

Daphne II - in 2008/2009

Violence of youngsters against parents or other education beneficiary

1. Preliminary remark

The natal rate in the European states sinks for many years constantly. Germany is concerned by this trend also.

In spite of this development the number of the activities of youth work or youth social work does not decrease. This statement applies for the partial-stationary or stationary youth welfare also. The number of the youngsters who must perceive these offers or perceive remains stable.

It is to be supposed that the social circumstances have changed the historically grown structure of the families and have found many actors still no adequate answers to these changes.

Changed working hours, different demands for learning and spare time, media use and several factors of stress favour a change of the roles of the family-members. Not all families are able to integrate new rules into their life.

Therefore, every now and then children take over roles in the family structure to which they have not grown and her action competence demands too much. Then they react by psychic or physical violence against her environment - which included parents or other education beneficiary.

2. Project description

At the beginning of the project the question stood whether the topic is also interesting for the German side. Do cases also exist in Germany? In which situations do the cases become known? How partners handle with which systems of the support exist and have proved themselves. Which experiences have made partner in this field?

Together with the other project partners we have come to an agreement to become active after a phase of the analysis on one or several forms of the prevention. Furthermore there stood the job to describe different concrete cases.

Three forms are:

- Preventive work with parents
- Information for professional forces
- Analysis of cases to the investigation of the causes and for recognising of action possibilities

Which forms of violence are recognizable? When do these conflicts appear? Is there a typical sphere or situations which favour a forming of this phenomenon? How can professionals react qualified?

3. Analysis

The first contacts with involved partner showed that there is a visible number of cases where children became aggressive towards her parents in different form.

To the analysis of the situation in Germany we have picked out five cases which were distributed spatially and came from different fields of work of our working area.

There were the following questions for us:

- Exists family-related factors?
- This problem gives it in a certain age?
- When the conflict becomes visible?
- In what we recognise a cause?
- Like can be met to this phenomenon?
- Who is involved in the solution?

4. Action possibilities

a. Early diagnosis

The project participants agreed that a timely recognition of accompanying factors allows an intervention of professional forces.

The suggested indicators are helpful. A test in practice will point in which points it should come for changes, so that the indicators become a helpful instrument the early diagnosis.

b. Interlinking of the partners

During the activity of the project subject it became clear to the partners that the phenomenon is multi-layered.

That's why a linked up work of youth welfare department, consultation systems and partial-stationary or stationary is necessary.

In this connection conformist case conferences make sense methodically to the case.

c. Case analysis

Within the scope of the project we have analysed five cases from different regions. We have tried to grasp cases from different fields of work. For all cases was clear that the families have mostly only one restricted communication possibility.

Generalising we can ascertain:

- The phenomenon exists in all age steps and in all layers of the population. Layouts in the life situation of the child or the family we beginning of term or school change, change of the place of residence or in the family structure favour this development.
- Single parents are not concerned stronger than others. The nuclear problem is more the creation of the relations within the system of the family.
- An important cause for the development is the low putting of borders by parents or other people responsible in the education process.
- The violence appears in physical as well as in psychic form.
- There is a big shame with the affected persons to reveal itself strangers. Professional forces of the social work also belong to these strangers.

- Illness-conditioned conflicts are the exception.

5. Results

The phenomenon also exists in Germany. There is not a particularly threatened age group. The role movement within the family is a slow process which becomes visible with informal layouts or with re-orientations like beginning of term, school change or move. Caused by the slow growing the phenomenon affects in different areas of the family and has other conflicts to the result.

The problems cannot be solved by an protagonist alone. Therefore, an interlinking of youth welfare department, consultation and accommodation is necessary, so that is worked after a common plan.

The described problems can be worked on by the existing structures. In the sense of a comprehensive beginning and the complexity of the problems a linked up work of actors is necessary.

From our point of view the following measures make sense:

- Adaptation of the indicators to the early diagnosis
- Improvement of the education and communication competence of the parents
- Cooperation of the actors

6. Project partner

a. Internationally

Beside ALTEA as an applicant and Arcos de to Castilla (Spain) and the IB in Leipzig took part the Centre di Solidarietà di Reggio Emilia (CEIS) from Italy and QUESTAO from Portugal. The scientific monitoring carried out the University of Alicante.

The application position and project coordination was guaranteed by Altea Europe.

b. Germany

The local branch "Verbund Leipzig" of the International Bund (IB) took part in this project as a partner. The variety of the fields of work of the branch with consultation offers and residential forms corresponds to the demands of the project.

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