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Trends of the prevention activities

- Family, School, Peer Group, Individual, Local Community -

The main aim of this article is to point out the trends of the prevention activities targeting the risk factors related to family, school, peer group, individual and local community. According to the current Decree of the Polish Ministry of National Education and Sport since 2002 schools of all levels have been obliged to introduce their own School Prevention Programs.

In the article we would like to focus on the evaluation of the prevention programs implemented at schools and aimed at families, peer groups, local communities. Especially, these activities seem to be inevitable in respect to children at risk. We would like to show the particular need of the activation and engagement of parents in the prevention strategies. It is necessary to intensify and increase the number and level of workshops organized for teachers, as well as for parents and local community animators. We see the need for providing them with the contemporary knowledge in the field of planning, constructing and implementation of such School Prevention Programmes.

The areas of the prevention programs concerning:

A) families should include, e.g.:

- interpretation of the communication skills within the family;
- cooperation with the school;
- support for parents groups;
- education programs.

B) school should include, e.g.:

- policies related to students at risk;
- programs enhancing mutual student help;
- contents and methods of prevention in the curriculum;
- workshops for teachers.

C) peer group should include, e.g.:

- leaderships programs;
- assertive skills programs;
- support of temperance groups.

D) individual should include, e.g.:

- development of self-control skills in dealing with stress and personal problems;
- development of social skills;
- advanced reaction to the early symptoms of problem situation.

E) local community should include, e.g.:

- promotion of prevention programmes;
- planning and financing of prevention programmes;
- establishment of institutions for children and families at risk;
- organization of alternative forms of leisure – time activities for children;
- public education.