

ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION SITUATION IN LITHUANIAN NGO'S

Sociālās iekļaušanās situācijas analīze Lietuvas NVO

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Abstract. *Nongovernmental organizations are not just reinforcing the sense of sociality, but also permit to develop for the more universal inherent rights and abilities of a person: to extend the experience of a society while communicating with the people with disabilities, to create a social wealth with educational activities not for yourself but also and for others. The aim of a research is to reveal the principles of a social inclusion of people with disabilities but also and to reveal the assumptions in NGO's activities in Lithuania. The social model instead of a physical disability (also people that are treated as „problematic ones“) failings suggested to identify the barriers that are socially contrasting in society (when people are facing difficulties). It was set up that one assumption of a successful activity of NGO is the ability of people with disabilities to cooperate that is also determined by peculiarities and motives of inter-communication of disabled, that encourages people for general activity. By the research there found factors that encourages and relieves the cooperation of people with disabilities: the content of NGO's activities and social openness and preparation to collaborate of NGO's members that are participating.*

Introduction

The recall of Lithuania's independence determined rapid changes in both social and political activities. Democratic ideas opened abilities for disabled to active participation while creating a democratic society, also in implementation of essential principles of integration in non-governmental organization's (further – NGO) activities. According to Pūras (1997), in the initial stage of integration in Lithuania, there were more talks about reorganization of traditional agencies for people with disorders and about creation of new type agencies, services and NGO's. Subsequently, the vicissitude of social paradigms encouraged people with disabilities for more active participating in social life and in process of creation of nation and that had an influence for political changes in country: a centralist help was not able to guarantee a social security for most society's groups (Jonutyte, 2007). NGOs became the intermediate between nation and people that need social, economic and educational help. While participating in NGO's activities, people with disabilities gained real possibilities for auto-identification, social participation and for expression of public spirit, as well. NGO's are not just reinforcing the sense of sociality, but also permit to develop for the more universal inherent rights and abilities of a person: to extend the experience of a society while communicating

with the people with disabilities, to create a social wealth with educational activities not for yourself but also and for others. In this case, the participation in NGO's activity becomes a very important assumption for formation of democratic and civic society and for optimization of integration's processes of people with disabilities as active citizens (Stumbraitė, 2006).

Scientific ideas, that were analyzed in foreign academic works (Selian, 2004; Lewis, Madon, 2004; Lindsay, 2004) and they were expanded in Lithuania's sociocultural, economic context (Žemaitytė 2004; Dromantienė 2003; Jonutytė, Šmitienė 2007; Ruškus, Mažeikis 2007; Žalimienė 2006; Gailienė 2006) reveal new aspects of NGO's activities, which need more exhaustive researches to be recognized. NGO unite people with disabilities, for whom participation in NGO's activities increase their social inclusion abilities, supply socioeducational and psychosocial needs. Central axis of social changes, while legitimizing public spirit's and all human right (Ellis 2000, Morris 1998), is coming and developing of a social model. Social model instead of shortages of physical disability suggested identifying barriers that are socially constructed in society. Because of that, disabled and people, that experience social disjuncture, found assumptions of changing the status quo: development of new ways of activities that are based on new world-view (Shakespeare, Atkinson, French, 1993). New world-view – the model of social interaction that is based on few ideas : 1) the quality of life should not determine what the body of individual can or can not do; or how the mind functioned; 2) prejudice, discrimination, offers, that take off abilities or divide people into groups, which are isolated, usually block the way for resources and creation of acceptable environment and communication, are the barriers that people with disabilities, that should be refused; 3) people, that have physical or mental disorders, are that because society, in which we are living, made them so.

The basis of NGO is people that consciously and actively participate in it's activity. For NGO's successful activity to be so there are needed not only knowledge and skills of members, but also and some moral principles and virtues, that should be the basis of management. For NGO to be powerful and strong there is needed that the activity of organization should be used; the activity would be organized by the purpose of NGO and abilities to solve the questions; NGO would cooperate with state institutions – that should strengthen the activity of the own organization; all members of organization would be taken as full-fledged and important ones (Bendruomenės plėtra: praktinis vadovas, 2004). **The aim of a research** is to reveal the principles of social inclusion of people with disabilities and assumptions for NGO activities in Lithuania.

The problems of the research:

- 1) Applying theoretical analysis, to reveal the strategies of socioeducational activities of NGO.
- 2) Using a diagnostic instrument (questionnaire) to perform quantitative research and to reveal NGO functions according to the viewpoint of people with disabilities;

- 3) Using methods of descriptive and multidimensional statistics, to set up model of social inclusion (social empowerment and participation) through NGO activities.

Methodology

Participants. There were 175 respondents in this research (N=175). In this quantitative research there were used principles of objective undertake. During the research there were distributed 450 lists of questionnaires, of which only 175 came back (the questionnaire revert is 38.9%). 175 people participated in the survey: 142 (81.1%) are women and 33 (18.9%) are men. From 175 respondents, 104 (59.4%) are members of NGO, 15 (8.6%) are the members of department/presidium, 8 (4.6%) - chairmen/presidents, 14 (8.0%) people that are in other activities, 26 (14.9%) did not indicated their status. The dominant term of participation in NGO is from 6 to 10 years – 75 (42.8%) and 1 to 5 years – 58 (33.1%), little less of respondents participate in NGO activities from 11 to 15 years – 19 (10.8%) and from 16 to 20 years – 10 (5.7%), and 13 (7.45%) – did not answered.

During the research there were used theoretical analysis and survey questionnaires methods. On the operation analysis of the research object, there was made a closed type list of questions. The list of questions was composed of 10 diagnostic blocks and 107 indications.

The block of diagnostic variables, reflect participation of people with disabilities in NGO's activities, understanding of NGO's functions, experiences, specific activities, participation of their family members, benefit for society, peculiarities of meeting of their special needs, scale of evaluation of cooperation and partnership in NGO's activity (see Table 1).

Table 1

Diagnostic blocks and variables of list of questions

The blocks of diagnostic variables	Features – the number of statements (N)	The type of the scale
Demographical variables	15	Nominal and rank scales
The variables of participation in NGO's activities	15	Rank scale
The variables of functions of participation in NGO's activities	10	Rank scale
The variables of experience of participation in NGO's activities	8	Rank scale
The variables of NGO members and their family members participation	4	Rank scale
The variables of benefit for society	10	Rank scale
The variables of supplying the socioeducational needs	12	Rank scale

The variables of taking the solutions	15	Rank scale
The variables of cooperation and partnership	18	Rank scale

Procedure

The amount of population in chosen for research districts is about 12000. There were sent 450 questionnaires and 175 came back. 275 questionnaire were missed (while contacting, the main reason was pointed out: members of NGO get together one or two times per months, that's why it was not possible to contact with them) or came back after deadline of data collecting.

Methods of statistical analysis

For analyzing the research data there were used statistical methods (descriptive statistics, factor analysis of reliability). For received information of the research to be processed, systematized and to show graphical there was used SPSS (*Statistical Package for the Social Sciences*) software, *Windows Microsoft Word* and *Windows Microsoft Excel* program.

The connection of NGO's functions and cooperation and partnership's variables and connection of demographical variables. Functions NGO and person's activities in NGO, while supplying the expectations of people with disabilities through the NGO's activities, for peculiarities to be revealed there was used a Paired-Samples T test. Averages of variables (M – according ANOVA test) were used. The histogram of variable showed that dispersion of indicators is normal.

The results are processed and analyzed on the basis of significance index ($p \leq 0,05$). The index of statistical significance (p) shows, that opinion of respondents is statistically believable. That means, that doing the same research repeatedly, the error of results should not be over 5%. It means that the indications that were set up in definite group could be extrapolated to the general congeries of people with disabilities that participated in the NGO activities.

Results and data analysis

To reveal principles and assumptions of social inclusion of people with disabilities in NGO's in present situations, there was set up an evaluated different functions of NGO and future expectations of participants associated NGO's activities (see Table 2).

During the last years the medias attention grown for NGO's activities for people with disabilities significantly. Most of respondents indicate that as active communication with media. It is associated with cumulative EU funds, that are given for social projects and for more active processes of social integration, and for social indent's expansion of disabled.

Cooperation with medical institutions is showed as one of the most important range that is pointed out as insufficient. On the one hand, the activity of medical institutions do not oblige specialist to participate in NGO's activities. On the other hand, NGO isn't a institution of health supervision. But this need of people with disabilities could be performed by health education specialists.

Participation of people with disabilities in NGO's activities affects their attitude positively to their disorder. One of the factor, why people with disabilities participates in NGO's is meeting and satisfaction their communication needs.

Table 2

The expectations of people with disabilities participating in NGO's activities

Description of person's activity in NGO	M ¹ *	M ²	Difference of averages	p
Experience of communication with jobholder	3,05	3,33	0,28	0,001
Suggestions to governmental representatives concerning NGO activities	2,71	3,13	0,43	0,001
NGO's take care not for physical health of members only, but create possibilities to reveal member's abilities	2,98	3,47	0,50	0,001
The groups of mutual help in NGO's	2,85	3,37	1,34	0,001
During the planning the NGO's activities, the members discuss about actual problems, they point out priorities of activities.	2,95	3,31	0,36	0,001
NGO communicates with media	3,13	3,32	0,19	0,001
NGO cooperates with medical institutions	2,86	3,20	0,34	0,001

*Information: M¹ – the average of evaluation of present situation; M²- the evaluation of average of expectations; p₃ – statistically important difference (as p<0.05) between evaluation of situation and averages of expectations.

In communication process persons with people with disabilities are more linked to emphasize mental features of a partner. The results of the research shows that in NGO's activities the carrying of the physical health should be emphasized less, and there should be possibilities to reveal person's own abilities at the same time fortifying growth of self identity. The lack of self-expression pointed out by respondent's means, that in NGOs activity more attention and support must be paid for wider range of activities supporting self-expression and self-identity of the NGO's members.

Human resources – is one of the NGO's values, that are cherished in all NGOs. Although respondents indicated that the priorities of prediction of work priorities in NGO should be given more attention in the future. The study sought to answer what are the practical premises of social inclusion (social empowerment and participation) by respondents participating in the NGOs activities.

Table 3

People with disabilities in the activities of NGOs factor model (KMO = 0,847)

Name of the category	Structural components (categories) and items of test	L	r/itt	Cronbach α	%
NVO's partnership and involvement in general activities	Prepare and implement joint projects with partners	0,762	0,715	0,898	18,58
	NGOs, to which I belong to, cooperate with the media	0,681	0,680		
	We are off to tour together with our partners	0,676	0,643		
	NGOs, to which I belong to cooperate with educational and training institutions	0,666	0,730		
	NGOs, to which I belong to, cooperate with other similar NGOs in Lithuania	0,634	0,710		
	NGOs, to which I belong, is involved in the Lithuanian authorities of the projects and programs	0,596	0,639		
	NGOs, to which I belong to, cooperate with local authorities	0,589	0,629		
	Implement joint activities (events, workshops) to mainstream schools	0,583	0,666		
	We participate in the activities of NGOs and other entities that are not members of the NGO	0,508	0,592		
NGO's participation in social functions	Together with members of NGOs collaborated / contact with a politicians from Parliament (or the municipal council members)	0,781	0,731	0,879	15,09
	Together with members of NGOs have signed a petition, requesting the government, a letter of protest, wrote the complaint	0,765	0,734		
	Together with members of NGOs collaborated / contact with a public servant (local, district administration and officials of the Ministry)	0,735	0,677		
	Together with members of the NGO visited the meetings to discuss local communities, the problem	0,728	0,671		
	Together with members of NGOs participated in demonstrations, strikes, rallies	0,703	0,683		
	Together with NGO members gave proposals for government agencies to promote the activities of NGOs, development	0,600	0,615		

NGO's inter-agency cooperation	NGOs, to which I belong to, cooperate with the church	0,913	0,806	0,865	12,86
	NGOs, to which I belong to cooperate with police	0,750	0,712		
	NGOs, to which I belong to cooperate with religious communities	0,654	0,717		
	NGOs, to which I belong to cooperate with medical institutions	0,610	0,628		
The inclusion of NGO's in the management and decision-making processes	NGOs, whose activities I participate, I can vote for change management	0,840	0,735	0,838	12,60
	NGOs, whose activities I participate, I can vote for the admission of new members (or withdrawal)	0,768	0,670		
	Jointly make decisions concerning the management of our NGO	0,688	0,641		
	Jointly make decisions about our NGO activities	0,598	0,637		
	NGOs, whose activities I participate, I am able to make decisions concerning the management of NGOs	0,531	0,523		

Of the 24 questionnaire statements that were used, it was tried to determine how much mentioned activities of NGO reflect characteristics of social inclusion. Applying factorial and reliability analysis principles of social inclusion of potential components of the structure of NGOs activities were set up. By the method of exploration factor analysis (alpha Factorial method, Varimax rotation), there was made the following statements factorization. 24 Empirical findings, that demonstrated the current situation, have led to a four factor model (see Table 3).

The data shows that four categories were set up - NGO partnerships and engagement in joint activities; Implementation of functions of social participation; NGOs inter-institutional cooperation; Members involvement in NGOs in governance and decision-making process.

A statistical relationship between the factors and their clustering within the terms of the interpretation is theoretically meaningful. It should be noted that received high-empirical expressions (variables / statements) estimates correlation with the extracted factors. The evidence of the correlation coefficient values range limits ($0.523 \leq r \leq 0.806$). Descriptive power factor (emission) ranges from 18.68 percent to 12.60 percent. As far as the matrix applies for factor analysis shows the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) coefficient, which in this case is high (0.847). Individual factors of internal consistency, Cronbach alpha coefficient assessed, ranging from 0.898 to 0.838, it is only correct to talk about all the factors of homogeneity.

Category *NGO partnerships and engagement in joint activities* in the content (one of its arguments) is associated with joint tours, joint activities, project preparation and implementation, together with the social partners (general

education schools, and other national NGOs), cooperating with the media and local governments, as well as the fact that NGOs and others involved that are not members of the NGO. Participation is understood as the NGOs and the continuous interaction of people with disabilities and activity-based process, which aims to meet the diverse and psychosocial needs and - even if the individual or institutional change. NGO partnerships and the engagement is a two-way communication, allowing members of the NGOs play an important role in their education, socialization process and encourage participation in community life.

Discussion

The category *Implementation of functions of social participation* is related to the overall performance and contribution to the activities of NGOs in achieving common goals when interacting / contact with the politicians (the Parliament or the municipal council members), public officials (municipal, district administration and officials of the Ministry), the provision offers Government representatives of NGO activities promoting development, actively influence the signing of petitions, addresses to government, participation in meetings in which problems of local communities, presence of a demonstration are discussed.

It is the NGOs carry out such functions of social participation, which enables people to manage the situation, where interaction with the people with disabilities community is an essential element. Social presence let people with disabilities to reach a cooperative system based on equality, participation in decisions relating to their quality of life. It is the NGOs carry out such functions of social participation, which enables people to manage the situation, where interaction with the people with disabilities community is an essential element. Social presence to reach a cooperative system based on equality, participation in decisions relating to the quality of life and where a disabled person. While NGO, members having people with disabilities, their families and are active in social and societal participation and represents public interests, social inclusion could obtain new forms of political and social participant.

The category *NGOs inter-institutional cooperation* is associated with the content in the above category. The main NGO inter-institutional cooperation partners are the religious communities, police, and medical institutions. In today's society individual's social skills are important as a part of professional competence. Collaboration is not possible without the individual's or institution's ability to communicate and collaborate with individual, group, team, to coordinate own and others' knowledge, ideas, participates in negotiations. This is the way to develop an important attitude - to meet a variety of psychosocial or socioeducational needs and providing assistance, not to focus on disabilities, but to the interaction of different public institutions (including NGOs) looking for relevant content, forms methods providing support for people with disabilities.

And the final category - *Members involvement in NGOs governance and decision-making processes* - as well as the content it is related to the concept of

social participation. Contents reflects characteristics of the members' aspirations and evaluation of current situation in the relation to access to vote (for the changes NGO in leaders, membership, etc.), the opportunities to make decisions relating to the activities of NGOs, NGO management, and opportunities to engage one selves into NGOs management processes.

Involvement of people with disabilities into NGO management and decision-making processes is quite innovative activity and insufficient studied phenomenon in Lithuania. With an increasing but still low participation of disabled persons, their families and NGO in decision-making processes concerning public social relations, desire of the specialists according to their professional mission to help people there are a few controversy facts in present activities of NGO for people with disabilities. Clear dominance and interrelation in decision-making processes in education and law documents, fairly declarative style and uncertainty in definitions of the terms such as *cooperation*, *involvement* are often interpreted differently the individual members of the community (Ambrukaitis, 2002). Negotiation, mechanisms of conflicts solutions between people with disabilities and social institutions is not widely examined topic in Lithuania. J. Ruškus M. Daugėla and others (2006) in research report on social participation factors that affect disabled students studying in higher education, refers to a conflict of interest between the higher education of students with disabilities and administration. According to the authors, typical phenomenon of people with disabilities in higher education is a lack of dialogue between disabled person's and others. The problem can be defined as insufficient coordination of cooperation and interests between learners and their teachers. Another study carried out in Lithuania (Ališauskas, Šapelytė, 2006), examines the effectiveness of pedagogical psychological services indicates that parents are motivated and open to participate in education (learning) initiatives. Anyway, observed conflict (parents are not involved actively in the decision making procedure) reflects some positive characteristics, which could support their involvement into development of future partnership, enabling and involving. The above findings suggest that the society's negotiations with persons having disability or families bringing up disable child are indolent.

Conclusion

- During the study, using the method of theoretical analysis there was revealed that each of NGOs, representing a certain group of society, not only realize their goals, but acquires and develops social awareness and recognition of educational activities that are carried out to address disability issues in a social context. Active (non)participation of persons with disabilities in NGO work is determined by many factors, that's why the participation of NGO activities become a challenge not only person but for society, as well. One of the preconditions for successful operation of NGOs - the ability to cooperate with persons having disabilities. Cooperation is determinate by motivation and peculiarities of personal and social relationships, that

promotes them for successful teamwork. The study identified categories supporting cooperation among members of NGO: contents of NGO and social openness and readiness to cooperate.

- According data of quantitative research it was set up that people with disabilities do the best of these NGOs functions: education, counseling, prevention, medical care and social development, and aims to develop the functions of these NGOs. By the quantitative research, there were revealed the expectations of people with disabilities, that participated in NGO activities: communication with civil servants, NGO proposals for the provision of government agencies, NGOs' concern not only the physical health but also opportunities to develop their capabilities of, self-help groups, in NGOs in the planning of activities members discuss relevant issues, identifies priorities for action, the increase in cooperation with NGOs, the media and in medical institutions.
- According to the descriptive and multivariate statistical methods (factorial and reliability analysis) it was revealed and identified 4 principles of social inclusion (social empowerment and participation) in the activities of NGO: *NGO partnerships and engagement in joint activities; Implementation of functions of social participation; NGOs inter-institutional cooperation; Members involvement in NGOs in governance and decision-making process.*

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