 Respondents' attitudes towards marriage as a union of a woman and a man - distribution based on the age of the respondents

	25-35	36-45	46-55	56 - more	Together
Positive	34	50	73	51	304 / 91,6%
Rather positive	29	28	26	13	
Negative	9	6	5	4	00 /
Rather negative	4	0	0	0	28 / 8,4%
Together	76	84	104	68	332

Based on the distribution of respondents on the basis of age and the survey of attitudes towards marriage as a union of women and men, we can say that in the younger age category from 25 years to 45 years 141 respondents (which makes up 42,5 percent of the total number of respondents) have a positive attitude, 19 respondents from this age group have a negative attitude (5,7 percent of the total number of respondents).

In the older age category from 46 years and more, we can confirm a positive attitude towards marriage in 163 respondents (which is 49,1 percent), 9 respondents had a negative attitude (which is 2,7 percent of the total number of respondents).

Null hypothesis 1: There is no statistically significant relationship between the age of the respondent and his opinion on a positive attitude towards marriage in terms of further education of children in marriage

Hypothesis 1: There is a statistically significant relationship between the age of the respondent and his opinion on a positive attitude towards marriage in terms of further education of children in marriage

Chi square (square) = 28,970 P- value 0.024 <----

We do not confirm the null hypothesis. We can say that at the level of signification 0,75 it is true that there is a statistically significant relationship between the age of the respondent and his opinion on the adequacy of the network of social services for the homeless in Košice. Based on the p value p = 0.024 < ----, we found out with what probability the null hypothesis was not confirmed. Level 16 probability 95%

At present, we encounter different attitudes towards marriage and the family, there are specific groups that consider marriage only as a formal union, today the number of families in which partners live in cohabitations and children outside the marriage are born is increasing.²⁵

Based on the above definitions, we can state that marriage is a socially recognized and legally regulated form of cohabitation of people, in the conditions of Slovakia exclusively men and women. The concept of family is closely related to the concept of marriage, because, as J. Drexler states, the family is an extension of marriage. Marriage and the family are "the most important of all institutions in society. They are of great importance not only because they satisfy the most basic needs of the individual, but also because, thanks to these institutions, the whole society can exist and function well."

The family is studied from several aspects, which is conditioned by the fact that the family is involved in many scientific disciplines,

²⁵ CINTULOVÁ, L., BUNDZELOVÁ, K., PAVLOVIČOVÁ, A. Pohľad ľudí so zdravotným postihnutím na manželstvo. Zborník vedeckých prác: Zdravotné postihnutie a chronické ochorenia v multidisciplinárnom pohľade. Trnava, Bratislava: Trnavská univerzita v Trnave, FZASP © Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Lekárska fakulta, 2016.

²⁶ Cf. DREXLEROVÁ, J. Sociálno-ekonomické problémy súčasnej rodiny. In HARDY, M., DUDÁŠOVÁ, T., VRANKOVÁ, E., HRAŠKOVÁ, A. 2011. *Sociálna patológia rodiny. Zborník z medzinárodnej vedeckej konferencie*. Bratislava: VŠZaSP sv. Alžbety. p 74.

²⁷ SOBOTKOVÁ, I. *Psychológia rodiny*. Praha: Portál, 2007. p. 51.

so the literature offers psychological, sociological and other definitions of the term. We agree with the definition of the author Z. Benkő, who sees the family as a pleasant refuge in storms of everyday existence, offers patterns that need to be followed. As the author further states, several independent researches have confirmed that this is a significant increase in the importance of the family as a socialization factor, and thus development has a positive impact on the young generation, because socialization processes are built into the daily life of the family and similarly the family in relation to society and transmits socio-cultural values created by extraordinary personalities.²⁸ In that regard, P. Sak adds that what is true of the individual family and child' relationship also applies to the whole of society. The quality of the family is reflected in the quality of society and its development.²⁹ According to the Family Act, a family established by marriage is considered to be the basis of our society.30 However, we believe that marriage is not a condition or guarantee of the formation of a family, as evidenced by the fact that more and more children are born out of wedlock, when people prefer the so-called. cohabitation. i.e. cohabitation without marriage. This form of cohabitation, like the family based on marriage, is able to perform all the functions of the family just as effectively.

In practice, however, marriage and the family often break up, so unresolved problems often result in divorce.

1.3 Typology and functions of the family

In our current legislative understanding of the family, we must keep in mind that it is firmly linked to the concept of marriage. We can characterize marriage as a historically used, institutionally and religiously closed kind of cooperation of two people, who will pass on the common norms and values of

²⁸ Cf. BENKÖ Z. *Tradition and modernity in the life-style of the families of the visegrad countriep.* Szeged: Visegrad fund, 2007. p. 91.

²⁹ Cf. SAK P. Rodina a žena: Príčina a dôsledok spoločenskej zmeny. In ON-DREJKOVIČ, P. a kol. 2006. *Rodina v novom miléniu*. Nitra: UKF, 2006. p. 47. 30 Cf. Zákon č. 36/2005 Z. z. o rodine v znení neskorších predpisov, Čl. 2.

themselves and the whole society by raising their children. We can say that even from a historical point of view, we do not know a better functioning community of people or an institution that would serve for education, but also the best possible development of the child.

Every marriage, and therefore also the family as a whole, changes and develops dynamically over time and through socio-cultural changes. Marriage can be understood differently by generations of people, but we can still consider it the only currently existing form of institutionalization of a couple's relationship between two people.

"A family founded by marriage is the basic cell of society. Society comprehensively protects all forms of the family."³¹ "Its importance from the point of view of the individual and the whole, ie society, changes in individual historical periods, to which the overall development of society contributes to a large extent. The internal transformations of the family also correspond to these changes, which are mainly reflected in the position of individual family members."³²

J. Mikloško and Š. Zarnay states that "the family is

formed by the free decision of a man and a woman to marry. As an institution, it has the same status in terms of uniqueness and rights as the state, the church or civil society institutions".³³ The family is the first and quite binding model of society that the child encounters. It shapes his personal development and attitude towards all other groups. The family tries to shape the child according to their value scheme, according to their own tradition.³⁴ The family is an important and specific factor in socialization,

giving the child the first and very strong experience for the rest of his life. It shows the child how to behave towards each other, how

p. 10.

³¹ Zákon č. 36/2005 Z. z. o rodine a o zmene a doplnení ďalších zákonov, čl. 2. 32 LEVICKÁ, J. *Sociálna práca s rodinou*. Trnava : Mosty, n.f a FZSP TU, 2004. p. 1.

³³ MIKLOŠKO, J., ŽARNAY, Š. *Ohrozená rodina na Slovensku*. Bratislava : Spoločnosť priateľov detí z detských domovov Úsmev ako dar, 2008. p. 64. 34 Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. *Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť*. Praha : Slon. 1993.

to work together and help each other, how to react when something goes wrong. The child follows the opinions, attitudes and values of the mother and father and thus learns what is the role of a man and what is a woman. The family is a basic model of social interaction and communication in a small social group. It integrates the child into a certain way of life, learns social requirements and norms. The family and its emotional background are irreplaceable for the child's development. Positive and warm emotional relationships in the family facilitate the creation of a positive relationship with people in general.³⁵

We can divide the family according to different types, criteria, based on the size and number of family members, (but also generational division), based on relationships that govern not only between parents but also their children, based on the performance of individual family functions.

The basic typology of families is the division of families into complete and incomplete families. A complete family is one in which both parents and at least one child live. We are talking about a two-generation family where parents and children live. According to coexistence members, we can further divide the family into:

- harmonious family here all the needs of family members are satisfied,
- a consolidated family it satisfies all basic needs and there are no disagreements in raising children,
- a disharmonious family / disturbed, unstable, disrupted / there is a conflict in it, there is a tense atmosphere, there is a feeling of disinterest and cruel treatment of children even between partners,
- a supplemented family in it, after the divorce, one of the parents enters into a new marriage with their children, into which the new partner brings a child from the previous marriage resp. they have a child together. This is the most complicated type of relationship

³⁵ GILLERNOVÁ, I., BURIÁNEK, J. Základy psychologie, sociologie. 3 vyd. Olomouc, FORTUNA, 2001. p. 71. GILLERNOVÁ, I., BURIÁNEK, J. Základy psychologie, sociologie. 3. vyd. Olomouc: FORTUNA 2001. p. 91.

that can bring problems like "my children", "our children".³⁶

A single-parent family is defined as one in which one parent lives with the child,

or more children. One of the parents, most often the mother, has to perform the function for both parents. The requirements that are placed on one parent are very demanding. The formation of a single-parent family may be due to:

- death of one of the parents,
- divorce,
- departure of one of the partners (eg imprisonment, decision not to continue living with the family),
- a woman's decision to remain a single mother.³⁷

Working with the family presupposes understanding it in the first place. This understanding is not possible without further knowledge. One of the basic factors influencing the family is its cultural and ethnic background. In the territory of Slovakia. There are three different types of families, namely:

- Slovak family,
- Roma family,
- refugee family.38

For the proper development of the child in the family, it is important that the family functions properly and fulfills its functions. It is not always possible. There are more than just healthy, problem-free families.

The authors state the division of families according to their functionality into the following:

functional families - these are de facto families not affected by problems. These families properly take care of the child's life and well-being,

problem families - these are families in which there are

³⁶ Cf. BAKOŠOVÁ, Z., LUBELCOVÁ, G., POTOČÁROVÁ, M. *Sociálna pedagogika*. 1. vyd. Bratislava, SPN – Mladé letá, s.r.o., Bratislava 2005. pp. 32 – 33.

³⁷ Cf. BAKOŠOVÁ, Z., LUBELCOVÁ, G., POTOČÁROVÁ, M. Sociálna pedagogika. 1. vyd. Bratislava, SPN – Mladé letá, s.r.o., Bratislava 2005. p. 33. 38 Cf. LEVICKÁ, J. Sociálna práca s rodinou, p. 46.

disorders of some or all functions. However, these disorders do not fundamentally endanger the child's family system and development. Despite these "handicaps", the family is able to solve and compensate for its problems both by its own efforts and by occasional external intervention, whether one-time or short-term, dysfunctional families - are families with serious disorders that directly threaten the family as a whole. Disorders of this nature are no longer able to manage the family on their own, and therefore it is necessary to help the family from the outside,

dysfunctional families - are families that completely cease to perform their function and seriously harm the child or endanger him or her in existence. Support for vulnerable families (remediation) is pointless and unnecessary in this regard. The only solution is to take the child into alternative family care.³⁹

The term functional family is preferred to normal family, harmonious family, healthy family and non-clinical family. With all these titles, theorists try to name the type of families that form an indispensable pole of thought for both researchers and practitioners dedicated to families. The designation non-clinical family can also be considered acceptable, clinical families are defined by the presence of a disorder. It is necessary to focus on the main functions of the family, which are the upbringing of children (in the first place), then satisfying the needs of adult family members.⁴⁰

The family performs the following six main functions:

Biological-reproductive function

This function is presented by experts in two forms, the physiological form is based on the fact that in the family most people saturate their basic physiological needs for life (housing, clothing, food, etc.), the reproductive form presents a procreative form of sexuality that ensures the reproduction of the human race. mostly in family

³⁹ Cf. HRUBEŠ, J. *Práce s rodinami v sociálně vyloučených lokalitách. Metodika*. Praha : Agentúra prosociální začleňovaní, 2014. p. 16.

⁴⁰ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť, p. 117.

conditions (currently it is no longer exclusively the domain of the family).⁴¹

"The family creates optimal conditions for ensuring reproduction, ie for the biological duration of society. In a healthy family, the optimal environment is not only for the emergence of a new life, but also for the necessary care needed to sustain this life."⁴²

Economic function

Each family represents a certain economic and consumption unit, which has its own income and expenses. A well-functioning family plans to use their finances in accordance with their needs and possibilities, distributes money according to certain priorities.⁴³ "Above all, the family needs to economically secure the basic living needs of its individual members, which seriously affects the development or stagnation of the market. The vast majority of Slovak families have to manage their economic resources very sensibly in order to meet the needs of their members. Part of the economic function of the family is also to build the right economic thinking in children and young people."⁴⁴

Educational and social function of the family

"The educational function is one of the decisive functions in terms of socialization." 45

"The family is the first group that the child comes into contact with. Within it, the child gradually learns the basics of communication, hygiene, behavior in society, etc., through contact with other family members, the child receives a variety of information, which must gradually process. In the family, the child learns in an appropriate way to get to know and understand individual social roles, to understand economic, social, cultural, religious, moral, social and other relationships in society and their importance

⁴¹ GABURA, J. Te'oria rodiny a proces práce s rodinou. Bratislava : IRIS, 2012. p. 78.

⁴² LEVICKÁ, J. Sociálna práca s rodinou, p. 2.

⁴³ GABURA, J. Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou, p. 79.

⁴⁴ LEVICKÁ, J. Sociálna práca s rodinou, p. 2.

⁴⁵ VIŠŇOVSKÝ, Ľ. Teória výchovy. Banská Bystrica: UMB, 2002. p. 99.

for the individual and the whole. In the family, the child learns to understand the importance of generational relationships, a suitable way of communicating with parents and grandparents, which he later applies in communication with other members. At the same time, they learn to understand themselves, their needs and to be able to promote their own interests in a suitable way."⁴⁶

Emotional and psychohygienic function

"The family represents a person's basal emotional environment, which is difficult for him to replace. In the family, they learn to accept and give emotions. For a person, a well-functioning family represents an island of safety, security, positive feelings and relationships, and creates a background for the mental stability of its members. Especially in the alienated external world, a functional family creates a positive emotional background."⁴⁷

"From the child's point of view, it is the emotional function that is the most important and irreplaceable function of the family. Above all, a child needs a stable and loving environment for his healthy development. Positive emotional relationships in the family are a prerequisite for the development of the emotional side of the child's personality. Loving parents and siblings also provide each other with the necessary care, which affects their mental and physical health. Insufficient performance of this function leads to deformities in the child's psychosocial development, which is manifested by emotional deprivation, frustration, behavioral disorders and even delinquency. Social work then pays attention to issues such as truancy, aggression, domestic violence, divorce, etc.."⁴⁸

Protective function of the family

"The protective function of the family presupposes that the family creates a sufficiently stable environment for the child's upbringing, that the child will not suffer due to lack of economic, material

⁴⁶ LEVICKÁ, J. Sociálna práca s rodinou, p. 3.

⁴⁷ GABURA, J. Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou, p. 78.

⁴⁸ LEVICKÁ, J. Sociálna práca s rodinou, pp. 3-4.

conditions of the family, insufficient health or hygiene care or due to unsuitable moral climate in the family. The family should provide the child with a home, ie a place that the child protects in all respects. In this context, in the practice of social work we encounter the need to protect abandoned children, neglected and abused children, children living in unsatisfactory conditions, poverty and the like. we can state that from the point of view of the individual, there was no major social group in the past."⁴⁹

According to J. Gabura, other important functions of the family include social, nursing, cultural-value, production, rest and recreation functions.

1.4 Problem families

Each family goes through different stressful situations in individual stages of life. In practice, we encounter families in which several problems have developed at the same time, which leads to a multiple-faceted burden on all family members, or a serious problem affects the family for a long time or it is a so-called a generational problem that family members pass on from generation to generation.⁵⁰

"If a family does not fulfill some of its basic functions at the level set by social norms in a given country, we say that it has family disorders."⁵¹ "The family finds itself in danger of failing in one of its functions, it becomes disharmonious, which ultimately affects all family members. Early intervention can prevent problems from deepening or even eliminating these problems. From the point of view of social work, a multi-problem family needs a support system in which, in addition to family members, other institutions and experts may be involved. The aim is to look together with the family for its own resources and motivational factors that will lead to a change in the family's behavior, a change in the attitudes of its

⁴⁹ LEVICKÁ, J. Sociálna práca s rodinou, p. 4.

⁵⁰ Cf. FILIPOVÁ, M. *Manuál sociálnej práce*. Banská Bystrica: Mesto Banská Bystrica, 2008. pp. 85-91.

⁵¹ MIKLOŠKO, J., ŽARNAY, Š. Ohrozená rodina na Slovensku, p. 65.

members as a prerequisite for the recovery of the family."52

Even some troubled families can function normally as long as their stress arising from conflict with their immediate surroundings are alleviated. Some families suffer not only from the pressure coming from the environment, but also from internal psychological tension.⁵³

A multi-problem family is one with which professionals in the helping fields often come into contact. This family has serious difficulties in several areas of its functioning, such as housing, finance, raising children, partnerships with extended family members, relations with institutions, conflicts with the law, diseases, addictions. This label does not have to be considered a stigmatizing label - it emphasizes the complex nature of the needs of such labeled families. In the current literature, they are referred to as families with special needs.⁵⁴

A multi-problem family usually already has many contacts. During the start of the cooperation, it is therefore worthwhile to find out with whom the family was in contact and how it evaluates this contact. It is advisable to avoid the risk that the family works in parallel to solve a problem with someone else. It is also good to find out what other problems the family cooperates on and with which organizations. This information will help structure and clarify intensive support. Another advantage of this mapping is the fact that it is possible to define the rules of cooperation with other organizations, mutual competencies and roles. The basic goal of providing assistance should be to be perceived by the family as a partner or ally.⁵⁵

In the internal relations of clinical families, the assessors find an atmosphere of distrust, expectation of discomfort. Behavior

⁵² BÍLASOVÁ, T. Mnohoproblémová rodina ako objekt sociálnej práce. In *Metódy sociálnej práce s rodinou*, Bratislava : Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety v Bratislave, 2012. pp. 57-58.

⁵³ Cf. HARTL, P. Komunita občanská a komunita terapeutická, Praha : Slon, 1997. p. 125.

⁵⁴ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O, PAZLAROVÁ, H. Hodnocení ohroženého dítěte a rodiny. Praha : Portál, 2010. pp. 17-18.

⁵⁵ Cf. HRUBEŠ, J. Práce s rodinami v sociálně vyloučených lokalitách, p. 12.

that is judged to be hostile is responded to in these families by violent enemy retaliation or unconditional (but often feigned) surrender. The needs and wishes of family members are accepted as unacceptable, unjustified and rejected. Sharp power struggles are common in clinical families, sometimes leading to the family being divided into two camps. In such an atmosphere, no one is tolerated of hesitation or indecision, both sides demand loyalty. Forming coalitions is considered particularly pernicious when it crosses the generation line (for example, a parent joins a child against another parent). Despite all the required adjustments, despite repeated requests and threats, the roles in clinical families remain unclear, and the division of responsibilities between family members is uncertain. If possible, everyone avoids responsibilities or someone wants to take it off, but they cannot bear it. Despite the proclaimed closeness and reciprocity, there are signs of distance, non-involvement in clinical families. In functional families, on the other hand, good for good is expected. Family members take into account and respect each other. These families are characterized by a strong coalition between parents, which no external influence can permanently threaten. There is a clear hierarchy of responsibilities in the family. The uniqueness of individuals is evaluated positively. There is a balance in the family between intimacy and the need to share.56

1.5 Dysfunctional family

"In the area of the family, the term dysfunction is used to refer to families who have an impaired ability to saturate the material, psychological and social needs of their members. If a family ceases or does not perform some important functions, if there is no balance and regulation of family functions, if the family unilaterally prefers one of the functions at the expense of others, when it sacrifices some functions important for its continuity, experts talk about a dysfunctional family. there are severe disorders of some or all of the family's functions. These directly endanger or harm the family as a whole and the child's upbringing in particular.

⁵⁶ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť, pp. 118-119.

Such a family, unlike a problem family, needs constant help from professionals.⁵⁷

Dysfunction is a reduced or impaired function, affected by human behavior with a negative consequence that negatively affects society. Another definition says that it is an unintended consequence of a certain activity.⁵⁸

"Dysfunctional families are drawn into a dangerous (vicious circle): parents who are unable or unwilling to build mutual unity and emotional and social security for their children, instead of a model of peaceful coexistence, impose on them a legacy of dysfunction for their future families."⁵⁹

We distinguish these types of dysfunctional families:

- immature family is insufficiently prepared to fulfill parental responsibilities. These are mainly young families who do not have enough life experience, enough feelings and skills to perform parental functions.
- overloaded family e.g. the birth of another child, conflicts or economic problems.
- ambitious family its success is determined by the success of children at school, parents at work, material equipment of the family. In these families, material security is at the expense of the upbringing and emotional equipment of children.
- perfectionist family requires high performance from children regardless of their assumptions and abilities.
- authoritarian family requires blind obedience, enforces drills in education, uses more punishments and often this type of education is applied by the father.
- pampering (protectionist) family wants to satisfy the child at all costs. Parents act to protect the child, Together suffers with him

⁵⁷ Cf. HANDZELOVÁ, J., ILAVSKÝ, B. Model *Togetherpráce rodiny žiaka* z marginalizovaných rómskych komunít a základnej školy. Bratislava : Metodicko-pedagogické centrum, 2013. p. 23.

⁵⁸ Cf. GABURA, J. Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou, p. 157.

⁵⁹ LENCZOVÁ, T. Akútna kontra preventívna pomoc dysfunkčným rodinám. In Mosty k rodine [online]. 2012, iss. 3, no. 1 [cit. 2020-09-09]. Available at: http://www.mostykrodine.sk/mosty5.pdf>.

and submits to him at all costs.60

Family dysfunction can be:

acute - the family does not currently manage some important functions and needs short-term help (material, financial and counseling). Acute dysfunction is a transient condition when the problem is diagnosed quickly, when the family is ready to receive professional help, and when it is willing to participate in solving their problems.

chronic - the family has often already adapted to its dysfunction and is not motivated to change. Such a family usually expects unilateral, non-binding, financial support, but is not motivated to work on their problem.⁶¹

"Children in dysfunctional families suffer emotionally and are often exposed to stressful situations, which has an adverse effect on their further development and ability to socialize in society and peer groups. In these families, an incomprehensible deafness to a state of extreme mental distress of a member was observed. There were many contradictions, misunderstandings and confusions in the communication of dysfunctional families."⁶²

The most common symptoms of family dysfunction include the following disorders: lack of funds to cover basic physiological needs, housing problems in terms of meeting quality of life standards, inability to work with financial budget, inability to prioritize spending, non-payment of rent and services, many non-performing loans, imminent decommissioning, non-involvement in finding a job, low level of creativity in finding ways to make money, dependence of one or more family members on alcohol or drugs, problems in caring for children and fulfilling parental roles, chronic truancy of children, antisocial behavior, vandalism and crime, health neglect, hygiene problems, street life, begging, partner problems, absence of positive emotions towards children,

⁶⁰ HANDZELOVÁ, J., ILAVSKÝ, B. Model spolupráce rodiny žiaka z marginalizovaných rómskych komunít a základnej školy, p. 23.

⁶¹ GABURA, J. Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou, p. 158.

⁶² FIRDA, M. Jeden krok vpred a opäť vzad (Význam prostredia rodiny a sanácia). In Mosty k rodine [online]. 2012, iss. 3, no. 1 [cit. 2020-09-09]. Available at : http://www.mostykrodine.sk/mosty5.pdf>.

divorce and post-divorce problems, gambling, untreated mental disorders and illnesses, abuse or abuse of some family members, ignorance of legal and social h laws, etc.⁶³

We can also consider the issue of liability to be a big problem. The problematic behavior of one of the family members also has a very negative effect on the others. Other members may thus suffer from various difficulties, even though they themselves do not show any signs of problematic behavior at all.⁶⁴

Of the various general risks for adolescents, such as: low self-esteem and self-confidence, chronic illness or disability, severe family poverty, uncertain prospects for the future, pregnancy and parenthood in adolescence, parental illness or disability, etc., children from dysfunctional families still have adolescence in addition, specific risks (without claim to completeness): premature and immature sexual activity, children's interest in drug experiences, the risk that future marriages and families of adolescents will be as unstable as their parents' relationships.⁶⁵

The current practice of professionals working with dysfunctional families signals that the dysfunctional family primarily expects financial assistance (in the form of social benefits and allowances) and is minimally motivated to invest in work to optimize the functioning of the family or build positive family relationships. Unilateral financial assistance can help in situations, but it certainly does not systematically solve the basic problems of the family, which become chronic with such an approach. An expert working with dysfunctional families should be able to set priorities in their work and build an action plan to work with the family on them. He should start his professional work by solving problems related to the basic physiological and social needs of the family and only then gradually focus on other problems. The professional should be fully acquainted with Maslow's pyramid of human needs

⁶³ GABURA, J. Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou, p. 159.

⁶⁴ Cf. POLAČKO, J. Rola sociálnych služieb a sociálneho poradenstva pri riešení problémov vyplývajúcich z alkoholovej závislosti. In Storoška, M., Madzinová R. (Eds.): *Zborník vedeckých prác*, p. 82.

⁶⁵ Cf. LENCZOVÁ, T. Akútna kontra preventívna pomoc dysfunkčným rodinám, pp. 22-23.

and constantly realize that if the client does not have satisfied basic needs, it will be difficult to motivate him to meet higher needs.⁶⁶ In general, the most common problem families include:

- immature family,
- family in divorce,
- a family with an unemployed member,
- a family with a member using addictive substances,
- a family with a disabled member,
- family with a sick member,
- a family neglecting, abusing and abusing their member.

Immature family

One of the basic preconditions for a harmonious marriage and an optimally functioning family is the somatic, psychological and social maturity of both partners. Immature people do not have the full capacity to form a mature relationship, so their relationship or the fulfillment of parental roles may end in failure. Signs of maturity are considered to be civic and partnership responsibility. economic independence, the ability to take on life tasks, readiness for partnership and parenthood, the ability to maintain longterm relationships, acceptance of oneself and others, tolerance and respect for others, reliability. This inventory of characters represents an almost unattainable ideal, which most people can only approach with difficulty. According to our constitution, the completion of the 18th year of life represents full civic adulthood with all civil rights, including the right to marry.⁶⁷ Maturity for marriage and parenthood is gained with respect for one's own parents. The fourth commandment of the Bible, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thou mayest live long, and prosper on the earth," shall apply to all nations and faiths. Only if one can love one's own parents, respect them in spite of all the mistakes they have made, does one become an adult and mature

⁶⁶ GABURA, J. *Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou*, pp. 160-161. 67 Cf. GABURA, J. *Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou*, pp. 131-132.

for marriage.68

"Developmental psychology perceives a person's personal maturity at the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual levels. However, many young people mistakenly believe that having an adult body is the best prerequisite for forming partnerships. Many begin to have sex at an early age."69

Table 3 Marriage of singles⁷⁰

Age	16	16	16	17	1 7	17
Year	Men	Woman	Together	Men	Woman	Together
2004-	5	42	47	11	125	136
2005-	2	33	35	12	80	92
2006-	1	32	33	19	111	130
2007-	0	55	55	25	126	151
2008-	8	67	75	20	126	146
2009-	7	69	76	28	144	172
2010-	9	25	36	89	160	249
2011-	10	69	79	24	120	144
2012-	11	22	33	93	130	223
2013-	7	74	81	44	189	233

Family in divorce

Divorce can be understood as a demographic event (mass phenomenon monitored statistically) or as a social phenomenon, which is important as an indicator of family stability and social

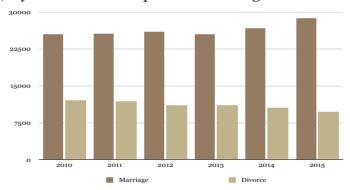
⁶⁸ BAJKAIOVÁ, Z. Škola lásky v rodine. In *Mosty k rodine*. [online]. 2012, iss. 3, no.1. [cit. 2020-11-18]. Available at:http://www.mostykrodine.sk/mosty5.pdf>.

⁶⁹ POLOŇOVÁ, J. Vplyv osobnostnej zrelosti partnerov na vznik rodiny v súčasnosti. In *Studia Aloisiana*. [online]. 2011, iss. 2, no. 1. [cit. 2020-09-15]. Available at :

http://studiaaloisiana.tftu.sk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Vplyv-osobnostnej-zrelosti-partnerov-na-vznik-rodiny-v-s%C3%BA%C4%8Dasnosti.pdf.

⁷⁰ ŠTATISTICKÝ ÚRAD. *Tabuľky sobášnosti slobodných* [online]. [2020-11-25]. Available at: https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/>.

climate in society. However, divorce cannot be perceived unilaterally as a negative social phenomenon. In some cases, divorce is a possibility of resolving a traumatic situation that harms both partners and children. It is important for professionals working with their families to know the causes of divorce. The courts cite different interests of partners, infidelity, alcohol problems, lack of interest in the child, etc. as the most common causes of divorce. The divorce phase is not only difficult for the partners, but especially for their children. Children can react to unwanted divorce in different ways. They may feel sadness and despair, denial, aggression, indifference and apathy, feel isolated, often escape illness and expect reconciliation of parents in the bed of a sick child, fail at school and socially, punish a new partner of a parent, try to renovate the parents' marriage.



Graph 1 Comparison of marriages and divorces in the Slovak Republic⁷³

⁷¹ Cf. GABURA, J. *Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou*, p. 163, 164. 72 Cf. GABURA, J. *Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou*, pp. 176-178. 73 ŠTATISTICKÝ ÚRAD. *Porovnanie sobášov a rozvodov v SR*. [online]. [2020-11-25]. Available at:

http://statdat.statistics.sk/cognosext/cgi-bin/cognos.

cgi?b_action=cognosViewer&ui.action=run&ui.

object=storeID(%22i700C5B7ABED1414B8B23B4A69E91D146%22)&ui.

name=Z%C3%A1kladn%C3%A9%20charakteristiky%20

obyvate%C4%BEstva%20(absol%C3%BAtne%20%C3%BAdaje)%20

^{%5}boooo1rs%5d&run.outputFormat=&run.prompt=true&cv.header=false&ui.backURL=%2fcognosext%2fcps4%2fportlets%2fcommon%2fclose.html&run.outputLocale=sk

A family with a substance abusive member

Substance abuse and dependence represent a significant burden on individuals and society.⁷⁴ Addiction is a condition that can arise very quickly or as a result of long-term use of certain substances, or repetition of certain activities. A typical sign of addiction is the addict's inability to control his behavior.⁷⁵

In principle, a distinction is made between physical (somatic) and mental dependence. Physical dependence refers to the development of unpleasant physical symptoms (eg, tremors, sweating, cramps, diarrhea) after stopping or abruptly reducing a regular dose of an addictive substance. Mental addiction means the desire to reestablish pleasant mental states. Physical addiction is present for several days, at most several weeks, mental addiction persists much longer.⁷⁶

"Family problems are also caused by non-substance addictions, of which gambling is the most problematic addiction. Pathological gambling endangers the family, especially financially and materially, which can result in a situation where the family not only loses all the funds necessary for survival, it can lose its roof over its head and family members can be endangered for health or life due to unpaid debts. In another way, they threaten the family and its stability of dependence on electronic media. Addicts of this type live an alternative virtual life through the media, they isolate themselves from other family members, the family creates only a formal framework for their lives."

Family with an unemployed member

Unemployment in a market economy can be characterized as an unrealized supply of labor in the labor market. It occurs when the supply of labor in the labor market exceeds the demand. The reasons can be cited by high inflation, which reduces the purchasing power of the population and thus saves people, decreases the demand for

⁷⁴ Cf. FISCHER, S., ŠKODA, J. Sociální patologie., p. 88.

⁷⁵ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O., PAZLAROVÁ, H. Podpora rodiny, p. 121.

⁷⁶ Cf. FISCHER, S., ŠKODA, J. Sociální patologie. p. 88.

⁷⁷ GABURA, J. Te'oria rodiny a proces práce s rodinou, p. 145.

products and services and thus for labor; disproportionately low remuneration for work does not allow the consumption of goods and services that are not sold and may consequently create a surplus of labor; weak salaries can be a disincentive to looking for a job compared to another solution, e.g. gray economy; inappropriate qualification and training structure of the workforce, which does not find a suitable application; structural changes caused by the disappearance of certain productions, industries or sectors.⁷⁸

"Unemployment is a serious social problem that often exceeds the possibilities for solving individuals. This means that a person wants to work, is professionally and medically capable of performing a job, but cannot find a job. Unemployment most affects people over the age of 50 adolescents (school graduates) and people without qualifications."⁷⁹

The impact of unemployment on the family is marked. The consequences of unemployment on the unemployed family are as follows: the family gets into financial difficulties, there is a crisis of the family system and disruption of daily family habits, there is a change in social relations in the family and social isolation of the family, changes in the position of the unemployed in the family system, loss of status and authority, there are changes in the division of domestic work and home care.⁸⁰

The consequences of unemployment are not only felt by those who have lost their jobs. In fact, unemployment affects far more people.⁸¹

"There are no accurate statistics on Roma unemployment, only estimates can be made based on an assessment of the situation in problematic and marginalized localities in Slovakia. It is in

⁷⁸ Cf. HETTEŠ, M., *Zamestnanosť a sociálna práca*. Bratislava : Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety, 2013. p. 25.

⁷⁹ HETTEŠ, M., Zamestnanosť a sociálna práca, p. 49.

⁸⁰ KURKOVÁ, Z. Revitalizácia v železničnej spoločnosti Cargo Slovakia, a. p. s dopadom na nezamestnanosť. In *Metódy sociálnej práce s rodinou*, Bratislava: Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety v Bratislave, 2012. pp. 311-312.

⁸¹ Cf. MAREŠ, P. Nezaměstnanost jako sociální problém. Praha : Slon, 2002. p. 79.

districts with a high Roma population that the unemployment rate is highest. Based on unofficial data on the unemployment of the Roma population from the previous period, it is clear that the number of unemployed Roma in the Slovak Republic is systematically growing and the Roma population makes up a significant majority of the long-term unemployed in the Slovak Republic. The main problems influencing the high unemployment of the Roma population are the low qualification of Roma, the lack of interest of employers in such workers due to lack of job opportunities, low work ethic of part of the Roma population and lack of job opportunities, especially in districts with high Roma numbers."82

Indebted family

"We can almost certainly say that most young families in Slovakia are in debt. Various types of loans have become a common part of them today. Today, many, especially young families, are in debt. The concept of debt is not only associated with loans, whether from a bank or non-bank entity, but also mortgages, leases, debits on our own account, unpaid rent, collection, telephone bills, etc. These are all terms that we could call in one word "debts". 83

The main causes of problems that cause financial problems: crisis life situation caused by, for example, unemployment, illness, injury, retirement, pathological factors conditioning the financial crisis, we can include addictions to alcohol, "hard" drugs, gambling, problematic social factors, including the problem of globalization, consumer lifestyle, manipulative advertising, offensive marketing strategies, the impact of advertising, surplus goods, the effort to compare with the social environment.⁸⁴

⁸² Úrad vlády SR, *Stratégia Slovenskej republiky pre integráciu Rómov do roku 2020*. [online]. Bratislava: Úrad vlády SR, 2011, 118 p. [cit. 2020-09-15]. Available at:http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/romovia/dokumenty/StrategiaSR_integraciaRomov.pdf, p. 32.

⁸³ DREXLEROVÁ, B. Niektoré z metód využívaných v sociálnej práci so zadlženými rodinami. In *Metódy sociálnej práce s rodinou*, Bratislava : Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety v Bratislave, 2012. p. 148.

⁸⁴ GABURA, J. Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou, p. 262.

Family with a sick and a disabled member

In all countries of the European Union, the family is of paramount importance to people with disabilities, as the family is the primary care provider for its disabled members. Families with disabled members are more at risk of poverty, social exclusion or even discrimination. If there is a sick member in the family or a member with a deficit of a certain organ function, the family in most cases begins to perceive the world from a different perspective. The role of a disabled family member often brings a limited space for social application, a specific content of social roles, negative signs may be exclusion, prejudice or attitude stereotypes of the majority.

Characteristics of individual disabilities:

- **physically handicapped** this includes individuals who have a disability of the locomotor as well as nervous system manifested by impaired mobility,
- **disabled** these are individuals who have significant negative changes in their health and require special care,
- **impaired** these are individuals who have reduced resistance to disease,
- **sick** individuals are considered to be patients who suffer from an acute, but most often chronic disease. Due to frequent hospitalizations, life restrictions or a stay in a spa or sanatorium, they require special care.⁸⁵

"Based on the relevant demographic indicators, it can be stated that according to age, the Roma population has a progressive character. This means that the pre-productive component of the population (children) is the highest, followed by the productive component and the number of people in the post-productive (also retired) age is minimal. Based on this demographic structure, it can be stated that the average life expectancy of the Roma population is significantly shorter than that of the majority. Some sources state that up to 10 years. Poor living conditions in segregated Roma settlements and in localities with a high concentration of Roma population, as well as low health awareness, have an impact on the

⁸⁵ Cf. DRAGANOVÁ, H. a kol. Sociálna starostlivosť, p. 93.

frequent occurrence of infectious diseases." 86

As M. Nová states, "currently, the European trend of deinstitutionalization of care for the elderly is mentioned among the professional public, ie. if the health condition and other circumstances allow the senior to stay in their house or apartment, it is more efficient for the services to be provided in a natural environment. Only in case of self-sufficiency or unsatisfactory home environment should placement in a residential facility follow. As part of the deinstitutionalization of care for the elderly, the involvement of a family or other close person is often necessary."87 This trend is characteristic not only for the target group of seniors, but also for the target group of the disabled.

A family that neglects, abuses and abuses its member

Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) syndrome is defined as damage to a child's physical, mental and social condition and development as a result of any accidental behavior by a parent or other adult who is considered society. unacceptable. It is a set of negative consequences of child abuse. These symptoms may be the result of active injury or lack of care. The child suffers from the neglect of his important life needs.⁸⁸

It takes the following forms:

Physical abuse - represents all inappropriate acts of violence against a child. In addition to a gross attack on a child, which results in bodily injury, permanent harm to the child, or even the death of the child, it also includes the regular use of corporal punishment of the child as the predominant means of education. These include improper beating of hands or various tools, (thong), kicking a child, punching, burns (cigarette), scalding with hot water, stab wounds (often with scissors), hair pulling, inappropriate pulling

⁸⁶ Úrad vlády SR, *Stratégia Slovenskej republiky pre integráciu Rómov do roku 2020*. [online]. Bratislava: Úrad vlády SR, 2011, 118 p. [cit. 2020-09-15]. Available at: http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/romovia/dokumenty/StrategiaSR_integraciaRomov.pdf, p. 35.

⁸⁷ NOVÁ, M. Metody sociální práce se seniory. In Ondrušová, J., Krahulcová, B. *Gerentologie pro sociální práci*. Praha: Karolinum, 2020. p. 127.

⁸⁸ Cf. FISCHER, S., ŠKODA, J. Sociální patologie. p. 145.

of the ears, strangulation, suffocation, strong shaking, binding, handcuffing, denial of sleep, food, bullying.⁸⁹

Mental abuse - includes such behavior towards a child that has a negative impact on the child's emotional development, behavior, personality and self-esteem or a negative impact on the development of interpersonal relationships. The most common are frequent swearing, humiliation, ridicule, contempt, threats, targeted induction of fear in the child, rejection of the child, emotional deprivation, emotional blackmail, permanent comparison with a more successful sibling, demanding unrealistic performance - at school, in the area of interest (sports, music), disproportionate burden of the child with domestic duties or care for siblings, psychological abuse of the child in connection with the situation before divorce, divorce and after the divorce of the parents, when the child is exposed to long-term and disproportionate burden arising in connection with divorce, bullying.⁹⁰

Sexual abuse – "Sexual abuse is the abuse of an adult's power over a child to sexually meet the needs of an adult. Sexual behavior is a pathology that is punishable by criminal law."⁹¹ By sexual abuse is meant any inappropriate exposure of a child to sexual contact or behavior which leads primarily to the satisfaction of the sexual needs of the abuser. The basic forms include contactless abuse (nakedness in front of the child, masturbation, observation of a naked child for the purpose of one's own sexual arousal and satisfaction, exposing the child to pornographic magazines and movies, forcing the child to watch intercourse), contact abuse (touching or kissing children), loving breasts, genitals, forcing a child to manipulate his or her sexual organs or an abuser, oral and anal sex, sexual intercourse, including rape), commercial abuse (abuse and coercion to pornography or prostitution).⁹²

⁸⁹ Cf. FISCHER, S., ŠKODA, J. Sociální patologie. p. 146.

⁹⁰ Cf. FISCHER, S., ŠKODA, J. Sociální patologie. pp. 146-147.

⁹¹ GABURA, J. Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou, p. 149.

⁹² Cf. FISCHER, S., ŠKODA, J. Sociální patologie. p. 147.

2 CONFLICT AND THE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

The family is the foundation of society. Marriage is meant to be a lasting and harmonious living between one man and one woman, with a complex social, moral, biological and legal relationship between them. The formation of a marriage as well as the dissolution of a marriage union occurs only in the manner prescribed by law.⁹³

In society, family and marriage are considered the most important. In today's society, however, the word divorce is increasingly used. The reason for a divorce is not meant as any disruption between the spouses, it must be a serious dissolution of relationships. Although society creates all the preconditions for maintaining marriage and marital relations, it has not yet taken a negative position on divorce. Divorce occurs when a marriage ceases to fulfill its social function and the relationship between the spouses is so permanently disrupted that they cannot be expected to remain in a dysfunctional marriage. In such a case, it would not be right to insist on the inseparability of the marriage.⁹⁴

A person encounters many people during his life and it is common to get into smaller or larger conflicts with these people. The same is true in marriage. During its duration, the marital relationship goes through various phases, in which the form of love between the partners changes, the way they communicate with each other, or the needs that satisfy each other. Divorce has become a common part of people's lives. We believe that this fact is closely related to the consumerist way of life, people tend to consume a lot and quickly, so they transfer this fact to marriage. Instead of resolving conflicts, divorce and subsequent remarriage often come.

According to D. Šlosár, "partners should realize that conflicts and crises in a marital relationship occur by law. ...During a marital crisis, it is important to maintain balance and patience,

⁹³ LAZAR, J. a kol. *Občianske právo hmotné*, Bratislava: Iure Edition, 2006. p. 231.

⁹⁴ Cf. GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej. Martin: Osveta, 1991. p. 55.

avoid hasty decisions, and wait for the crisis to subside. Divorce should only be the last resort, when the breakdown of the family causes it to fail."⁹⁵ Men and women are different beings. Men have better abilities in spatial orientation, more flexible responses to unpleasant expressions and therefore it is easier for men to move from hostility to cooperation. In contrast, women are more interested in interpersonal relationships, are better able to empathize with other people, and are more persistent in their actions. Due to these differences, partners as well as spouses can sometimes get into some tension and unpleasant quarrels. If they realize these differences, it is one of the ways to prevent conflicts between them. And if they learn to live with it, they may be able to save their marriage. However, if conflicts are more frequent and the spouses are unable to reach real solutions, there will be a breakdown in the relationship and a divorce associated with it.⁹⁶

Auxiliary aim 2: To find out the attitude towards divorce proceedings of spouses as a solution for marital problems.

Table 4 Attitude towards divorce proceedings of spouses as a solution for marital problems.

	n	%
Positive	58	17,5
Negative	212	63,9
Don`t know	62	18,7
Together	332	100

An attitude can be defined as an evaluation, a feeling, or some opportunity to act with respect to a stimulus that can be offered from the outside and the very thought operations of a person. Attitudes most often express quality - that is, evaluation, they have some purpose, intensity and consistency, i.e. rigidity, strength or

⁹⁵ Cf. ŠLOSÁR, D. Kríza manželstva. In *Manželstvo dnes. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. p. 167.

⁹⁶ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. *Metody a řízení sociální práce*. Praha: Portál, 2003. p. 249.

coherence.

In the semi-open question, we asked questions about the respondents' attitudes to the divorce proceedings of the spouses as a possible solution to family problems. In the questionnaire question, these answers were given with the possibility of answering the respondent in his own words, so we have grouped these statements into three categories: - positive, - negative and Don't know.

In the category of positive answers (positive attitudes) to decisions on divorce proceedings, there were answers: "if it is the only way, if someone in the partnership is neglected, if children suffer, if it is at the expense of family quality, if the family does not fulfill its functions, if I can't stand it A positive attitude was expressed by 58 respondents (which is 17,5 percent of the total number of respondents).

A negative attitude was expressed by 212 respondents (which is 63,9 percent of the total number of respondents). In this category there were answers such as: "everything must be done to save the marriage, the church aspect, the benefit of marriage for children, problems must be solved, there is no need to run away from them...".

Null hypothesis 2: There is no statistically significant correlation between the statements of the respondents and their opinion on the negative attitude towards divorce proceedings as a solution to family problems.

Hypothesis 2: We assume that more than 70 percent of respondents will have a negative attitude towards divorce proceedings as a solution to family problems.

Based on the evaluation of our question, we can say that our hypothesis number 2 was **not confirmed**, as only 63.9 percent expressed their negative attitude to the divorce proceedings of spouses as a solution to family problems. However, as part of the answers to this question, we also received answers of the type "I do not know" (62 answers 18.7 percent of the total number of respondents) and therefore we can say that this attitude changes or

is ambiguous due to the inexperience of respondents, they do not want to interfere in other people's relationships, they do not know what problem is causing the divorce ... and it is these respondents who do not know or do not want to express their position on the issue.

Divorce is a process that is a stressful situation in the table of life events with stress potential and ranks second only after the death of a partner. Divorce is associated with losses, physical, mental, property and also changes in everyday life, whether in management or financing.⁹⁷

Many spouses divorce because they naively believe that their life situation will improve incomparably after divorce and they will find satisfaction in a new marriage or partnership. They think that initial enthusiasm and romantic love will last forever. But if someone thinks that he can be romantic in love for the rest of his life, he will certainly be disappointed, no matter how many times he marries.⁹⁸

"Marriage is a generally complex social, moral, biological and legal relationship between a man and a woman".⁹⁹ "Divorce is considered one of the most stressful events in a person's life. In almost every case of divorce, not only spouses but also children are affected by divorce".¹⁰⁰

The family as a whole is the result of the internal structural and functional integration of individual family members into the family system. The family system is decomposed together in time and space, in a biological and socio-historical context.¹⁰¹

Divorce is currently the only way to end a valid marriage

⁹⁷ Cf. POUPĚTOVÁ, Š. *Netrapte se po rozvodu*. Vyd. 1. Praha: Grada. 2009. p. 89.

⁹⁸ Cf. GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej, 1991. p. 15.

⁹⁹ LAZAR, J. a kol. *Občianske právo hmotné*, Bratislava: Iure Edition, 2006. p. 231.

¹⁰⁰ PAVELKOVÁ, B. *Ako postupovať pri rozvode*. Bratislava : Príroda, 2006. p. 35.

¹⁰¹ Cf. SOBOTKOVÁ, I. *Psychologie rodiny*. 2. přeprac. vyd. Praha: Portál, 2007. p. 112.

during the life of both spouses. "There is no legal right to divorce, it is not the exclusive personal matter of the spouses, it is not enough to agree on it. Even the consent of both spouses does not guarantee that the marriage will be divorced. Divorce is decided exclusively by the court, which in divorce proceedings assesses the fulfillment of the substantive conditions of the divorce."¹⁰² These conditions are two and are set out in the Family Act as follows:

- the break-up is so serious that marriage can no longer serve a social purpose,
- -the disruption is so permanent that the resumption of cohabitation of the spouses cannot be expected. $^{\rm 103}$

We consider divorce and subsequent family breakdown to be the most difficult period for all participants. "Many authors classify divorce as a manifestation of social pathology. On the one hand, divorce is considered a basic remedial measure to prevent conflicts between spouses and to end problematic cohabitation. On the other hand, if the expected positive changes are not achieved, further frustrations, stress and conflict will occur even after the divorce."¹⁰⁴

- D. Šlosár considers divorce as a remedial measure to eliminate the disagreement between the spouses. It is a relatively difficult period, on the one hand for direct parties to the divorce, i. j. for parents and children, and on the other hand for the whole extended family. The author goes on to talk about three stages of divorce:
- marital / family discord arises from less serious conflicts and reflects the lack of ability of spouses to resolve disputes and seek compromises,
- marital / family breakdown starts after the first stage and manifests itself in the failure of individual functions of the family,
- divorce formal termination of marriage. 105

¹⁰² PAVELKOVÁ, B. *Ako postupovať pri rozvode*. Bratislava : Príroda, 2006. p. 6.

¹⁰³ Cf. § 23 Zákona č. 36/2005 Z. z. o rodine v znení neskorších predpisov

¹⁰⁴ MATEJČEK, Z., DYTRYCH, Z. Krizové situace v rodine očima dítete. Praha : Grada, 2002. p. 39.

¹⁰⁵ Cf. ŠLOSÁR, D. Kríza manželstva. In *Manželstvo dnes. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. pp. 168-170.

We meet a similar opinion as brought by D. Šlosár with M. Korbová, according to whom "the decision to divorce is not a matter of the moment. He is preceded by various lengths of marriage crisis. Divorce as a social phenomenon, individual societies, cultures, religions approach in different ways. On the one hand, the extreme is its complete ban, on the other hand, the very tolerant attitude towards it is extreme. The growing number of divorces is becoming a social problem because it goes beyond individuality and affects more people." 106

Although the mental balance of the former spouses and their families is expected to be restored after the divorce, practical experience confirms that most marriages continue to have a tense atmosphere, which is formally manifested through frequent litigation over maintenance, property and so on.¹⁰⁷ Marriage is no longer understood as an irrevocable union, divorce is accepted by society as a consequence of the natural behavior of spouses who choose to end their marriage.

Divorce represents a burden not only for divorcing spouses, but also for their child, resp. children. E. Teyber ranks divorce second in the table of life events with stress potential. The only more stressful event is the death of a partner. Coping with this burden requires time, space and understanding, which is often challenging, given the demands of working at work or caring for children. 108

Conflict situations in the family cause stress, which, according to I. Možný, causes several psychosomatic diseases in adults and children. Divorce as a crisis and stress can also cause alcohol, sedatives, or even drugs. However, in our opinion, not only men and women are at risk, but also adolescents, who may find themselves in an inappropriate society under the influence of problems.

¹⁰⁶ KORBOVÁ, M. Rozvod v spoločnosti. In *Manželstvo dnes. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. p. 114.

¹⁰⁷ Cf. BAKALÁŘ, E. a kol. *Rozvodová problematika a moderní psychologie*. Praha : Karolinum, 2006. p. 23.

¹⁰⁸ Cf. TEYBER, E. Děti a rozvod. Praha: Návrat domů. p. 56.

¹⁰⁹ Cf. MOŽNÝ, I. Rodina a společnost. Praha: SLON, 2006. p. 204.

Every member of the family has to deal with a new life situation after the divorce, children e.g. with the loss of one of the parents. adults with a separate household, with limited contact with a child, etc. They also have to deal with the reaction of their surroundings. Divorce for both adult partners means disrupting common ways of life. One has a feeling of loss and disorientation, often in values. The strong emotional crises that accompany the break-up of a marriage give rise to defense mechanisms in the partners. These are protection (only partial) against the traumatizing effects of divorce proceedings and the whole situation during the family break-up. They occur more often in women than in men. According to E. Bakalář, the most common defense mechanisms include rationalization (the partner tries to give generally acceptable reasons for his own actions) and projection (the partner tries to reflect his own mistakes in the partner's behavior and also get rid of his own sense of responsibility for family breakdown). 110

Bad mental state can soon affect the physical state. The body reacts quickly to any imbalances and severe life crises, which cause various diseases, e.g. sleep disorders, headaches, anorexia, etc. At the same time, we believe that divorce puts a person in a vicious circle when it comes to his health. This means that just as a bad mental condition conditions a deterioration in the physical condition, the opposite is also true.

- T. Novák presents the following stages of experiencing the separation of partners:
- protest stage the defendant does everything possible to distract the initiator from his intention,
- stage of despair showing feelings of self-blame,
- stage of denial the defendant tries to convince himself that he does not care about the other partner at all,
- \bullet processing stage coping with divorce trauma. ^111 Divorce is not only a legal termination of marriage, but is connected

¹¹⁰ Cf. BAKALÁŘ, E. a kol. *Rozvodová problematika a moderní psychologie*. Praha : Karolinum, 2006. pp. 27-28.

¹¹¹ Cf. NOVÁK, T. *Manželské a rodinné poradenství*. Praha : Grada Publishing, 2006. p. 31.

with a complex adaptation-adjustment process, which I. Plaňava speaks of as a psycho-social divorce. "Divorce negatively affects the mental and physical health of partners, for example, it is associated with an increased risk of psychopathology, an increased incidence of car accidents, physical illness, violence, suicide, murder and disease mortality."¹¹² In this context, Rusnáková emphasizes that on the one hand divorce increases the risk of maladaptive emotions and behaviors, but on the other hand most families adapt relatively well to the new situation and live a mentally healthy, productive and satisfied life.¹¹³

The breakdown of the marriage is also reflected in the approach to the child, so that the parents stop respecting the child's presence or, on the contrary, drag the child into a conflict between them. The child is very well aware of changes in the parents' behavior, and various mental mechanisms may be triggered in him or his health may be affected.

Family breakdown has a negative impact on all family members. It has the most serious consequences on the mental and physical health of children. Several studies show that children have been suffering the consequences of divorce for more than five years. In most cases, they persist in symptoms of sadness or hatred towards one of their parents. Younger children are irritated, crying, sleeplessly, show anorexia or other health problems stemming from a disturbed psyche. Children in puberty and adolescence show sadness for their lost parents and disillusionment from a broken home by loss of interest in learning and apathy, or worse, aggression, theft, alcohol, drugs and frequent partner changes. However, there are cases where divorce is not the best but legitimate solution, especially in order to maintain the child's mental health. These are mainly families in which there are regular quarrels and mutual attacks between parents, when the child is abused, sexually abused and under.114

¹¹² PLAŇAVA, I. Manželství a rodina. Brno: Doplněk, 2000. p. 49.

¹¹³ Cf. RUSNÁKOVÁ, M. *Rodina v slovenskej spoločnosti v kontexte sociálnej práce*. Ružomberok : PF Katolíckej univerzity, 2007. p. 51.

¹¹⁴ Cf. PREKOPOVÁ, J., SCHWEIZEROVÁ, CH. Děti jsou hosté, kteří hledají

"It is difficult for a child to talk about his or her worries. he reacts emotionally to disaster with his whole being and draws attention to himself with behavioral disorders. He is unable to understand and process the parents' divorce. It only suffers. "It follows that settling a divorce is a difficult task for the child. It is often possible to encounter the denial of separation in children. Children who deny divorce live as if nothing has happened, deny feelings and thoughts of separation, and at the same time reject the mention of a parent's departure.

As stated by H. Rozinajová, the mechanism of denial is created in order to ensure a certain degree of mental stability, but if this mechanism persists, it does not allow the onset of healthier ways of adapting to separation.¹¹⁵

After the divorce of the partners, the children experience sadness, which recedes after a certain time. A child may suffer from depression, which is a deeper and more painful response to family breakdown. Depression is often accompanied by loss of appetite, apathy, helplessness, irritability, fatigue, weakness, reduced resistance to stress, in extreme cases these are thoughts of suicide. If the depression does not subside after a few weeks, a specialist should be sought. One of the necessary natural feelings that children experience at the time of their parents' divorce is anger and fear of abandonment.¹¹⁶

Children often react to the unfavorable family climate and the divorce itself by fleeing from home, which can have various reasons, such as arousing feelings of guilt in parents, etc. They react to the crisis situation, which is undoubtedly a divorce, quite often by regression, ie by returning to one of the previous development periods, or the child remains at a certain level and does not develop further. Manifestations of regression include infantile behavior, thumb sucking, or urination. The opposite reaction can

cestu. Praha: Portál, 2003. pp. 63-65.

Nitra: UKF, 2011. pp. 77-78.

¹¹⁵ Cf. ROZINAJOVÁ, H. XX a XY. O láske, sexe, manželstve a rodičovstve.

Martin: Osveta, 1990. p. 28.

¹¹⁶ Cf. RÁC, I. Sociálna patológia a prevencia sociálno-patologických javov.

be described as excessive maturity, when they take over the ways of adult behavior, such as affectation, unnatural annotation, etc. Feelings of insecurity, low self-esteem, and guilt can also occur after a divorce.¹¹⁷

If the conflict continues after the divorce, the child is exposed to an even greater psychological burden. The consequences, which are reflected in the further development of the child's personality, are then also deeper and more lasting. They do not always manifest immediately, but only at a later period, e.g. when looking for a life partner in the future, or when raising their own children.

In the following text of the scientific monograph, we will not only identify and analyze in a literary-descriptive and analytical way the facts concerning divorce as an unfavorable life situation (which not only affects spouses, immediate and extended family), but we will also present the testimonials of respondents. quantitative research. We carried out quantitative field research in the period May - June 2000 in the district of Spišská Nová Ves.

2.1 Empirical findings

We used the questionnaire method as the main method of quantitative research. The questionnaire consisted of identification and design questions that are directly related to the topic we determined. Respondents were informed in advance how the statements and thus the questionnaire information will be used, the method of filling in and the anonymity of the information used. We included the question of educational attainment and the question concerning the age category among the identification questions.

As it was a field data collection, the questions were mostly closed, mainly for faster and clearer statements of our respondents.

During this period, we distributed 379 questionnaires and based on our analysis of these questionnaires, we concluded that 332 questionnaires can be considered relevantly completed and thus usable for our research. The return rate of the questionnaire was

¹¹⁷ Cf. TAMÁŠOVÁ, V. *Teória a prax rodinnej edukácie*. Bratislava : Axima, 2007. p. 51.

87.6 percent and therefore we can consider this research method as **reliable**. The questionnaire ensured the homogeneity of the research tool (coherence of the tool), as it measured one property and its items were close in content.

The **validity** of the research tool was confirmed by field data collection carried out in the earlier period of March - April, as we dealt with a similar topic in the region (the role of single father and mother after divorce proceedings).

The questionnaire consisted of 8 questions, which were closed (5 questions) and semi-open (3 questions).

In the following graphic, we present the identification of respondents based on gender, education and age.

Table 5 Distribution of respondents by gender

	n	%
Woman	161	48,5
Men	171	51,5
Together	332	100

Source: own processing

Table 6 Division of respondents based on education

	n	%
High schools without graduation	45	13,6
High school with graduation	111	33,4
university - 1st degree	85	25,6
university - 2st degree	91	27,4
Together	332	100

Source: own processing

Table 7 Division of respondents based on age

Year	n	%
25-35	76	22,9
36-45	84	25,3
46-55	104	31,3
56 and more	68	20,5
Together	332	100

Source: own processing

The main goal of field quantitative research was to find out knowledge about problematic life situations in families.

We surveyed respondents' views on the serious family situation, which is terminated by divorce proceedings by the husband and its impact on changes in the needs of individuals women - mothers, men - fathers, and children.

Sub-goals we have set to obtain more detailed information on the issue:

Auxiliary objective 1: To find out the respondents' attitudes towards marriage as a union of a woman and a man.

Auxiliary objective 2: To find out the attitude to divorce proceedings of spouses as a solution to family problems.

Auxiliary objective 3: To identify and draw attention to the influence and reactions of children to parents' divorce.

Auxiliary objective 4: Identify the needs and problems of divorced women and men.

Based on the goals we set, we set hypotheses that we will verify by Pearson's chi-square based on a calculation according to the formula

 $\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{F}.$

Null hypothesis 1: There is no statistically significant relationship between the age of the respondent and his opinion on a positive attitude towards marriage in terms of further education of children in marriage

Hypothesis 1: There is a statistically significant relationship between the age of the respondent and his opinion on a positive attitude towards marriage in terms of further education of children in marriage

Null hypothesis 2: There is no statistically significant correlation between the statements of the respondents and their opinion on the negative attitude towards divorce proceedings as a solution to family problems.

Hypothesis 2: We assume that more than 70 percent of respondents will have a negative attitude towards divorce proceedings as a solution to family problems.

Null hypothesis 3: There is no statistically significant relationship between the respondents' education and their opinion on the negative impact of divorce on the child's further development.

Hypothesis 3: There is a statistically significant relationship between the education of the respondents and their opinion on the negative impact of divorce on the further development of the child.

Null hypothesis 4: There is no statistically significant relationship between the respondent's education and his opinion on the needs and problems of divorced women and men.

Hypothesis 4: We assume that respondents will mention the material needs and problems of divorced women and men more than the needs and problems of a mental and spiritual nature.

2.2 Causes of divorce

"If you want to understand why people are divorcing, you should research the reasons they are getting married. If people marry on the basis of insufficient or even unhealthy motives, the union must be unstable. It is very likely that the couple will not be happy with it and that they may divorce".¹¹⁸

"A marriage contract by which a man and a woman establish a community of a lifetime and which by its very nature is aimed

¹¹⁸ GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej. Martin: Osveta, 1991. p. 210.

at the well-being of the spouses as well as at the procreation and upbringing of children. The cohabitation of a man and a woman is a fact with consequences of society-wide significance, therefore the legal order of the Slovak Republic regulates it in the institution of marriage. Marriage is a union of a man and a woman. The company comprehensively protects this unique union and helps its good. Husband and wife are equal in rights and responsibilities. The main purpose of marriage is the establishment of a family and the proper upbringing of children. ¹²⁰

The family is the foundation of society. Marriage is meant to be a lasting and harmonious coexistence between one man and one woman, with a complex social, moral, biological and legal relationship between them. The establishment as well as the termination of this relationship occurs only in the manner prescribed by law. Family Act 36/2005 Coll. understands marriage as a permanent community of life, but does not necessarily insist on its preservation Marriage is a legal relationship of two persons of different sex, which is concluded after the fulfillment of the conditions stipulated by law. 123

Marriage and the family should fulfill the following basic functions of the family: reproductive, material, educational and emotional. The first two functions are no longer the exclusive prerogative of the family in today's society. However, the social - educational function is difficult to replace and plays an important role in the family and marriage. It consists in ensuring the basic orientation of the child in the world and providing everything necessary for his integration into society. The specific dynamics creates an

environment in the family in which attitudes towards the world and oneself are formed, a value orientation, one's own Self and the

¹¹⁹ Cf. PLANKOVÁ, O. *Rozvod manželstva v československom práve*. Bratislava: Osveta, 1964. p. 7.

¹²⁰ Zákon č. 36/2005 Z.z. Zákon o rodine a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v platnom znení, čl. I.

¹²¹ Cf. LAZAR, J. a kol. *Občianske právo hmotné*, 2006, p. 231.

¹²² Zákon č. 36/2005 Z. z. Zákon o rodine a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v platnom znení, čl. I.

¹²³ CIRÁK, J. a kol. Rodinné právo. Šamorín: Heuréka, 2008. p. 38.

concept of the child's life are formed. The child sees how different situations are handled in the original family, e.g. conflicts and this affects the way in which it will be resolved in adulthood. The emotional function of the family is unique and irreplaceable. The need for background, the unconditional acceptance of support and help, rituals, the need for acquaintance and confidentiality, the need for common perspectives, and the need to relate to something permanent is important for people of all ages. In a dysfunctional family, functioning in the emotional area is the most affected and the most hurtful.¹²⁴

Divorce and family are greatly influenced by external as well as internal factors, they can be understood as factors that create some kind of viruses in relationships.

Divorce is the subject of debate in scientists, politicians, and even the public in all democracies. Large numbers of divorces herald the total collapse of the family. According to various opinions, they are a necessary tax for the high degree of personal freedom that is characteristic of modern Western democratic societies. However, every divorce has a personal, legal and economic side. Divorce is a burden for years for all involved.¹²⁵

"Divorce is understood as a borderline and final event, which is closed by the blow of a judge's gavel. However, very soon after divorce, parents find out that divorce and legal divorce are only one stage in a series of complex family changes."¹²⁶

Based on the question we set about the possible causes of divorce, we came to the following statements of the respondents:

Table 8 Causes of the dissolution of mariage

	n	%
finances	215	64,8
infidelity	169	51,0

¹²⁴ Cf. VÝROST, J., SLAMĚNÍK, I. *Aplikovaná sociálni psychologie*. Vydanie 1. Praha. Portál, 1998. p. 75.

¹²⁵ MATOUŠEK, O. *Rodina jako instituce a vztahová síť.* 2. vyd. Praha : Sociologické nakladateľstvo, 1997. p. 117.

¹²⁶ Cf. TEYBER, E. Děti a rozvod. Praha: Návrat domů, 2007. p. 8.

tolerance, respect	257	77,4
interests	266	80,1
child upbringing	149	44,9
sexual coexistence	169	51,1
missing love, trust	188	56,6
preferring work	143	43,1
other	26	7,8

A semi-open question dealing with the possible causes of divorce identifies as the most common cause the difference in interests and little time spent together (266 respondents, which is 80,1 percent of the total number of respondents). In second place was the possibility of lack of tolerance and respect in marriage (up to 77,4 percent of the total number of respondents), in third place, the statements point to the financial aspect, which was cited as a possible cause of divorce. It is often their lack, or if one of the partners spends more than the family budget allows, or if the partners are unable to agree on financial expenses.

In the fourth place, there was a lack of love, trust, cold partner (more than 56 percent of the total number of respondents). We were surprised by the possibility of infidelity and sexual coexistence, which was mentioned by 169 respondents (which is 51 percent of the total number of respondents). In the options, other respondents mentioned quarrels, disagreements in parenthood, alcoholism, ill-treatment, health reasons, lack of interest in the family, inattention, disrespect. This option was mentioned by 26 respondents, which is 7,8 percent of respondents.

The causes and reasons for divorce do not change much. The following factors have been considered to be the main causes of divorce in the last decade:

- lack of common interests,
- extramarital affair of one of the partners,
- different views on leisure time,
- foreign work of one of the partners and the associated loneliness,
- · lack of funds,

- insufficient tolerance and trust between partners,
- different opinions on the upbringing of children.
- mental and physical violence,
- jealousy of the partner,
- alcohol or drug addiction in one partner.
- infertility of one of the partners. 127

The important question is why do the above reasons arise? Why do spouses commit infidelity and various other misdemeanors? Why can't they or do not want to solve the situation in the family circle and share its safety together? Why don't they want to keep the family as a whole? A possible answer may also be to consider that the main role in a marriage is to confirm and prove one's identity. It follows that if the identity of one partner changes, then the other must respond to the situation by changing behavior. The other partner is expected to change roles. Unfortunately, even such a simple pattern of behavior is often not possible. Therefore, fidelity to a partner-spouse often gives way to fidelity to one's self. 128

There are various causes that lead to the breakdown of a marriage. The problem can also be in the expression of mutual feelings between spouses. It can also be related to the low self-confidence of one of the partners and the associated communication. Mutual communication is extremely important for the proper functioning of marriage. 129 Communicating means communicating, sharing information and being connected. 130 People today do not expect things to last long - this applies to work, property and, to the detriment of children, also to marriage. The worst part is that marriage is no longer as important in society as it used to be.¹³¹

In addition to a lack of understanding, tension caused by jealousy

¹²⁷ Cf. NOVAK, T. PRŮCHOVÁ, B. Předrozvodové a rozvodové poradenství. Praha: Grada, 2007. p. 101.

¹²⁸ Cf. HAŠKOVÁ, H. RADIMSKÁ, R. Na cestě do EÚ: Rovné příležitosti mužů a žen v ČR. 1.vyd. Praha: Národní kontaktní centrum – Ženy a věda, 2002. pp. 99-100.

¹²⁹ Cf. SMITH, H. Děti a rozvod. Praha: Portal, 2004. p. 16.

¹³⁰ Cf. ŘÍCAN, P. S dětmi chytře a moudře: psychologie výchovy pro rodiče a prarodiče. 1.vyd. Praha: Portál, 2013. p. 49.

¹³¹ Cf. SMITH, H. Děti a rozvod. 2004. p. 18.

of one of the partners can also be a source of problems in marriage. In these cases, the marital balance is disturbed.¹³²

Other examples of differing expectations of marriage that can cause problems between spouses are differences in emotion, moral, religious, and political beliefs. At the beginning of the relationship, however, this problem may not be given importance at all. This may change over time, causing disagreements between partners. If we talk about the causes of the breakdown of a marriage, we cannot forget about physical or mental abuse and also about addictions of various types, whether it is alcohol, drugs or gambling. One of the serious causes of marital breakdown is the infidelity of one or both partners. 133

2.3 Divorce stages

The pre-divorce phase is characterized by a number of unresolved problems, the formality of relationships, alienation of partners, inability to resolve conflict situations, followed by further dysfunctional cohabitation. The dissatisfaction of one of the partners increases, later the period passes into marital breakdown, in which there is no "cooperation in instrumental areas of cohabitation (household care, shopping, finance, cleaning, child rearing) and the quality and frequency of intimate contacts decreases.."134

We can say that this is a marital crisis with growing divorce potential. Partial marital dysfunction changes to general. The cooperation of spouses in the instrumental components of cohabitation is declining and absent, especially in the joint management of money and household care. Intimacy is kept to a minimum between spouses, and marital quarrels or hostile silence thus become an everyday reality. The balance of coexistence sounds increasingly negative. If the spouses realize the seriousness of the crisis and each of them sees their own share in the breakdown of the relationship,

¹³² Cf. SMITH, H. Děti a rozvod. 2004. p. 19.

¹³³ Cf. SMITH, H. Děti a rozvod. 2004. p. 20.

¹³⁴ ORAVCOVÁ, J. *Vývinová psychológia*. Banská Bystrica : FHV UMB, 2007. p. 160

it may or may not result in divorce decision and conduct. 135

Various scenarios of this phase appear in families, from a typical aggressive approach to behavior to indifferent or static behavior. At this stage, the spouses or one partner usually decide whether to maintain or end the cohabitation in the couple. At this stage, the marital crisis usually culminates. In most cases, spouses in the pre-divorce phase still share a common household. For young spouses, the path from thinking about divorce to the decision itself is the shortest and fastest. A more cautious approach to divorce is taken by families, for whom the tradition of divorce is not typical and where spouses also take into account the attitudes of their family and surroundings. The pre-divorce phase can last from several months to several years. The problem is the chronic pre-divorce phase, in which neither partner can decide how to solve marital problems. One of the most common reasons why spouses refuse to solve problems more radically are children. Often, however, children are only an excuse for a lack of courage and ambivalence to live together. 136

When a couple divorces, most often one of them initiates the divorce and the other feels abandoned. The divorce process therefore starts with one of the partners a little earlier. He feels uncomfortable in the relationship and his / her dissatisfaction significantly exceeds temporary anger, regret or disappointment. He makes separate plans for his future life and prepares to break up. At the appropriate time, he acquaints the other partner with his plans, either as with the finished decision, or provides him with indications leading to divorce for a certain period of time. It often happens that when the other partner understands the seriousness of the situation, it is usually too late. 137

If one or both spouses begin to realize that they are not

¹³⁵ Cf. PLAŇAVA, I. *Manželství a rodiny : struktura, dynamika, komunikace*. Brno : Doplněk, 2000. p. 174.

¹³⁶ Cf. GABURA, J. *Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou*. Brtislava : Irip. 2012. pp. 141-144.

¹³⁷ Cf. KRATOCHVÍL, P. Manželská terapie. Praha: Portál, 2005. p. 113.

able to acceptably resolve the relationship and other problems associated with the crisis in the marriage, they are entering the next stage of divorce, which is called divorce decision and decision.¹³⁸

Divorce and decision period

In the period of divorce and decision-making, the negative balance of marriage clearly prevails. Retrospective evaluation is influenced by current experiences, frustrations and fears. Divorcing spouses perceive the past differently, but agree that the current situation is unbearable. They both want change, and everyone can imagine it differently. During divorce decisions, spouses usually behave asymmetrically - one spouse favors the divorce and the other rejects the divorce. Deciding to divorce, especially in marriages where there are children, is usually not an easy decision. ¹³⁹

This period may also be followed by planning a new life and physical separation between spouses. The purpose of physical separation can be to gain time and time to think about whether the relationship can still not be saved and at the same time gives the opportunity to test an independent life without a partner. It can also be a transition to divorce, allowing all parties involved to gradually reconcile and settle on the idea.¹⁴⁰

Divorce serves to formally separate the spouses, it is information for the outside world that the spouses no longer belong to each other, but it is also an important step in the process of psycho divorce.¹⁴¹

It is important to realize that the pre-divorce situation is not only for the spouses, but can also negatively affect their children together. Even a very young child can empathetically feel that there are no good relationships in the family. He may not know exactly what it is, but he can very easily guess that there is something

¹³⁸ Cf. PLAŇAVA, I. *Manželství a rodiny : struktura, dynamika, komunikace.* 2000. p. 177.

¹³⁹ Cf. PLAŇAVA, I. Manželství a rodiny : struktura, dynamika, komunikace. 2000. pp. 179 – 180.

¹⁴⁰ Cf. EVERETT, C., EVERETT, V. P. Zdravý rozvod pro rodiče i děti. Praha : Talpress, 2000. p. 128.

¹⁴¹ Cf. POUPĚTOVÁ, Š. Netrapte se po rozvodu. Vyd. 1. 2009. p. 96.

wrong with his parents. Worse, if a child is an eyewitness to heightened conflicts, he is even directly involved in the conflicts. Children often blame their parents' divorce because they want to keep a positive image of both parents.

In the pre-divorce phase, the social worker plays an important counseling role. If the professional experience of a social worker is not enough to solve the problems, he can distribute clients to various specialists for partner or family counseling. The primary goal of the pre-divorce phase is to solve problems together and create a new functional partnership and family cohabitation. 142 The goal of pre-divorce therapy is to reach a well-thought-out, responsible decision as to whether or not a spouse should seek to maintain a dysfunctional marriage. "This is the period when it is still possible to ensure that a divorce application is not filed or that a petition is hastily withdrawn. At the same time, an important criterion is the assessment of the current functioning of marriage in terms of childcare and the consequences that divorce will inevitably bring for spouses and especially for their children. "143 As stated by D. Šlosár, the opposite case occurs in a situation where the family environment is threatening for the child with the occurrence of pathological manifestations of one or both parents (especially violence, aggression, endangering moral education, sexual abuse, addiction, psychopathic jealousy).¹⁴⁴ In our opinion, a social worker and a psychologist are in a special situation, because he is faced with the task of preventing further negative effects on children and promoting early separation from such a husband and

If spouses choose to stay married, apsychologist can help them resolve relationship issues, partner conflicts, and misunderstandings. It helps partners better manage their daily marital and parental challenges, helps to improve partners' communication and mutual understanding. If they make a decision to divorce, the psychologist

parent.

¹⁴² Cf. STRIEŽENEC, Š. Úvod do sociálnej práce. Trnava : AD, 1999. p. 215.

¹⁴³ ŠPAŇHELOVÁ, I. Dítě a rozvod rodičů. Praha: Grada, 2011. p. 93.

¹⁴⁴ Cf. ŠLOSÁR, D. Kríza manželstva. In Manželstvo dnep. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. p. 170-171.

can help with the feelings and thoughts that are associated with the divorce. It helps to overcome insecurity and fear, anger, or grief associated with loss, seeks new ways to live life, and accompanies the search for hope and resources that will make it easier to cope with the feelings that ex-spouses may encounter after divorce.¹⁴⁵

If one of the partners makes a clear decision that he or she wants to end the marriage by divorce and files an application for divorce in the competent court, the divorce phase begins. In the divorce phase, disputes are published, for the needs of the administration, as well as for the need to get rid of feelings of guilt for the breakdown of a marriage, or for finding the culprit for the failure of a relationship. 146

Maintenance obligation

Every parent has a duty to support their child. However, maintenance obligations take several forms. The first form consists in personal care of the child or also in care of the household. The second form of fulfillment of the maintenance obligation is the provision of material benefits, e.g. housing or food. The third form consists in the payment of maintenance as a financial contribution to cover the needs of the child. A parent who takes care of his child personally fulfills his maintenance obligation mainly by providing benefits in kind and personal care. A parent who does not take care of the child personally contributes to the child's maintenance by a court-appointed maintenance provider.

The maintenance obligation of parents to their children is their legal obligation, which lasts until the children are able to support themselves. Parents contribute to the maintenance obligation according to their abilities, possibilities and property relations at least to a minimum extent, maintenance may not be determined lower than 30% of the amount of the subsistence minimum. Each person must contribute to the maintenance of a child who is

¹⁴⁵ Cf. ROZVOD RODIČOV. [online] . [2020-05-16] . Available at: < http://sskp.kapitula.sk/2010/09/manzelsky-zvazok/>

¹⁴⁶ Cf. GABURA, J. Te'oria rodiny a proces pr'ace s rodinou. Brtislava : Iris, 2012. pp. 144-146.

unable to support himself, even if it is to the detriment of himself, because maintenance takes precedence over other expenses of the parents.¹⁴⁷

In addition to the maintenance obligation of parents towards their children, a certain type of maintenance obligation is also the maintenance allowance of a divorced spouse. "A divorced spouse who is unable to support himself or herself may ask the former spouse to contribute to an adequate diet according to his abilities, possibilities and financial circumstances.

If the former spouses do not agree, the amount of the maintenance allowance will be determined by the court at the request of one of them. It will also take into account the reasons that led to the breakdown of relations between the spouses. The maintenance allowance of a divorced spouse may be granted for a maximum period of five years from the date of validity of the divorce decision."¹⁴⁸

Current legislation also recognizes the institute of substitute alimony. Act no. 201/2008 Coll. on Substitute Maintenance, as amended, states that "Substitute maintenance contributes to the maintenance of a dependent child in the event of the debtor's failure to fulfill the maintenance obligation laid down in a valid court decision or court-approved agreement, or if the dependent child is not entitled to an orphan's pension, or the amount of the orphan's pension does not reach the amount of the minimum maintenance stipulated by the Family Act."¹⁴⁹ However, in order to receive replacement maintenance, the claimant must meet one of the conditions. The first is the non-fulfillment of the maintenance obligation by the obligated person in full for at least three consecutive months from the due date of the last maintenance payment and at the same time the enforcement proceedings last for at least three months. The second condition is that the beneficiary

¹⁴⁷ Cf. ROHÁČ, J., BUJŇÁK, J. *Breviár rodinného práva*. Prešov : PU, 2008. p. 57.

¹⁴⁸ VÝŽIVNÉ PODROBNE. [online] . [2020-05-16] . Available at: < http://www.rozvod-rozchod.sk/vyzivne-podrobne/d-1040/p1=1092>

¹⁴⁹ VÝŽIVNÉ PODROBNE. [online] . [2020-05-16] . Available at: < http://www.rozvod-rozchod.sk/vyzivne-podrobne/d-1040/p1=1092>

is not entitled to an orphan's pension or its amount is lower than the amount of the minimum maintenance.

Divorce phase

The divorce phase is very demanding for both the partners and their children. In the divorce process, children can find another person, a kind of substitute for parents who have disappointed his trust. Grandparents, teachers, friends, social workers, pets, and even imaginary characters whom they trust and communicate with, often serve the child as a substitute for parents. In the divorce phase, there are situations where children are used as a tool to fight a partner. A child in the pre-divorce phase often suffers from something that has not caused itself and cannot influence it.¹⁵⁰

The primary divorce care of a social worker must be focused on working with the child. An important role of a social worker in the divorce phase is to ensure that the child is not abused as a tool of struggle or revenge against a partner in a divorce crisis and is not prevented from having contact with the other parent. "Parents and often even professionals are unable to decipher the signals of a child calling for help in a divorce situation, because they are one-sidedly oriented to their problems and deceptively make sure that the child can handle the situation. Parents should not decide for a child in everything, the child should be given space to actively cope with the trauma of divorce."¹⁵¹

The concept of divorce is based on the existence of a qualified divorce, ie a state in which the marriage is so deeply and permanently divorced that the renewal of marital togetherhite cannot be expected. In a classical divorce, there are two parties facing each other, which have different views on the case in question - divorce, which caused the breakdown of relations. Due to the need to prove in court the breakdown of the marriage and

¹⁵⁰ Cf. TAMÁŠOVÁ, V. *Teória a prax rodinnej edukácie*. Bratislava : Axima, 2007. pp. 57-58.

¹⁵¹ KRÝSLOVÁ, M. *Vplyv rozvodu na dieťa*. [online] . [2020-07-10] . Available at:< http://www.rozvod-rozchod.sk/vplyv-rozvodu-na-dieta/d-1080/p1=1190

its causes, the spouses can defame each other in court, which contributes to the escalation of conflicts and makes it more difficult to cooperate further. In order for a divorce to take place as agreed, the undisputed process requires the spouses to meet the conditions laid down by law, the most important of which is to agree on the regulation of care for minors for the period after the divorce and also on the arrangement of property relations.¹⁵²

If the divorcing spouses can agree on this, it is the best and most gentle alternative, in which case they are spared money laundering in the case of divorce in the courtroom. dirty laundry. Such a divorce does not exacerbate conflicts between divorcing spouses and gives greater hope of maintaining decent communication and parental cooperation. ¹⁵³

During the divorce phase, the social worker has the opportunity to offer partners two possibilities of cooperation, namely cooperation aimed at preserving marriage and family, or cooperation in psychohygienic divorce. ¹⁵⁴ In our opinion, the specific care of a social worker is also required by an abandoned partner, because he usually experiences a breakup very emotionally, because he did not want a divorce. Less motivation is in cooperation with a partner who is leaving the marriage. In a divorce process, a social worker performs a number of activities, such as: investigating the family, providing counseling, proposing and implementing educational measures, processing court rights, initiating criminal proceedings against parents if they are suspected of a child crime, and many others.

In the divorce period, when the final decision on divorce has been made, the therapist helps the divorcing spouses "to be able to manage their emotions, to solve specific problems related to divorce in a cooperative form, most beneficial for both parties and especially with maximum regard for children. It systematically

¹⁵² Cf. NOVAK, T. PRŮCHOVÁ, B. *Předrozvodové a rozvodové poradenství*. 2007. p. 121.

¹⁵³ Cf. NOVAK, T. PRŮCHOVÁ, B. *Předrozvodové a rozvodové poradenství*. 2007. pp. 121 – 122.

¹⁵⁴ Cf. PLAŇAVA, I. Manželství a rodina. Brno: Doplněk, 2000. p. 53.

leads husbands and wives to make it easier for children to transition to a new situation, to enable them to maintain an emotional relationship and respect for their mother and father, so that they do not lose their sense of security and are able to overcome natural sadness."155

Post-divorce phase

In the **post-divorce phase**, there is often an escalation of attacks on the partner, especially through children. There are also new problems that arise directly during divorce. The most important problems are:

The problem of living after divorce, because many partners continue to live in the same household even after divorce. There is a very large space for recalling personal problems.

Entrusting children to the care of one of the parents. The optimal solution is the parents' agreement on entrusting the child and the form of contact with the children. If there is no agreement between the parents, the court decides on entrusting the child to the care of one of the parents, as well as on the form of contact with the children.

There is a property - legal settlement, which can and often causes other undesirable problems.

The economic level of both partners is decreasing, the household is separated and two separate households are created. We can also include the costs of divorce and child support.

There is an absence of complementarity of parents, there is one purposeful upbringing of children, which is mostly directed from only one parent, with whom children are in more frequent contact. The partners lose the support provided by their other half.

Maladaptation to divorce, comes to the denial of divorce, hope and faith in the renewal of the family, the discarded parent syndrome, and so on.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁵ KORBOVÁ, M. Rozvod v spoločnosti. In *Manželstvo dnep. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. p. 116. 156 Cf. GABURA, J. *Teória rodiny a proces práce s rodinou*. Brtislava : Iris, 2012. pp. 162-163.

In our opinion, divorce itself is in most cases worse for women. Even when calculating the losses of both partners, it is clear that the position of a woman is more complicated. Nevertheless, women have long been predominant in filing for divorce. After a divorce, they often face a decline in living standards and existential problems, but they are helped by the feeling that they have got rid of an alcoholic, fear or infidelity.

Post-divorce relationships can take many forms, largely depending on the course of the divorce or the reasons why the spouses have divorced. On the one hand, former partners can form a friendly relationship, but on the other hand, this relationship can only have a factual character, or a relationship full of conflicts and accusations. For the most part, this relationship between the exspouses is only isolated and is limited to contact with the children, it closes the chapter of a failed marriage for itself and ends the contact with the partner.¹⁵⁷

Post-divorce events could be described as the completion of marital separation and the formation of a new post-divorce lifestyle. Divorced spouses detach themselves from the life associated with their former partner, thinking more clearly about the new future. We can also call it a phase of a new orientation, emotional states become rarer and are less intense. Ex-spouses try new things and make more contact with friends. The last phase is the creation of one's own new identity and a new concept of life. After an uncomplicated divorce, a person returns to his mental, physical and social normal. If divorce has been complicated, it can have longer-term consequences that one must learn to live with. The divorce and subsequent divorce of the partners contributed to their self-knowledge. 159

The role of the social worker at this stage is, in particular, to ensure that the well-being of the children is preserved and to help

¹⁵⁷ Cf. JAMES, K. R., GILLILAND, B. E. *Crisis intervention strategiep*. London : Cengage Learning, 2012. p. 358.

¹⁵⁸ Cf. PLAŇAVA, I. *Manželství a rodiny : struktura, dynamika, komunikace.* 2000. pp. 179 – 183.

¹⁵⁹ Cf. WOLFOVÁ, D. *Když partner odchází: Praktické rady k překonání osamělosti z rozchodu a rozvodu*. Praha: Ikar. 1994. p. 83.

the spouses cope with the divorce. At this stage, the social worker focuses mainly on preventing spouses from learning and trying to avoid mistakes from a failed marriage and to prevent problems related to the effects of divorce on the family.¹⁶⁰

As for the post-divorce period, the goal of therapy is to stabilize and achieve an independent lifestyle, cope with a new situation, overcome possible neurotic or depressive reactions.¹⁶¹

At the time of the crisis in the family that resulted in the divorce proceedings, the child welfare authority is appointed by the conflict guardian. According to Act 36/2005. on the family "neither parent may represent his or her minor in legal proceedings involving a conflict of interests between the parents and the minor or between minor children represented by the same parent." This means that in proceedings involving parents and children, parents are excluded from representing the child due to a conflict of interest. As M. Korbová points out, these are proceedings in which the court regulates the exercise of parental rights and obligations, decides on entrusting a child to one of the parents, to substitute personal care, foster care, ordering institutional care, inheritance proceedings, determination of paternity, denial of paternity and the like. 163

According to O. Matoušek et al. a court decision on divorce often delays parents' struggle to entrust their children. The most favorable situation for the participants is the fact that parents can agree on who their children will be entrusted to care for, the frequency of meeting with children, as well as the amount of maintenance. If they do not reach an agreement, the court will decide, which may invite forensic experts to the proceedings. However, in many cases, the judgment does not end the work with the family. On the contrary, conflict situations and stressful situations persist for

¹⁶⁰ Cf. STRIEŽENEC, Š. *Úvod do sociálnej práce*. Trnava : AD, 1999. p. 222. 161 Cf. KRATOCHVÍL, P. *Manželská terapie*. Praha : Portál, 2000. p. 204. 162 Zákon č. 36/2005. Z. z. o rodine v znení neskorších predpisov. § 31. 163 Cf. KORBOVÁ, M. Rozvod v spoločnosti. In *Manželstvo dnes. Vedecká konferencia medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. pp. 118-119.

both divorced parents and children, and therefore they repeatedly become clients of social work.¹⁶⁴

M. Korbová states that these are most often the following problems in which professionals are expected to have adequate professional intervention:

- failure to manage divorce for injured feelings and anger,
- repeated suggestions of parents to change the educational environment of the child,
- abuse of children in parental conflict (eg emotional blackmail of a former partner),
- refusal of contact of the child with a parent to whom the child has not been entrusted,
- manipulative behavior of children towards parents,
- educational problem behavior of the child as a consequence of inappropriate parental work,
- often unfounded complaints against the former spouse alleging neglect of child custody,
- \bullet searching for culprits in your area, including hostility to a conflict guardian. 165

We believe that many of the conflicts are the result of ineffective communication between divorced spouses. Here we see room for the application of divorce mediation as a tool to help peaceful cooperative divorce. According to J. Gabura, its goal is to reduce tensions in relations, negotiate to reach mutually acceptable decisions, agree on the role of parents in the upbringing of the child, on the parents' contact with the child, on the payment of maintenance, on ways of communication between parents after divorce, etc.¹⁶⁶

Like parents, children of divorced or divorcing parents often need help. As Mr Hardy points out, "the practice of family

¹⁶⁴ Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. *Metody a řízení sociální práce*. Praha : Portál, 2003. p. 296.

¹⁶⁵ Cf. KORBOVÁ, M. Rozvod v spoločnosti. In *Manželstvo dnes. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. pp. 119-120.

¹⁶⁶ Cf. GABURA, J. $Sociálna\ práca\ s\ rodinou.$ Bratislava : Občianske združenie sociálna práca, 2006. 53 p.

mediators, counselors and psychosocial research has led to the creation of a new specific form of support and primary prevention for children from divorced families in the French, Belgian, Canadian and Italian environments."¹⁶⁷

The reason for their creation is the fact that these children need to communicate about their situation with their peers in order to understand their parents' divorce and free themselves from feelings of guilt and insecurity about their future. In order to enable children experiencing the experience of parental divorce to "stay children" and find survival strategies, the social worker, in collaboration with the parents, will create informal supportive "Word Groups" consisting of 6-8 peers aged 6-10 or 11-16. During 4 two-hour weekly meetings, the child can, as an active subject, express his needs, name his own feelings, free himself from worries and anxieties, create a distance from conflict, restore trust and communication with parents.¹⁶⁸

For family at all stages of divorce, social counseling is an important means of assistance. According to O. Matoušek et al. "Professional social counseling provides direct assistance to people in solving their social problems, including the area of life crises, problems in marital cohabitation and child care, in a situation of divorce. Professional counseling is characterized by the use of special professional procedures, the aim of which is to influence the thinking and actions of a person who is in a difficult situation, which he failed to solve on his own or with the help of family and friends."¹⁶⁹

Counseling emphasizes that the person with the problems is also the person who has the resources needed to solve them. The

¹⁶⁷ HARDY, M. Princípy práce sociálneho pracovníka s rodinou. In HARDY, M., BRIŠŠÁKOVÁ, J., PAVELOVÁ Ľ., TOMKA M. *Metódy sociálnej práce s rodinou*. Zborník z vedeckej konferencie s medzinárodnou účasťou. Bratislava : VŠZaSP sv. Alžbety. p. 179.

¹⁶⁸ Cf. HARDY, M. Princípy práce sociálneho pracovníka s rodinou. In HARDY, M., BRIŠŠÁKOVÁ, J., PAVELOVÁ Ľ., TOMKA M. *Metódy sociálnej práce s rodinou*. Zborník z vedeckej konferencie s medzinárodnou účasťou. Bratislava : VŠZaSP sv. Alžbety. p. 179.

¹⁶⁹ MATOUŠEK, O. Metody a řízení sociální práce. Praha: Portál, 2003. p. 84.

counselor creates a relationship that allows the client to search for and find their own answers to problems.¹⁷⁰

Through his social and educational influence on the client, the social worker implements social therapy, which is "a process based on a dynamic interaction between the client and the social worker. This process is a conscious effort to form the opinions, beliefs, attitudes, feelings and actions of clients." ¹⁷¹

The social worker constantly keeps in mind that a failure in a marital relationship should not mean a failure in the parental function. Monitors the proper care of children and takes measures in conflict situations to ensure that the lives and health of minors are not endangered.¹⁷²

As part of professional counseling, the social worker uses his knowledge and skills from the psychological department and at the same time quite often mediates the help of a psychologist from the counseling and psychological services department to family members. "Helping through a psychological perspective is to help others understand the problem, explain why and where friction surfaces arise, and show possible ways to act."¹⁷³ The cited author further states that the main role of the therapist is to explain to the spouses the source of their problems in marriage, which can help them decide whether to divorce or remain a spouse.¹⁷⁴

The importance of social work is therefore undeniable. It helps not only adults but also children to cope as well as possible with this difficult period of their lives and prepare to enter its next stage.

2.4 Influence and reactions of children on parents' divorce

"Children of divorcing parents feel very insecure, especially

¹⁷⁰ Cf. DROBNÁ, I. *Vplyv sociálneho pracovníka na rodinu v rozvode*. Brno : Masarykova univerzita, Fakulta sociálních studií, 2011. pp. 71-73.

¹⁷¹ LEVICKÁ, J. a kol. Sociálna práca I. Trnava: Oliva, 2007. p. 116.

¹⁷² Cf. ŠKARPÍŠEK, Ľ. Úloha sociálneho pracovníka v rozvodovom konaní rodičov. Bratislava: VŠZaSP Sv. Alžbety, 2013. p. 61.

¹⁷³ MATOUŠEK, O. *Metody a řízení sociální práce*. Praha : Portál, 2003. p. 85. 174 Cf. MATOUŠEK, O. *Metody a řízení sociální práce*. Praha : Portál, 2003. p. 85.

at the time of divorce. Eventually, the family falls apart - the most stable force in their lives. This must inevitably bring uncertainty into their lives". 175

Coping with a parents' divorce is often difficult and incomprehensible for children. Children cope with this difficult period for about 2 years.¹⁷⁶ Children often respond to divorce by denying it. Sometimes, long after the divorce, they still live in the hope of bringing their parents closer together. They often try to put their parents back together. In connection with this situation, they may experience behavioral problems or psychosomatic difficulties.¹⁷⁷

In a period of divorce, we must devote more time, love and optimism to children. We need time for children to learn to manage their feelings in a way that helps them. Their feelings are important, they motivate them to grow and they warn their parents that something needs to change. 178

Parental divorce can also be called a crisis situation in the administration of children, so it is important to realize that stable relationships in the family will fundamentally change. Every such change is always accompanied by worries, confusion, frequent misunderstandings and, above all, painful feelings. During this period, the most painful for a child is the loss of a sense of security. However, if parents have control over the divorce crisis, the negative consequences can be avoided, at least in part. However, divorce will always have a negative effect on children simply by disrupting natural relationships.¹⁷⁹

Auxiliary aim 3: Find out and point out towards the influence and reactions of the children on the divorce of their parents.

¹⁷⁵ GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej. 1991. p. 142.

¹⁷⁶ Cf. BERGER, M. GRAVILLON, I. *Když se rodiče rozvádějí : jak pochopit cítění dítěte a jak mu pomoci*. Vyd. 1. Praha : Portál, 2011. p. 81.

¹⁷⁷ Cf. SMITH, H. Děti a rozvod. 2004. p. 24.

¹⁷⁸ Porov. COLOROSOVÁ, B. Krizové situace v rodině, Jak pomoci dětem překonat smrt blízkého člověka, nemoc, rozvod a traumata adopce, 1. vyd. Praha: Ikar, 2008. p. 105.

¹⁷⁹ Cf. TEYBER, E. Děti a rozvod. 2007. p. 18.

Table 9 Do you agree that divorce has a negative rather than a positive effect on the further development of the child?

	High school education	University education	Together n/%
Agree	61	75	264/79,5
Rather agree	58	70	
Rather disagree	19	21	68/20,5
Disagree	18	10	
Together	156	176	332

In Table 9, we present the statements of our respondents to the question of whether they agree that divorce has a negative rather than a positive effect on the further development of the child.

Based on the distribution according to completed education, we can state that 264 respondents expressed a favorable opinion. Which is 79,5 percent of the total number of respondents and a dissenting opinion was expressed by - or only 68 respondents (which is 20,5 percent of the total number of respondents).

We can unequivocally confirm that our hypothesis was confirmed, as the positive opinion was higher than the 75 percent of respondents we set.

We also confirm the hypothesis with Pearson's chi square at the significance level of 0,1.

Null hypothesis 3: There is no statistically significant relationship between the respondents' education and their opinion on the negative impact of divorce on the child's further development.

Hypothesis 3: There is a statistically significant relationship between the education of the respondents and their opinion on the negative impact of divorce on the further development of the child

Chi square = 3,761 P- value 0,878<----

The null hypothesis si confirmed. We can say that at the level

of significance 0.10 it is true that there is no statistically significant relationship between the education of the respondent and his opinion on the adequacy of the network of services provided to the homeless by the city of Košice. Based on the p value p = 0.878 < ---, we found out with what probability the null hypothesis was confirmed.

Degree 8, probability 95%

There are certain factors related to children's reactions to their parents' divorce, which include, but are not limited to, the child's personality. Each of us is a personality, each of us copes with stress and life changes in his own way, especially children. Some prefer to talk about their worries, while others need to unwind and divert ideas in a different direction.¹⁸⁰

"The children of divorced parents live in fear that the parent who has moved away may be lost altogether and that the parent who has stayed with them may also leave".¹¹¹¹ One way to make sure it doesn't happen is to test parental tolerance for disobedience. Children are based on the belief that the more disobedience and transgressions a parent can bear, the greater his affection for the child. Although such behaviors usually result in penalties, the parent does not leave the child and it was.¹¹²²

The atmosphere in the family depends on all its members, it depends on the formation of the child's personality. If a divorce occurs and suddenly one of the basic family members is missing, the child may be at risk of mental deprivation.¹⁸³

"Mental deprivation is a mental state arising as a result of such life situations, when the subject is not given the opportunity to satisfy some of his basic vital psychological needs to a sufficient extent and for quite a long time".¹⁸⁴

Children often feel responsible for divorce and also for the

¹⁸⁰ Cf. SMITH, H. Děti a rozvod. 2004. p. 25.

¹⁸¹ GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej. 1991. p. 143.

¹⁸² Cf. GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej. 1991. p. 143.

¹⁸³ Cf. LANGMEIER, J., MATĚJČEK, Z. *Psychická deprivace v dětství*. Vyd. 4., Praha: Karolinum 1., 2011. p. 26.

¹⁸⁴ LANGMEIER, J., MATĚJČEK, Z. Psychická deprivace v dětství. 2011. p.26.

changes that come with it. The greater the changes in the child's current living conditions, the more of the existing certainties he loses. For example, downloading loses the safe and familiar space of your home. Moving to a more distant location is related to a change of school, the loss of friends. After the divorce of parents, there is often a decline in living standards, which is very difficult for children to bear.¹⁸⁵

The basic starting point for divorced parents should be the preservation of parenting awareness, which also carries responsibility for the further favorable development of the child. Underestimation of children's sensitivity to divorce and parental conflicts should be avoided. The best solution is to adequately inform children about what is happening in the family and what will happen in the near future, even if it is unlikely to cause child pain. Divorced parents must learn to correct their guesses, reflections and alleviate child anxiety. The initial information about the divorce should not be too much and should not be completely changed later. ¹⁸⁶

Talking to children about divorce and a crumbling family is not easy. There is a thin line between trusting and explaining that is easy to cross, especially in times of emotional loneliness. Children are likely to be confronted with the grief of divorcing parents, which will not be easy for them at all. Parents should confess their grief to their children, because lying would easily arouse mistrust in children. At the same time, however, divorced parents should try to relieve children of worries and adult affairs. ¹⁸⁷

Divorcing parents are advised that as part of the divorce process, each parent makes their own contacts with the children and spends some time alone with the children, without a new potential partner, in order to get used to working after the divorce. At the same time, however, it is necessary to be careful that parents

¹⁸⁵ Cf. VÁGNEROVÁ, M. *Vývojová psychologie*. 2. vyd., Praha: Karolinum, 1999. p. 174.

¹⁸⁶ Cf. BERGER, M. GRAVILLON, I. Když se rodiče rozvádějí : jak pochopit cítění dítěte a jak mu pomoci. 2011. p. 87.

¹⁸⁷ Cf. BERGER, M. GRAVILLON, I. Když se rodiče rozvádějí : jak pochopit cítění dítěte a jak mu pomoci. 2011. pp. 87-88.

do not mislead children into conflicts of loyalty, ie in a situation where children's expressions of affection for one parent threaten their relationship with the other parent.¹⁸⁸

The basic rule of divorced parents should be not to encourage children against their ex-partner and rather to keep the image that children have had so far about their parents. The self-evaluation of children is influenced by the image they have of their parents. It is good for them if they can consider their parents as good people after a divorce. 189

After a divorce, parents should not overlook the reactions of children, their approach should be understanding, but at the same time setting firm boundaries. Transitions of children after divorce from household to household are not easy. Children change the environment and also the styles of education, so they need time and space for these changes.¹⁹⁰

If parents correct their behavior and suppress hostile feelings, they will certainly influence the children's behavior. The less they get angry with each other, the less they get angry with their children and the less there are reasons for their anti-social behavior. The less divorced parents argue, the more time they can spend with their children. If they devote more time to them, children will not have to get their attention through provocative acts. Children of divorced parents need to feel more love and understanding and then they will be more confident, capable and satisfied.¹⁹¹

Divorce means a stressful situation that threatens the balance of one or both spouses and affects children. Therefore, we agree with P. Kratochvíl, according to which "professional, professional help is needed even in the terminal stage of marriage and in the next

¹⁸⁸ Cf. PLAŇAVA, I. Manželství a rodiny : struktura, dynamika, komunikace. 2000. p. 185.

¹⁸⁹ MATĚJČEK, Z. DYTRYCH, Z. *Krizové situace v rodině očima dítěte.* Vyd. 1., Praha : Grada. 2002. p.74.

¹⁹⁰ Cf. BERGER, M. GRAVILLON, I. Když se rodiče rozvádějí : jak pochopit cítění dítěte a jak mu pomoci. 2011. p. 93.

¹⁹¹ Cf. GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej. 1991. p. 143.

stage of restructuring of life and adaptation to a new lifestyle."¹⁹² The parents themselves play an important role in this process. According to E. Teyber, their conduct should be guided by the following principles:

- ensure continuity in pragmatic living conditions (dining and sleeping time, extracurricular activities and interests, same school, etc.),
- to ensure predictability, to enable the child to know in advance what awaits him, ensure reliability,
- •provide the child with affective significant persons (to support relationships with a separated parent, grandparents and other relatives) to make children feel truly loved and supported in their personal growth."193

Divorce is not a one-off act, but a process involving the pre-divorce, divorce and post-divorce periods. It is the parents who are in one of the stages of this process who become the clients of the Department of Social Protection of Children and the social guardianship of the Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family. They become the target group of social work in the following cases in particular:

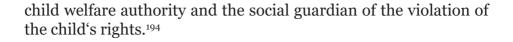
They feel a crisis in marital cohabitation, they are more or less determined to solve it by divorce and they expect in particular information of a legal nature, social counseling on the possibilities of solving future childcare, psychological support and accompaniment in the pre-divorce period.

The district court informs the child welfare authority and social guardianship of the petition of one of the spouses for divorce, appoints the labor, social affairs and family office as the conflict guardian of minor children and requests an investigation of the child's family, housing and social circumstances for the court's decision.

A third entity from the family environment (school, doctor, neighbors, relatives, anonymous whistleblower) will notify the

¹⁹² KRATOCHVÍL, P. Manželská terapie. Praha: Portál, 2000. p. 200.

¹⁹³ TEYBER, E. Děti a rozvod. Praha: Návrat domů. p. 62.



¹⁹⁴ Cf. RUŽIČKA, V. Rodina, manželstvo, rozvod a vplyv rozvodu na maloleté deti. In *Manželstvo dnep. Vedecká konferencia s medzinárodnou účasťou*. Ružomberok : Verbum, 2009. pp. 128-131.

3 NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF THE DIVORCES FAMILY MEMBERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Throughout our lives, we will meet 100 to 150 people with whom we could imagine a happy life. Unfortunately, we are not endowed with a supernatural ability that would see into the souls oof our potential partners. About half of all partner collapses, crises and divorces are really a mistake of choice. Mostly women choose a partner from the so-called risk group. 195

Divorce is one of the most difficult life situations. Just as it causes trauma to children, it also causes it to parents, most often mothers, to whom children are entrusted for parenting after divorce. This option is the most common model of family divorce. 196

The most common problem that life change as great as divorce brings and that women face after divorce or when considering divorce is the social label of a single-parent family.¹⁹⁷

A single-parent household is a household where one parent lives with one or more children. It is most often a divorced woman with children who were entrusted to her upbringing after the divorce. ¹⁹⁸ The number of single-parent families is currently on the rise, and this is causing a number of different social and often legal problems. For this reason, such single-parent families get into an exceptional position, the so-called. endangered type of families. Such types of families include e.g. families with an unemployed member, families on the threshold of retirement age, families of start-ups or families with a woman on maternity and parental leave. ¹⁹⁹

Life in a single-parent family is commonplace today, but it is still worrying. Parents and children from such families are mostly disadvantaged, have material and financial need and are often

¹⁹⁵ Cf. ŠMOLKA, P. *Výběr partnera: pro nezadané i zadané.* 1 iss. Praha: Grada Publishing, 2005. p. 78.

¹⁹⁶ Cf. DUDOVÁ, R. *Otcovství po rozchodu rodičovského páru*. 1 vyd. 2008. pp. 14 – 15.

¹⁹⁷ Cf. DUDOVÁ, R. Otcovství po rozchodu rodičovského páru. 1 vyd. 2008. p. 15.

¹⁹⁸ Cf. MOŽNÝ, I. Sociologie rodiny. 1. iss. Praha: Slon, 1999. p. 135.

¹⁹⁹ Cf. SMITH, H. Děti a rozvod. 2004. p. 44.

3.1 Needs and problems of divorced women

The mother, wife or woman belong to the primary members of the family. The mother has the greatest impact on childrens' lives, whether it is positive or negative. She has the ability to understand children, tenderness is important to them. For children, the mother is important at all stages of life, in moments of happiness but also in problems.

The mother has a very important position in family education. For this reason, children are most often entrusted to the mother's care after a divorce. Among the youngest children, its influence on their upbringing is the most significant. At this time, children develop character traits as well as traits of balance, perseverance and reliability. Any further absence of the mother during this period has an adverse effect on the development of nature. The youngest children are most dependent on the closest person, usually the mother with whom they are most in contact.²⁰¹

Mothers have an important position in the later stages of life. They usually hold a position of emotional support throughout life, although this is no longer the case at a later age. Mothers represent a woman's view of the world, women's experience and understanding of the situation. Mothers with children speak differently than fathers.²⁰²

Thus, after divorce, mothers are mostly those who care most about the development of children in a single-parent family. Every day, they are forced to prove how much they love their children. Motherhood is also a painful test at this stage. Women have to heal their wounds, but they have to do so in the evenings when they put the children to bed. Divorced women realize that by crying, remembering, and tormenting, they would cause even greater trauma to their children. Not every divorced woman can handle

²⁰⁰ Cf. SMITH, H. Děti a rozvod. 2004. p. 25

²⁰¹ Cf. STŘELEC, P. *Kapitoly z rodinné výchovy*. 1. vyd. Praha: Fortuna, 1992. p. 78.

²⁰² Cf. STŘELEC, P. Kapitoly z rodinné výchovy. 1992. pp. 78 – 79.

this task, which of course is understandable.²⁰³

Divorced women - mothers face different problems after divorce than divorced men - fathers. Due to the fact that children are in most cases entrusted to mothers after a divorce, fathers are confronted with the loss of daily contact with children. On the contrary, all the responsibilities associated with divorce pass to the mothers' shoulders. After divorce, mothers must ensure the continued operation of the family as the sole parent and sole breadwinner. After divorce, mothers find themselves in the role of head of a single-income family, so they become sole breadwinners and caregivers at the same time. During the marriage, they usually subordinate their careers and careers to caring for the family. After the birth of children, they often leave their jobs for a long time and then start working again in lower paid positions.

Divorce also reveals the inequality of marital roles in the family. Men remain their job opportunities and experience, which is also related to their economic income. A divorced woman loses her share of living standards from her ex-husband, finds it more difficult to find a new job and often has all the necessary responsibilities for children.²⁰⁶

The role of a woman - mother is specific to our cultural environment even after a divorce. It is usually relatively clearly defined, the rights and obligations of the mother are generally known and accepted. Mothers have educational and caring authority in their hands. Divorced mothers consider it their duty to decide primarily on any aspects of the upbringing and care of the child. They take it for granted and do not like to give it up, e.g. in co-decision with

²⁰³ Cf. ŠPATENKOVÁ, N. *Jak řeší krizi moderní žena*. 1. vyd. Praha: Grada, 2006. p. 133.

²⁰⁴ Cf. DUDOVÁ, R., HASTRMANOVÁ, Š. *Otcové, matky a porozvodová péče o děti.* 1. vyd. Praha: Sociologický ústav AV R, 2007. p. 11.

²⁰⁵ Cf. DUDOVÁ, R.,HASTRMANOVÁ, Š. *Sociologické studie; Otcové, matky a porozvodová péče o děti*, 1. vyd. Praha: Sociologický ústav AV ČR, v.v.i., 2007. p. 11.

²⁰⁶ Cf. DUDOVÁ, R., HASTRMANOVÁ, Š. Sociologické studie; Otcové, matky a porozvodová péče o děti, 1. vyd. 2007. p. 11.

her ex-husband.207

Being a mother usually brings a woman the personal satisfaction of her parenting needs, new experiences, confirmation of her own female identity, on the other hand, there are also negatives connected with her, especially after a divorce. Mothers are expected to take full care of their children. After a divorce, it is very difficult, the economic situation of the divorced family deteriorates, and this often happens that the family is increasingly dependent on the finances of the former husband and father. Although the role of the mother and the divorced is highly valued socially with considerable prestige, the role of the housewife - complementary to the role of the mother - has a very low prestige.²⁰⁸

"It is also true that many single mothers are so mentally and physically exhausted after a divorce that they cannot support their children for several months after the divorce."²⁰⁹

3.2 Needs and problems of divorced men

Just as children need a mother, so they need a father. The father is the second most important person for children. The role of the father is important for the family, it brings a masculine element to it. This is very important, especially during puberty, when children discover their identities. At present, children consider the father primarily as a natural authority, role model, certainty, they look for a protector and a leader in it. Not only boys but also girls need a role model.²¹⁰

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mom! Mom is often characterized as a symbol of emotional strength and father as the protector, support and security of the family. If children are to develop healthily, they need the care, support and love of both mother and father. During the crisis of marriage and subsequent divorce, children often lose these

²⁰⁷ Cf. VÁGNEROVÁ, M. *Vývojová psychologie II. Dospělost a stáří*. Praha: Nakladatelství Karolinum, 2007. pp. 117 – 118.

²⁰⁸ Cf. VÁGNEROVÁ, M. *Vývojová psychologie II. Dospělost a stáří*. 2007. p. 118.

²⁰⁹ ŠPATENKOVÁ, N. Jak řeší krizi moderní žena. 2006. p. 133.

²¹⁰ Cf. MATĚJČEK, Z. Co děti nejvíc potřebují. 1 vyd. Praha: Portál, 1994. p. 38.

certainties. Children living after divorce with only one parent are deprived of the opportunity to see the relationship between a woman and a man in daily interaction - between mother and father.²¹¹

A frequent reason for the departure of one of the partners, in most cases a man, occurs during a period of complex and unexpected life changes, such as the birth of a disabled child or the arrival of a child as such during the unpreparedness of future parents can contribute to family breakdown.²¹²

Divorce can be defined as the annulment of a marriage by a court ruling when the relationship between the spouses is seriously and permanently broken. Marriage at this stage does not fulfill its social purpose and basic functions. Raising children, family atmosphere is in a desperate state and cooperation between spouses is impossible.²¹³ Divorce creates an incomplete family, which can be defined as a family in which the mother or most often the father is missing and absent. Male and paternal roles are then replaced and compensated by others.²¹⁴

The father is also an important example of the male role, not only for the sons but also for the daughters, which is reflected in a different style of parenthood. We cannot judge whether this style is worse or better. In any case, it should provide children with a number of stimuli for leisure activities, hobbies or sports activities.²¹⁵

We cannot underestimate the role of the father, his educational work is often associated with the discipline of children. Fathers represent the male view of the world, they speak differently than

²¹¹ Cf. VIŠŇOVSKÝ, Ľ. KAČANI, V. *Základy školskej pedagogiky*. Bratislava: Iris, 2002. p. 200.

²¹² L. CINTULOVÁ, F. RADI, K. BUNDZELOVÁ. 2016. Rozvod rodín s postihnutým dieťaťom. Zborník vedeckých prác: Zdravotné postihnutie a chronické ochorenia v multidisciplinárnom pohľade. Trnava, Bratislava: Trnavská univerzita v Trnave, FZASP © Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Lekárska fakulta, 2016. p. 25

²¹³ Cf. GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej. 1991. pp. 55 – 56.

²¹⁴ Cf. VIŠŇOVSKÝ, Ľ. KAČANI, V. *Základy školskej pedagogiky*. 2002. p. 200.

²¹⁵ Cf. VÁGNEROVÁ, M. Vývojová psychologie II. Dospělost a stáří. 2007. p. 118.

mothers, they show love to children differently than mothers. They talk to children about other things and they also laugh with children about other things. In this way, children learn how important a role fathers play in their lives. ²¹⁶

The role of the father and the divorced, in the context of our culture, is not as clearly defined as the role of the mother's wife. It is more ambiguous and diverse. Rights and obligations are not clearly and intelligibly defined and, after divorce, are passed to the mother to a greater extent. Compared to the maternity role, the paternal role is not so highly valued, its prestige is lower, especially after divorce. The relationship of fathers to children develops gradually and more slowly than that of mothers, so it is very important even after a divorce that the father is not prevented from contact with children. It is very important for a divorced father and it is necessary to set aside time for joint activities with children. 217

Although it may seem that the father's role is ending after the divorce, it is not. It should be mainly in the interest of the father that the divorce does not become so-called. a fathers father with a festive authority that does not intervene in the event of common problems.²¹⁸

For men, the situation after divorce is usually different from that for women. This is due to the fact that men are not the ones to whom children are entrusted to care after divorce. Under normal circumstances, the courts of the Slovak Republic entrust children to the care of mothers. In deciding to whom children will be entrusted, they must pay particular attention to the interests of minors, their emotional ties, the need for development and the stability of the future environment in which children should grow up.²¹⁹

The criteria that determine the assignment of children to one of

²¹⁶ Cf. MATĚJČEK, Z. Co děti nejvíc potřebují. 1994. pp. 38 – 39.

²¹⁷ Cf. VÁGNEROVÁ, M. *Vývojová psychologie II. Dospělost a stáří*. 2007. pp. 118 – 119.

²¹⁸ Cf. VÁGNEROVÁ, M. Vývojová psychologie II. Dospělost a stáří. 2007. p. 118.

²¹⁹ Cf. PAVELKOVÁ, B. *Maloletí v slovenskom rodinnom práve*. 1.vyd. Bratislava: Bratislavská vysoká škola práva, 2009. p. 41.

the parents have been established by psychology through its longterm research. These criteria have been summarized as follows:

- Parental personalities: for the healthy development of children's personalities, it is necessary to have a parental role model.
- The upbringing should be determined by a mentally and physically healthier parent, whether it is a divorced mother or a divorced father.
- The positive relationship of divorced parents with their children, their love, is very important for their further development.
- Character, morality, structure of moral norms of divorced parents.
- Respect for children's rights to associate with the other parent.
- The relationship of children to divorced parents
- For their further normal development, they need children, the permanent presence of an adult, preferably a parent with whom the children form a more lasting relationship.
- A model for creating a social, especially sexual, role. Children must have a suitable role model in order to master the life role satisfactorily.
- Level of education and intelligence of divorced parents.
- If possible, do not break the continuity of the child's environment. Other people who are related to this divorced family and to whom the children have become accustomed during their lives are also important for the children.
- Socio-economic status: if a divorced mother or a divorced father has more financial resources, he should provide better living conditions for children.²²⁰

However, it remains a necessity for the father to continue to fulfill what is expected of him after the divorce, albeit in limited care. It is very good news for children, if the father can keep in touch with them even after the divorce, he will continue to convince them of his love and he will give them enough time. Children can be sure that they can rely on him. This is not always the case, rather it is often the other way around. However, if the father gives up his father's role after the divorce or performs it in an absolutely

²²⁰ Cf. PAVELKOVÁ, B. Maloletiv slovenskom rodinnom práve. 1.vyd. 2009. p. 41.

inappropriate way, the children lose their authority and the mother loses significant help.²²¹

The role of the father is very important after the divorce and is also associated with certain problems. Even after a divorce, the children of the father and the father need the children to form their identity. Especially in boys, the father is very important so that the child is not so fiercely attached to the mother and at the same time it helps to make the children independent.²²²

In order to alleviate the suffering of children after divorce, parental cooperation between a divorced father and a divorced mother is necessary. Even if the marriage has broken down, divorced parents should be aware of their continued parenthood and the need to maintain parental relationships with the children.²²³

Auxilliary aim 4: Identify the needs and problems of divorced women and men.

Table 10 Needs and problems of divorced women and mer	Table 10 Needs and 1	problems of divorced	women and men
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	High school education	University education	Together n/%
Rather spiritual	5	3	
Rather psychological	26	34	68 / 20,5%
Rather material	71	89	264 / 79,5%
Rather financial	54	50	204 / /9,3%
Together	156	176	332

Based on the statements of the respondents, we selected the needs and problems of divorced women and men on two levels: the spiritual and psychological level, where they used to "..." help and support of relatives, interviews, sitting with friends, sitting in

²²¹ Cf. SINGLY, F. Sociologie rodiny, 1.vyd. Praha: Portál, 1999. p. 113.

²²² Cf. LABUSOVÁ, E. *Chybějící otec, chybující syn*. [online]. [2020-02-12]. Available at: http://www.rozhlas.cz/cro6/tipy/_zprava/chybejici-otec-chybujici-syn.html >.

²²³ Cf. BERGER, M. GRAVILLON, I. Když se rodiče rozvádějí : jak pochopit cítění dítěte a jak mu pomoci. 2011. p. 94.

a restaurant, friendship and finding new friendships, a walk in the woods, a church ".... We found such statements in 68 respondents (which is 20,5 percent of the total number of respondents) and we identified more material needs and problems of divorced men and women in 264 respondents (which is 79,5 percent of the total number of respondents).

Null hypothesis 4: There is no statistically significant relationship between the respondents' education and their opinion on the needs and problems of divorced women and men.

Hypothesis 4: We assume that respondents will mention the material needs and problems of divorced women and men more than the needs and problems of a mental and spiritual nature.

Based on the hypothesis we set, it cannot be stated that this is confirmed, as the respondents in the answers to the questionnaire mentioned more material needs of women and men than needs and problems of a mental or spiritual nature.

The null hypothesis is confirmed. We can say that at the level of siginfication 0.10 it is true that there is no statistically significant relationship between the education of the respondent and his opinion on the adequacy of the network of services provided to the homeless by the city of Košice. Based on the p value p = 0.959 < --- we found out with what probability the null hypothesis was confirmed.

Chi square = 2,550 P- value 0,959<----Level of signification 0,10 Degree 8 probability 95%

3.3 Needs and problems of children after their parents' divorce

Every healthy person, be it a man, a woman or a child, constantly satisfies their needs, which have different values for them. Some vital needs are understood as a necessity i.e. food, sleep, drink. If a person satisfies the basic needs necessary for everyday life, he is able to continue to satisfy other needs.²²⁴

²²⁴ Cf. MATĚJČEK, Z. Rodiče a děti. 2. iss. Praha: Avicenum, 1989. p. 185.

The family is characterized by situations where educators, i.e. parents, satisfy the needs of children, and when together with children, their parental needs are also satisfied.²²⁵

Children need many things, but most of all, certainty in their relationships with their people. A human cub needs to have its people who will provide it with protection and help to survive, because it itself is powerless. However, his people - parents must also care about him. This is called human and parental love, which brings mutual satisfaction of psychological needs. Children need the presence of someone who will give them security and whom they can always rely on. They need to live the principle of trust throughout their lives, whether in a complete or divorced family. For children, psychological parenting is crucial, based on the inner, psychological and emotional acceptance of children, and not only on biological parenthood.²²⁶

Children from divorced families often experience stress, trauma, conflict or frustration that result from domestic tension. Their problems are usually obvious and dramatic. After the divorce, the feeling of security and safety also disappears. Conflicts that divorced parents have with each other should not be passed on to children. Despite divorce, parents should be aware that divorce has not relieved them of their parental responsibilities.²²⁷

Divorce endangers the health of children who experience divorce together with their parents. There is no age at which children do not suffer from divorce. The reactions of children at certain periods of their personality development vary according to age and also gender. Children who were very young during the divorce suffered less and short-term affections disappeared without significant traces. Preschool children are most sensitive to divorce, in the first year after divorce. Girls adapt faster, boys worse to a new post-divorce situation.²²⁸

²²⁵ Cf. MATĚJČEK, Z. Rodiče a děti. 2. iss. 1989. p. 185.

²²⁶ Cf. MATĚJČEK, Z. Co děti nejvíc potřebují. 1994. p. 15.

²²⁷ Cf. MATĚJČEK, Z. Co děti nejvíc potřebují. 1994. p. 41.

²²⁸ Cf. WARSHAK, R. A. Revoluce v porozvodové péči o děti. Praha : Portal, 2006. p. 132.

It is ideal if the children grow up in a family where there are good partnerships and a pleasant atmosphere. In order for the child's personality to fully mature, he needs to carry a positive image of mother and father even after divorce. Children are very sensitive to the quarrels and conflicts of divorced parents and deeply take them at any age. Young children do not yet know sensibly and at a distance to evaluate which parent would give him better after the divorce and prefer the one that allows him more and is less strict. Older children are already able to distinguish material and mental values and assess the relationship between them and their parents.²²⁹

Not every child responds to the breakdown and divorce of parents in the same way, but certain symptoms of stress occur frequently. The most common reactions of children are anxiety and confusion. Children also often feel angry, need more attention and often cry. Young children often respond to parents' divorce by regressing in response to the stress of separation and leaving. They may also get nocturnal urination or finger sucking. Many children from divorced families suffer from depression and increased anxiety. It can later manifest itself in the form of neurotic habits, such as biting pencils, biting nails or tics. 231

Children can hardly talk about their worries. With their whole being, they react emotionally to disaster and draw attention to themselves with behavioral disorders. They are not able to understand and process the parents' divorce. They just suffer him. Divorce affects all children, even if the divorce was peaceful and intelligent. The children feel a psychological onslaught and worry about the departure of one of the parents. The role of divorcing parents, or even divorced ones, is to protect children from suffering.²³²

When adapting children to the loss of one of the parents, it is very

²²⁹ Cf. WARSHAK, R. A. Rozvodové jedy. Praha: Triton, 2003. p. 25

²³⁰ Cf. GARDNER A, R. Rozvod a čo ďalej. 1991. p. 69.

²³¹ Cf. WARSHAK, R. A. Revoluce v porozvodové péči o děti. 2006. p. 132.

²³² Cf. PREKOPOVÁ, J. SCHWEIZEROVÁ, CH. Děti jsou hosté, kteří hledají cestu. Praha. 2003. p. 141.

important to orient and examine the protective factors that lie in the children themselves. Developing a divorce aid strategy for children can be more effective if it is based primarily on knowledge about how children cope with the burden, on strengthening children's resilience and on using the family's resources outside the family resources, so-called peers.²³³

In these cases, it is recommended that if the marriage is no longer successful and not acceptable, that both parents should break up in the least painful way for their children. The minimum of what must be respected in this respect can be summarized in the following points:

- Do not involve children in marital disputes and quarrels
- Do not buy children's affection
- Maintain fairness in front of children towards the partner.²³⁴

Marriage can fall apart in vain, but it is in the power of divorced spouses, ie in the power of father and mother, to collect and reassemble these pieces so as to give some meaning and mosaic, for the all-round development of their children's personalities.²³⁵ The physical presence of parents after a divorce is the real basis for a relationship with children. The irregularity and unpredictability of parental presence weakens the emotional bond of children. Therefore, it is very important to pay attention to regular contact. If there is to be any irregularity, it must be properly explained to the children. During the period of physical absence, try to maintain at least regular telephone contact. The worst thing that can be for children is if one of the parents disappears from the horizon. The emotional bond is broken and children automatically and naturally defend themselves against being frustrated again in the future. But we are talking, of course, about the presence of parents who are active in relation to children, their coexistence is constantly

²³³ Cf. KRÝSLOVÁ, M. Adaptácia dieťaťa na stratu rodiča rozvodom. In Psychológia a patopsychológia dieťaťa. Zborník z konferencie – Mosty k rodine 3, sociálna práca s rodinou, p. 70.

²³⁴ Cf. FERJENČÍK, J. Moji rodičia sa rozvádzajú. In *Rodina a škola. Zborník* z konferencie – Mosty k rodine 3, sociálna práca s rodinou, p. 10.

²³⁵ Cf. FERJENČÍK, J. Moji rodičia sa rozvádzajú. In *Rodina a škola. Zborník z konferencie – Mosty k rodine 3, sociálna práca s rodinou*, p. 10.

conditioned by a positive emotional relationship, interest in children and their needs and empathy for their experience. ²³⁶ Even after a divorce, the children need both parents. And it's just the parents' fault if they can't build a good relationship with them. The family is an environment for children and adults where they can confide in them, expect wise hearings, advice and help, it is a refuge in situations of life helplessness. ²³⁷

3.4 Conclusion of the empirical part and discussion

Divorce is a family problem that affects not only spouses who are leaving or do not want to be with each other for various reasons, but it is also a problem of all other family members, as it affects them essentially.

In our empirical research, we used the questionnaire method of quantitative research based on field data collection in the district of Spišská Nová Ves to find out the views of respondents related to this issue. Our research involved 332 respondents who filled out a short questionnaire correctly.

The main goal of our research for the needs of this scientific monograph was to find out about her problematic life situation as divorce. We surveyed respondents' views on marriage as an institution of the union of women and men, attitudes to divorce proceedings of spouses as to solving serious family problems, we focused on the influence and reactions of children to divorce and finally identified and selected the needs and problems of divorced women and men.

We further evaluated the hypotheses set by us with Pearson's chi-square and the statements themselves - we either confirmed or did not confirm the hypotheses in the text with a graphical representation of individual goals and hypotheses.

Based on our findings and research, we can confirm that a positive attitude towards marriage still prevails as an institution

²³⁶ Cf. BAKALÁŘ, E. a kol. *Rozvodová tematika a moderní psychologie*, 1. vyd. Praha: Karolinum, 2006. p. 124.

²³⁷ Cf. VIŠŇOVSKÝ, Ľ. KAČANI, V. Základy školskej pedagogiky. 2002. p. 201.

that is beneficial not only for spouses - adults, but especially for children, their upbringing and good and adequate development. We really liked the answer of the respondent, who smiled at us with a very nice statement: "humanity has not yet invented anything better and more beautiful for spouses and children than being together in marriage."

We met our secondary goal of identifying attitudes to divorce proceedings as a solution to family problems and found that this attitude was negative for most respondents (more than 63 percent), they consider divorce to be the last resort and it is not just the parent's departure from the household. It is divorce that has the maximum impact on a child's future development. Divorce creates a new situation for every part of the family, which must be handled by all members.

Divorce also has an unfortunate and very negative effect on children and their future direction. It is a very demanding process that each child experiences very individually and we can say that it is one of the biggest wounds they can experience in their lives. The individual experience of divorce in a child depends on the age, sex of the child, but also on the emotional stability of the parents, their work together and the communication that the child perceives. A child can respond to his parents' divorce in several ways: sadness, fear, self-blame, insecurity, anxiety, fear of the future. The last goal we set was to identify and identify the needs and problems of divorced women and men. We can confirm that these are more of a material and financial nature, which is necessary in terms of meeting the basic living needs of people alone. Psychological or spiritual needs have been described as necessary to a lesser extent, but not to the extent that we can claim that it is a necessity of life.

Based on these findings, we can say that a question arises, a recommendation that this research be deepened by questions that would broaden the horizons of opinions and attitudes presented by respondents who have survived the divorce proceedings.

CONCLUSION

The scientific monograph deals with various problematic situations that can occur in the family at any time in its life. As the family has several functions, it is very important that both parents provide these functions at the same time and that there is harmony between the individual family members.

The scientific monograph also provides insight into the field quantitative research data collection, on the basis of which we find out and identify the attitudes and opinions of respondents to marriage, family and divorce in the main and secondary goals.

The research part of the scientific monograph is supplemented by a graphical representation of the respondents' statements, but also by the evaluation of hypotheses using Pearson's Chi square.

The scientific monograph is intended for the scientific as well as professional public who are dealing with the given issue or who are interested in this issue.

The scientific monograph is the output of the NKS Gr. 10.12.19 called Religio et Societas V. which was implemented in 2020.

We believe that this scientific monograph will provide relevant information that addresses such a serious problem as the problematic situations in the family and the associated divorce proceedings of the spouses.

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