

Angéla Bogdán

Analysis of the Program against Child Poverty – the example of Kisvaszar (in the course of research)

Translated by Dóra Babilai

My research topic fits into the “Make it better for the children!” National Strategy, and it scrutinizes the realization of the Program against Child Poverty in Kisvaszar, as part of the program. The purpose of this research: investigation of the program first on a national, then on a local level; studying the local community; revision of the effectiveness of the program from the point of view of experts and institutional leaders; providing a comprehensive picture on the situation of the settlement.

Kisvaszar is a segregated area which belongs to the micro-region of Sásd. The entire village is characterized by the high ratio of low-status population. The ratio of Gypsy/Roma households from the entire number is high—90 %. (A kisvaszari szegregátum... [The segregated area of Kisvaszar...], 2014).

Within the scope of the micro-regional Chance for Children Program, in 2011 a community house was built in the village, where different courses and assistance programs were held. In addition, the program had an effect on the local kindergarten, where a parents' club was founded, in scope of which several nationality programs were carried out. A children's nurse was employed as well, who was of Roma origin. There is no primary school in Kisvaszar; thus, children attend a school in the neighboring settlement, Vásárosdombó. It is also amongst the research goals to assess the functioning of the school and the activities going on there, in order to see how activities within the school and extracurricular activities are related to one another, and how these can help socially disadvantaged students.

The main instrument of the study is interviewing, which is the current phase of the research: experts (regional coordinator, community house leader) involved in the program have been interviewed already, and additional interviews (on the spot) are soon to follow. In terms of methods statistical analysis and assessment of national, local and institutional documents are also important to mention, as the draft of the semi-structured interviews were based on these.

In Kisvaszar the tender for the Program against Child Poverty was closed in 2014. Until then, the community house in addition to the diverse community activities – activities to aid learning, film club, summer camps – provided cleaning and washing functions as well as the help of different experts (e.g., employees of children welfare services and family support services) to assist the families (Hosszú, 2014). My assumption was that after the program closure, the community house would no longer function the way as it used to due to the provided resource. It became clear from the existing inter-

views that my assumption is partially justified, as there are no on-going activities in the house any more, but children still go in regularly to play with the toy supply available. The cleaning and washing function ceased as there is no electricity in the community house, and the local government does not have sufficient financial resources to pay the utility fees of the community house.

The chosen research is still ongoing, and I have been increasingly realizing the true complexity of the topic at hand. I plan to have a summary of preliminary results of research available in half a year.

References

- 47/2007. (V. 31.) OGY határozat a „Legyen jobb a gyermekeknek!” Nemzeti Stratégiáról [Parliamentary decree about the “Make it better for the children!” National Strategy], 2007-2032. <http://www.complex.hu/kzldat/007hoo47.htm/007hoo47.htm> [05.04.2015]
- A kisvaszari szegregátum bemutatása [The Introduction of the segregated area of Kisvaszar] (2014). In: Cserti Csapó Tibor (ed.): *Legyen az esély egyenlő. Esélyteremtés a sásdi kistérségben* [Make chances equal. Chance creation in the micro-region of Sásd]. PTE BTK NTI Romológia és Nevelésszociológia Tanszék – Sásdi Többcélú Kistérségi Társulás [Faculty of Romology and Educational Sociology – Multi-purpose Society of the Micro-region of Sásd], Pécs.
- Hosszú Sándor Gergely (2014): Kisvaszar Közösségi Ház. [Kisvaszar Community House] In: Cserti Csapó Tibor (ed.): *Legyen az esély egyenlő. Esélyteremtés a sásdi kistérségben* [Make chances equal. Chance creation in the micro-region of Sásd]. PTE BTK NTI Romológia és Nevelésszociológia Tanszék – Sásdi Többcélú Kistérségi Társulás [Faculty of Romology and Educational Sociology – Multi-purpose Society of the Micro-region of Sásd], Pécs.