

Abstract

doctoral dissertation *Significance of the cooperative movement of the disabled in the development of occupational and social rehabilitation of people with disabilities*

The concept of occupational and social rehabilitation of people with disabilities was developed in different ways and with different outcome as a result of scientific research and practice. It was carried out in the context of general civilization development and restoration of work capability and participation of the disabled in society. The need for work and rehabilitation has become particularly urgent and important. Life has shown that being employed is not enough to be a vital part of society again. Scientific research has suggested the methods and indicated the tools for comprehensive specialized employment suitable also for complex and severe disabilities. In practice a place for such social activities was found on the level of the formed cooperatives of the disabled and the blind.

The meaning of the disabled cooperative movement development for the rehabilitation of people with disabilities in Poland is analysed in the following areas: education, training, employment, medical and rehabilitation, social, socio-educational, cultural, unemployment and social policy towards people with disabilities. The study is based on the example of the theory and practice of the cooperative model of invalids created by the personal work of people with disabilities in cooperative forms of management.

The scope of analysis and diagnosis is different, covering problems of life and work of people with disabilities in the local environment such as education, training, forms and methods of rehabilitation, cultural, educational, social and educational activities, physical culture, physical rehabilitation, tourism and sport.

The study summarizes a long period in which there were major events concerning the changes of situation of people with disabilities in the socio-political system, the new systemic transformation to the capitalist economy, not only setting their place in the society and the local environment but also in terms of the employment, education, health and social care.

The significance of the disabled cooperative movement in the development of professional and social rehabilitation of people with disabilities in Poland cannot to be underestimated. In the current conditions of the crisis of capitalism and social problems in the world of the global economy, cooperatives of the disabled and the blind can be an important way to solve the problems of the weaker, disabled in a spirit of solidarity, cooperative self-help and local community responsibility. The proposal is a model of the social economy as an important tool that can fill this gap with the leading role of cooperatives of disabled and blind as well as social co-operatives, sheltered workshops (social enterprises) and Vocational Training Centres.

