

PLACE OF LIVING AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS OF STUDENTS AS A
FACTORS IN ORGANIZATION OF THEIR LEISURE TIME

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МЕСТОЖИТЕЛСТВО И СОЦИАЛНО-ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИЯ СТАТУС КАТО ФАКТОР
ЗА ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯТА НА СВОБОДНОТО ВРЕМЕ НА СТУДЕНТИТЕ

БИЛЈАНА ПОПЕСКА

ДЕСПИНА СИВЕВСКА

Abstract

With aim to determine the influence of place of leaving and socio – economic status as one of the key factors in organization of student`s leisure time, we realized this survey on a sample of 152 respondents, full time students at the Faculty of Educational Sciences in Stip, Republic of Macedonia. The survey was realized using questionnaire. The results are analyzed and presented using frequencies (f), percentage (%), t-test and F-test. Results obtained in this survey point out that the place where the faculty is located have no significant role in organization of youth`s leisure time. While as it was expected, differences are obtained in relation between socio – economic status of students, particularly in the amount of monthly payments and organization of students leisure time.

Key Words: *leisure time, students, living place, socio – economic status, differences*

Introduction

Leisure time becomes necessary of man and therefore of particular importance is how it will be used. Quality of civilization and its future will be recognized according the quality of activities that are chosen in leisure time.

Most authors agree that leisure time has its own educational function. Leisure time that is properly organized for all age groups (children, youth, adults and old people) is an important task of any modern and advanced society (Tomić, Hasanović, 2007).

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The real meaning of leisure time is seen in qualification of youth and adults, cultural and pedagogical oriented to spend their leisure time, and to introduce them with uncontrolled influences that affect on leisure time, to determine their educational significance and to regulate the same, i.e. to suppress the negative, and to encourage and promote positive action (Tomić, Hasanović, 2007).

Related to the leisure time, in the past, the battle was wage for quantitative increase of leisure time, while today a battle is pointed on the content of leisure time and whether it will be spent on cultural way or not.

Leisure time has a great impact on human life. It helps in extending the process of knowledge acquisition, widens cognitive horizons, enriches emotional life, encourages the development of psycho-physical abilities, skills and habits, encourages independence and sociability; respectively affect on physical, intellectual, aesthetic, work and moral formation of man (Tomić, Hasanović, 2007, p. 14).

The positive use of leisure time offers opportunities for "completing personality, positively affects on health, physical and mental development, the positive shaping of personality traits, creativity and creating richer content of life. With the activities that is filled leisure is acquired higher level of education and training, assisting in the development of dispositions, affinities, this is one of the unavoidable conditions for development of physical, intellectual, aesthetic, working, technical, moral and social qualities for developing a versatile person "(Simleša, 1983, Tomić, Hasanović, 2007).

Leisure time that is spent on socially acceptable manner despite the impact that it has on the development of complete, comprehensive and full of personality person, present and a means of combating various negative social phenomena such as behavioral disorders, substances abuse, delinquent behavior.

The youth and leisure time

Youth is a special time in the life of the young people where is expected to develop their social skills and ability to pursue lasting social roles in all areas of human activity. Youth today socialize through activities in their leisure time. The importance of leisure time and its importance are raised to the point that today the youth is suggested that choosing a profession depend on the choice of activities dealing in leisure time.

The choice of leisure time activities is determined by subjective factors: social status of young people and their parents, education, skills, acquired habits etc., as well as objective

factors: cultural heritage of closer and wider environment, the current proposal and the availability of certain content.

Content with which is filled leisure time of children and young people are important in terms of establishing their identity and quality of life in the future. Children and young people have significantly more leisure time than adults because of their biosocial status in locality and society, and therefore their leisure time must be specific and organized, and not left to the case (Previšić, 1987, Badrić i sur. 2011).

Youth today are fewer organizers of entertainment and leisure time, and more and more consumers of content offered by high professional entertainment industry. Lately is noted the more manipulative role of the media (magazines for teenagers, numerous series who prefer idleness (Miliša, 2006) in youth leisure time. Consumers become passive audience, unprepared for active spending of leisure time. Instead of expressing their creativity and active participation, advertising consumption industry compete in placing content where young people are often passive participants and observers only (Bašić, 1993; Minarević, 2007).

The wider social environment and leisure time of young

For the importance of organizing leisure time by the local community, many researchers suggest out that children and young people should be offered attractive content that will be in accordance with their needs and in with "they will be able to confirm themselves and to feel worth "(Berc i Buljevac, 2007., Dječja prava i slobodno vrijeme, 2010). Programs for structuring the leisure time that offers local community allow to enrich children creativity in different areas of life, thereby enabling them to successfully face challenges every day.

The local community should take care to improve the quality of life of young people in their environment, at the same time allowing adequate staffing, space and other conditions. Elements that are important for leisure time and the local community that need special emphasis are: to encourage young people to participate in the design and creation of leisure time, offering a wide range of quality content for leisure time, equal opportunities and access to all free activities for all youth, high quality preventive programs, development of protective factors and reduce risk by providing space and staff condition for spending leisure time.

The local community has an important role to encourage and promote the sport by providing funding and implementation of sports activities for all ages, especially for young people.

Research methodology

The research of the phenomenon of leisure time has only one primary purpose, how it can be better organized to effectively use. Activities with which the young people fill their leisure time should be at peak of effectuate and happiness, but also a place for their development in every field. The selection of content and activities of leisure time of youth depends from many subjective and objective factors: interest, desire, affinity degree, offer, socio-economic status, place of residence etc.

Students from Faculty of Educational Sciences in Stip and Strumica and their views for their leisure time, as well as its contents and activities are defined as a subject of this research.

According the previously defined subject, the main purpose of the research refers to the determination of differences in the use of student's leisure time depending from their socio-economic status and characteristics of their living place.

The research was conducted on a sample of 152 respondents, full time students from first to fourth year in the Faculty of Educational Sciences in Stip (56 respondent) and Strumica (69 respondent), students of courses for elementary school and preschool education. The survey was conducted in May in the academic year 2012/13.

For the purposes of this survey, we used questionnaire as a technique for research. Besides basic questionnaire data (gender, age, year of study, place of residence) contains 19 questions relating to education, parents occupation and incomes in the family, student leisure time during the day, time spent in learning, leisure activities at home and outside the home, leisure activities at the university and degree of satisfaction of the same, intensity (frequency range) to visit the cultural - entertaining and sporting activities and events, and so on. With the exception of one question that is open and refers to a proposal of activities that students want to be organized by the university to meet their leisure, rest 18 questions with few answers.

The obtained results are analyzed and presented using frequencies (f), percentage (%), t-test and F-test. The data obtained in the survey were processed using the statistical package SPSS 19.

Results and discussion

The results are analyzed in two parts: the place of residence and socio - economic status which are two separate factors that determine assume that leisure time of youth.

The living place and student`s leisure time

In creation of simulative and safe environment, beside family and educational institutions, significantly important role belongs to the local community where many leisure time activities took part. The role of the local community in organization of leisure time of youth as well as to other age groups is located in organization of different public events, sports and cultural manifestations, activities at public places, squares, parks, pubs etc.

Differences in students answers of questions in the questionnaire were analyzed using t – test. Obtained results point out that there isn't significant differences in analyzed results, that leads to conclusion that the place where the faculty is located is not important factor in organization of student`s leisure time, maybe because the fact that the comparison was made between two city environments – Stip and Strumica. Statistically, significant differences at the level 0.01 are noted only at the answers of following variables: education of the mother, living place (village, town), attendance of cinema and theatre.

Results related to the education of the parents, particularly the mother, points out that those that live in Strumica are more influence to their children in a sense of use of their leisure time, compared from those that live in Stip. For the differences obtained for the variables: education of the mother and fulfilled of students` leisure time from the perspective of students, we don't see any logical explanation. We considered that the base of this result is in the influence of the mother in the previous development stages (childhood, puberty and adolescence). According our opinion, this question needs a further researches mainly from psychological point of view and in this phase of work they are not in our interest.

Significant differences related to the variable living place (town/ village) for both group of respondents, students in Stip and Strumica, point out that students that live in town have more spare time compared with students that live at rural environments. This result is expected considering the activities, lifestyle, the time spends in transportation as well as the fact that most of the offered activities in leisure time preferred by the students: discotheques, coffee - bars, cinemas, theaters, shopping etc are located in towns.

From most of the offered contents practiced in spare time, we noted that there is no differences between students from both towns related to leisure time` contents and activities. Statistically significant differences were obtained in the relation of the variable attendance of theater and cinema. Students from Stip attended theater and cinema more than the students from Strumica. Considering the offer of these types of contents in both analyzed cities, explanation could be find only in the interrelation between these two activities from the financial ability of students and their parents compared in the text below.

Table 1. (Таблица 1.) Differences in answers obtained at two groups of examiners in Stip and Strumica (t - test)

Question	Living place	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Education of the mother	Stip	56	1,73	,646	,086	-3,500	150	,001**
	Strumica	96	2,10	,624	,064			
Living place	Stip	56	2,00	,000	,000	18,784	150	,000**
	Strumica	96	1,14	,344	,035			
Cinema	Stip	55	3,95	1,580	,213	2,146	148	,034**
	Strumica	95	3,31	1,857	,191			
theatre	Stip	55	3,76	1,478	,199	2,218	148	,028**
	Strumica	95	3,15	1,726	,177			

*p< 0.05 **p<0.01

Socio – economic status and student's leisure time

Organization of leisure time, as well as activities and contents used in students' leisure time are highly related from the socio – economic status of student's family. This is confirmed in the survey that we realized. The F – test results, for every separate question from the questionnaire, revealed that for the most of analyzed questions there is a significant difference between socio – economic status and student's answers. Results are obtained at the level 0.01.

In general, the larger differences are noted between students which family have payments from 160-320 euro¹ and students with monthly payment from and 480-640 euro or above 640 euro once a month.

Education of the parents, particularly education of the father and it's monthly payments, as variables influence significantly of the contents and activities used in youths' leaser time. The biggest differences are obtained between parents with monthly payments above 640 euro and those parents with payment from 160-320 euro. Parents with monthly payments above 640 euro are more influenced toward their children in sense of fulfillment of their leisure time compared with other children. These results are expected, because higher financial payments indicates more money used for leisure time` activities and contents that are depended from certain financial support (cinema, theater, museum, coffee – bars, discotheque, sports activities etc).

Considering the question: *what is your main occupation during the studies?* Students with monthly payments lower than 160 euro answered that they are mostly occupied with

¹ In questionnaire conducted of Macedonian population for monthly payment were used Macedonian denars. For better understanding we converted them in euros (1 denar=61 euros)

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studying and taking the exams, while students with monthly payments from 480-640 euro answered that they are mostly occupied with fan and studying.

Differences are also noted for the question of students' selections of the activities used to fulfill the leisure time out of home. From several offered activities, students with monthly payments from 320-480 euro mostly chose activities such as going out in coffee – bars and night clubs, while those students that have monthly payments above 640 euro mostly select shopping. It's disappointing that almost no one have chose sports or cultural activities.

Related to the frequency of attendance of offered activities in leisure time (cinema, theatre, discotheque, shows, museums, galleries and sports events), main differences are noted between students with monthly payments from 320-480 euro and above 640 euro. As it was expected, obtained results point out that students' families with highly monthly payments (640 euro) have greater opportunities to attend all suggested activities and leisure time contents that require certain financial participation compared with other students.

Knowing the current socio – political situation, we were also interested whether the students are occupied with politics during their leisure time and if it so, does this occupation and interest is related to students socio – economic status. Students' answers obtained at this question point out that in general, students are not interested for politics (at the question: *Are you interested in politics*, 79% of examined students answered negatively). Referring to this question, we also noted that an interest in politics during the leisure time is related with the material conditions in the family. Namely, families with monthly payments lower than 160 euro show greater interest for politics, compared with students whose families have higher monthly payments (above 640 euro). This is partially expected considering the current social situation where enrolment in politics for most of the students from this category (low monthly payments) means a way out from bad material condition.

Table 2. (Таблица 2.) Differences in respondents answers related to the variable socio – economic status (F - test)

ANOVA						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Education of father	Between Groups	9,025	5	1,805	3,844	,003**
	Within Groups	68,554	146	,470		
	Total	77,579	151			
What is your main occupation during the studies?	Between Groups	6,080	5	1,216	2,532	,031**
	Within Groups	70,124	146	,480		
	Total	76,204	151			
Which activities you mostly prefer during the leisure time out of home?	Between Groups	30,241	5	6,048	2,310	,047**
	Within Groups	377,093	144	2,619		
	Total	407,333	149			

How often do you attend cinema?	Between Groups	49,556	5	9,911	3,368	,007**
	Within Groups	423,704	144	2,942		
	Total	473,260	149			
How often do you attend theater?	Between Groups	49,088	5	9,818	3,905	,002**
	Within Groups	362,006	144	2,514		
	Total	411,093	149			
How often do you attend discotheque?	Between Groups	34,343	5	6,869	3,751	,003**
	Within Groups	263,717	144	1,831		
	Total	298,060	149			
How often do you attend art shows?	Between Groups	61,093	5	12,219	4,386	,001**
	Within Groups	401,147	144	2,786		
	Total	462,240	149			
How often do you attend museums and galleries?	Between Groups	60,927	5	12,185	3,927	,002**
	Within Groups	446,867	144	3,103		
	Total	507,793	149			
How often do you attend sports contents?	Between Groups	34,247	5	6,849	3,059	,012**
	Within Groups	322,447	144	2,239		
	Total	356,693	149			
Are you interested in politics?	Between Groups	3,408	5	,682	3,178	,009**
	Within Groups	30,886	144	,214		
	Total	34,293	149			

*p< 0.05

**p<0.01

Conclusion

Leisure time becomes necessary of man and therefore of particular importance is how it will be used. The positive use of leisure time offers opportunities for "completing personality, positively affects on health, physical and mental development, it sustain negative and affirms positive behavior, enriches emotional life, improves creativity and creates richer content of life. Leisure time that is spent on socially acceptable manner despite the impact that it has on the development of complete, comprehensive and full of personality person, present and a means of combating various negative social phenomena such as behavioral disorders, substances abuse, delinquent behavior.

Leisure time has an important role in creation of the personality of youth people. Nowadays, youths are socialized using leisure time activities. Knowing the roll of leisure time in creation of youths` personality, we realized a survey with aim to determine the differences in the use of student`s leisure time according from student`s socio-economic status and characteristics of their living place. Students from Faculty of Educational Sciences in Stip and Strumica and their views for their leisure time, as well as its contents and activities are defined as a subject of this research.

The research was conducted on a sample of 152 respondents, full time students from first to fourth year in the Faculty of Educational Sciences in Stip and Strumica. The research was realized using questionnaire. Obtained results are analyzed in two parts: the place of residence and socio - economic status which are two separate factors that determine assume that leisure

time of youth and are presented using frequencies (f), percentage (%), t-test and F-test. The data obtained in the survey were processed using the statistical package SPSS 19.

Differences in students answers referred to the living place of students were analyzed using t – test. Obtained results point out that there isn't significant differences in analyzed results, that leads to conclusion that the place where the faculty is located is not important factor in organization of student`s leisure time, maybe because the fact that the comparison was made between two city environments – Stip and Strumica. Statistically, significant differences at the level 0.01 are noted only at the answers of following variables: education of the mother, living place (village, town), attendance of cinema and theatre.

Organization of leisure time, as well as activities and contents used in students` leisure time are highly related from the socio – economic status of student`s family. This is confirmed in the survey that we realized. The F – test results, for every separate question from the questionnaire, revealed that for the most of analyzed questions there is a significant difference between socio – economic status and student`s answers. Results are obtained at the level 0.01.

In general, the larger differences are noted between students which family have payments from 160-320 euro and students with monthly payment from and 480-640 euro or above 640 euro once a month.

Differences are noted to monthly payment and variables: selection of activities in leisure time, education of the parents, particularly education of the father; students` selections of the activities used to fulfill the leisure time out of home; frequency of attendance of offered activities in leisure time (cinema, theatre, discotheque, shows, museums, galleries and sports events), as well as students interests in politics during their leisure time.

Obtained results, considering previous variables are expected and point out that there are significant differences in student`s selection of contents and activities depending from the monthly payment of student`s families. Therefore, there is a need from University to propose different contents (cultural, sports, theatre, art activities etc) that will be available for all students independently from financial payments. According our opinion, this will have a positive influence of variety and quality use of student`s leisure time and complete development of youth`s personality.

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