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*Underage Alcohol Consumption as a Factor of Social Maladjustment in the Light
of Underage Drinking Research Conducted in Bochnia*

Abstract

The object of the present study is underage alcohol consumption viewed as a factor of social maladjustment in the light of research on underage alcohol consumption conducted in Bochnia.

Chapter I entitled "Juvenile Social Maladjustment with Special Regard to Alcohol Consumption by Youth and Children" is an attempt at formulating the definition of social maladjustment, origins of this phenomenon, as well as the role played by the environmental, biopsychic and situational factors in the origins of social maladjustment. The impacts exerted by the family, school and peer group environments as well as biological factors were discussed as the factors significantly affecting juvenile social maladjustment manifesting itself, in particular, in the minor's reaching for alcohol or caused by the minor's reaching for such beverages.

In Chapter II entitled "Legal Measures for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Demoralisation" specific procedures were presented to be applied while dealing with minors. First, the origins of separate proceedings for juvenile delinquents were discussed along with the axiological foundations contained in the Constitution and in international regulations. Next, the currently applicable normative regulations were presented, also in the context of other laws, and the scale of the problem was demonstrated against the practical functioning of the system.

Chapter III entitled "Research Methodology" contains the description of the applied research methodology. It contains the methods, techniques and tools used for the data collection, methodology used for the technical processing of the research data, issues related to the object, place, and time of the research concerned, selection of the research samples as well as it presents the assumed objectives and hypotheses.

Chapter IV entitled "Underage Alcohol Consumption in Bochnia – Presentation of Research Results Gathered in the Years 1913, 1967, 1990 and 2015" contains a comprehensive analysis of the collected research materials.

Chapter V entitled "Variable and Invariable Trends in the Underage Alcohol Consumption, Problem's Scale and Features Analyzed over the Years 1913, 1967, 1990 and 2015 – Attempted Comparative Study" demonstrates the changes that took place over the period of 100 years in the Bochnia town area in respect of alcohol consumption by children and youth aged 11-14. Interrelations between particular studies were shown, both viewed in their entirety and in detail.

Chapter VI entitled "Environmental Determinants of Juvenile Socialisation in the Light of Bochnia-Based Research" contains a demonstration of environmental and other determinants of juvenile socialisation in the light of the Bochnia-based research.

The study is topped off with conclusions, whose main thesis, supported by the research results, is a conclusion that, in the period of over 100 years, positive trends have been observed with regard to children's first contacts with alcohol in the 11-14 age group. These positive trends resulted, as it seems, from the changes in the way the problem was viewed, mainly by parents, but also by other educational environments, and increasingly growing awareness of the broadly defined, negative effects of underage alcohol consumption. Unfortunately, the actual minors' approaches to alcohol and the adult world are divergent from the declared ones, which results, as growing up proceeds, in the increase of the children's criticism and their approaches changing from the negation of alcohol to the imitative reaching for the same.

There are multiple ways of combating the problem of juvenile social maladjustment, underlined, among others, by the underage alcohol consumption, they embrace the application of legal regulations, including the criminal law ones. However, the effectiveness of the same in the present shape is problematic due the absence of effective systemic solutions.