



Piotr Chomczyński. *Activities of pupils in juvenile shelters and correctional facilities. Sociological analysis of group interactions*. Łódź 2014: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego. Pp. 324.

Piotr Chomczyński, in his book *Activities of pupils in juvenile shelters and correctional facilities. Sociological analysis of group interactions* presents formal and informal determinants that influence the interactions of pupils, both towards each other and the staff. The perspective of an interpretative description of reality adopted by him allows to emphasize the symbolic layer of various processes taking place in groups of charges, which are, for example, status hierarchies, rules of functioning in a group, roles, defensive behavior and an emotional approach.

The book consists of twelve chapters in which the theoretical and methodological perspective is presented. The book also discusses formal and legal issues related to the functioning of the institutions studied by the author. This is to allow the reader to see the differences regarding informal stratification or “second life” and to understand the issues that were described in part of the research results. The last chapter discusses alternative approaches in working with young people that could be used to describe the issues of juvenile detention centers and shelters for minors.

The methodology and qualitative techniques adopted by Piotr Chomczyński focused on the symbolic layer, which is not easy to study, concerning group processes, hierarchization, gaining status in a group, relations between pupils, rituals of degradation in small groups. The direction of the research undertaken by the author focused on the assumptions of symbolic interactionism and theories of marking.

The book is addressed both to students, theoreticians and practitioners, as well as to representatives of the humanities and social sciences.

A significant part of the work is dedicated to the sociological analysis of behavior and ways of coping with emotions by the charges of institutions. It should be emphasized that this is a new subject on the Polish scientific ground. The described emotions have been diversified by the author through the presented photos, which convincingly arrange the image of the described phenomenon for the reader.

Piotr Chomczyński analyzes both the behavior of boys and girls, taking into account their criminal past, previous stays in care facilities, inclination to risky activities, having talents valued by the group, physical fitness, relations with staff, participation in conflicts or sexual behavior. The author has characterized the hi-

erarchies of roles assumed by the pupils in the group, dividing them into: significant pupils, minor pupils, pupils on the sidelines, unacceptable pupils. Each of these groups has been characterized and classified in detail.

The author draws attention to the fact that the research process, which is carried out in closed institutions, is accompanied by specific and typical difficulties for these institutions, caused by the unnatural nature of the environment.

The work is characterized by great professionalism and at the same time has a practical character. The last two chapters describe the impact of the institution's architecture on the interactions between pupils and educators, and also presents the possible theoretical framework in the light of selected macrosocial theories. The author referred to the sociological postmodern theory of Zygmunt Bauman, the sociological figuration of Norbert Elias, Michael Foucault's theory of power and Pierre Bourdieu's habitus.

I find the text inspiring and it has a significant impact for people who face practical work in correctional institutions or shelters for minors.

The book is written in a clear and legible way. The book is worth recommending to anyone interested in social rehabilitation and social maladjustment of minors. Finally, I would like to emphasize that the author separated and compared the determinants of status in a group of boys and girls.

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