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&
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Riječ urednika

Kada je u području Bengala godine 1943. izbila velika glad, koja je odnijela, prema nekim procjenama, više od 3 milijuna života, posebna komisija koja je ispitivala taj dramatičan događaj (Famine Inquiry Commission) ustvrdila je u svom izvješću kako je osnovni uzrok te velike gladi ozbiljan manjak riže i pšenice koje su bile ponuđene stanovništvu Bengala na tržištu te godine (Sen, 1981.: 57). Međutim, pažljivo analizirajući upravo ta ista izvješća, ali i neke druge izvore, indijski ekonomist, dobitnik Nobelove nagrade za ekonomiju 1998. godine Amartya Sen, nalazi da su zalihe riže u toj godini velike gladi bile čak 13 % više nego godine 1941. kada gladi nije bilo. I ne samo to, čak je i prinos s rižinih polja u poljoprivrednoj sezoni 1942./1943. bio viši nego u sezoni 1940./1941. (kada, opet, gladi nije bilo). Kada je ubrojio i uvoz pšenice i pšeničnog brašna za te godine, te demografske podatke o kretanju stanovništva, Sen je zaključio da je raspoloživost dvije najveće žitarice, koje čine okosnicu prehrane stanovništva područja Bengala, bila u godini gladi čak 9 % viša nego u godini 1941.

Senova briljantna analiza ove dramatične gladi ukazuje na činjenicu da uzrok gladi nije bio nedostatak hrane, nego takav društveni položaj stanovništva koje je stradalo od gladi (gladi je bilo izloženo uglavnom ruralno stanovništvo Bengala) koji im je onemogućio dostup dovoljnih količina hrane [zato je tu svoju analizu Amartya Sen naslovio kao »Siromaštvo i glad: esej o pravu i lišenju« (Poverty and Famine: An essay on Entitlement and Deprivation)].

Ovaj uvodnik pišemo u godini kada se svijet nalazi u najtežoj ekonomskoj krizi u povijesti, a u ovoj istoj godini svijet raspolaže s daleko najviše novca i robe nego što ih je ikada u povijesti imao. U Republici Hrvatskoj svakog dana šest obitelji bude deložirano iz svojih stanova zbog nemogućnosti da otplaćuju stambene kredite, a nikad nismo imali više praznih stanova na stambenom tržištu. Vjerojatno je cinično točna tvrdnja predstavnika bankovnog sektora da u Hrvatskoj nema krize otplate kredita, a žive razdoblje izvrsnih prihoda (koje uglavnom šalju u inozemstvo, svojim vlasnicima).

Pitanje ovakvih paradoksa dramatično se postavlja u profesiji socijalnog rada, koja je po svome poslanstvu pozvana zaštititi sla-

bije, one kojima je dostupnost društvenih resursa zapriječena društvenim ili tjelesnim preprekama (koje se, opet u svojoj biti, pokazuju društvenima). Zbog toga, kao socijalni radnici i kao znanstvenici na području socijalnog rada nismo smjeli ostati nijemi na procese dramatičnog osiromašenja populacije oko nas. Ne možemo pristati na proslave otvaranja novih pučkih kuhinja i istovremeno mirno slušati pojašnjenja »stručnjaka« kako stanovnici u društveno subvencioniranim stanovima daju više za troškove svojih mobitela nego za troškove svog stanovanja. Moramo prestati biti dijelom kognitivne manipulacije neoliberalističkog društvenog poola koji orkestrirano djeluje gotovo u svim područjima društvenog života, pa tako i u socijalnom radu. Socijalni rad je, naime, prije svega rad, dakle djelovanje (u pokušaju odbacivanja pristupa tretmana, vjernog pratitelja skrbi). I kao takav, mora pronaći one društvene ekvivalente svojeg položaja koji će mu omogućiti stvarnu intervenciju u društveni život kako bi pomogao najranjivijim članovima društvene zajednice.

Zbog toga je ovaj tematski broj našeg stručnog i znanstvenog časopisa posvećen krizi i socijalnom radu u vremenu krize. Kako bismo rasvijetlili uzroke i učinke krize s ekonomskog stajališta, pozvali smo na suradnju jednog od najuglednijih ekonomista s područja bivše Jugoslavije, ljubljanskog profesora Jožu Mencingeru. Neke političke implikacije tipičnih neoliberalističkih ekonomskih poteza u području socijalnog rada u Sloveniji prikazuje neovisni politički analitičar Primož Krašovec, a neke važne elemente promjena u socijalnoj politici Slovenije donosi Srečo Dragoš. Aleksandar Jugović i Miroslav Brkić iz Beograda pridružili su nam se svojim analizama promjena u teorijskom pristupu socijalnog rada Srbije u vrijeme ekonomske krize, Maja Gerovska Mitev i Sunchica Dimitrijoska poslale su svoje vrijedne priloge koji opisuju situaciju u Makedoniji, a Sanela Bašić u Bosni i Hercegovini. Hrvatska akademska zajednica iz područja socijalnog rada dala je tri doprinosa. Ana Miljenović prikazuje neke aspekte krize kao moguće pokretače transformacije socijalnog rada, Mladen Knežević tvrdi kako do te transformacije nužno mora doći, a Olja Družić Ljubotina na upečatljiv način pokazuje nužnost socijalnog ali i rada, drugim riječima, nekog povratka na predmodernističku percepciju uloge ove profesije.

Posebnu zahvalnost dugujem prof. dr. Ivanu Vidanoviću koji mi je pomogao uspostaviti kontakte sa nekoliko autora čiji su članci objavljeni. Zahvaljujem svim autorima priloga na sjajnoj suradnji u vrijeme pripremanja ovog broja; pokazali su pravi profesionalni i znanstveni interes, ali i spremnost na rad u ponekad teškim uvjetima nedostatka vremena. Zahvaljujem svim recenzentima, koji su uz začudno mali broj nesporazuma i u ponekad rekordno kratkom vremenu pročitali sve tekstove i ocijenili ih nepristrano i pošteno.

Mladen Knežević

LITERATURA

1. Sen, A. (1981). **Poverty an famine: An essay on entitlement and deprivation**. New York: Oxford University Press.

Editorial

When in 1943, a great famine struck Bengal and, according to some estimates, took more than 3 million lives, a special commission named the Famine Inquiry Commission, which inquired into the dramatic events, stated in its report that the main cause of the famine was a serious shortage in rice and wheat offered to the inhabitants of Bengal on the market that year (Sen, 1981:57). However, by carefully analysing these reports, but also some other sources, Indian economist and Nobel Laureate in economics in 1998 Amartya Sen discovered that the rice stock in the year of great famine was 13% higher than in 1941 when there was no famine. In addition, even the rice yield in the agricultural season 1942/1943 was higher than in the season 1940/1941 (when, again, there was no famine). After having combined wheat and wheat flour export as well as demographic data on population migration, Sen concluded that availability of the two most important crops, the basis of nutrition of Bengali population, in the year of famine was 9% higher than in 1941.

Sen's brilliant analysis of this dramatic famine indicates that it was not the lack of food which caused the famine, but the fact that the social class of the population affected by the famine (mostly rural inhabitants of Bengal) disenabled them to access sufficient quantities of food [that is the reason why Amartya Sen entitled his analysis as »Poverty and Famine: An essay on Entitlement and Deprivation«].

We are writing this Editor's Note in the year when the world is faced with the most difficult economic crisis in the history, and in the year in which the world has at its disposal by far the highest amount of money and goods than ever in the history. Every day, six families in Croatia are evicted from their homes due to the inability to pay off their loans and we have never had a higher number of empty apartments at the housing market. The statement of banking sector representative on how in Croatia there is no crisis in loan pay-offs since it realizes high income (which is mostly transferred abroad, to the parent companies) is probably cynic and true at the same time.

The issue of such paradoxes is dramatically raised in the social work profession the mission of which is to protect the weak,

those facing social or physical (which in their essence are again social) obstacles in accessing social resources. For that reason, we, as social workers and scientists in the field of social work, were not supposed to remain silent over the processes of dramatic impoverishment of the population around us. We cannot assent to celebrations of opening new public kitchens and, at the same time, quietly listen to the »experts« explaining on how the inhabitants of the apartments in subvention schemes spend more on their cell phone bills than on their housing costs. We have to stop being a part of a cognitive manipulation of a neoliberal social pool which in an orchestrated manner acts in all the areas of social life and in the field of social work as well. Namely, the social work is, above all, work, i.e. act (in the attempt to reject the treatment approach, a faithful companion to care). In that sense, it needs to find those social equivalents to its position that will enable a real intervention in the social life for the purpose of helping the most vulnerable members of the community.

This explains the motivation to dedicate this issue of our professional and scientific journal to the crisis and the social work in the time of crisis. In order to analyse the causes and effects of the crisis from the economic perspective, we have invited one of the most eminent economists from the territory of the former Yugoslavia Professor Jože Mencinger from Ljubljana to cooperate with us. Independent political analyst Primož Krašovec presents some political implications of typical neoliberal economic decisions and Srečo Dragoš elaborates on some elements of change in the Slovene social policy. Aleksandar Jugović and Miroslav Brkić from Belgrade join us in their analyses of changes in the theoretical approach of social work in Serbia during the economic crisis. Maja Gerovska Mitrev and Sunchica Dimitrijoska have sent us their valuable contributions describing the situation in Macedonia and Sanela Bašić in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Croatian academic community from the field of social work contributed with three papers: Ana Miljenović presents some aspects of the crisis as potential drivers of the social work profession transformation, Mladen Knežević claims that the transformation in question is inevitable and Olja Družić Ljubotina in a remarkable way shows the necessity of both social but also the work aspect, i.e. of the return to a postmodern perception of the role of this profession.

Special thanks to professor Ivan Vidanović who helped me to establish, contacts with several authors whose article are published.

I thank all the authors of contributions for excellent cooperation during the preparation of this issue; they exhibited both a real professional and scientific interest and the readiness to work in sometimes difficult conditions related to time constraints. I thank all the reviewers who, with surprisingly rare misunderstandings and sometimes in a very short time, have read all the texts and reviewed them in an unbiased and fair manner. Congratulations! Some good news, at last.

Mladen Knežević, Theme Issue Editor

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