

Book review

Eva Davidová a kol., (2010) : Kvalita života a sociální determinanty zdraví u Romů v České a Slovenské republice.

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This book deals with the social context of the widely discussed phenomenon of health as well as quality of life and social conditions of the Roma population in the Slovak and Czech Republics. The publication is an outcome of project called “The Quality of Life from the Aspects of Health Determinants in the Roma Population in the Czech and Slovak Republics.”

The target group was the Roma population represented by samples of families consisting of two or three generations.

The objective of the research was to identify relationships between selected characteristics of the families’ social situation and health conditions, and the general health condition of the Roma in chosen localities.

At the beginning, the authors defined terminology relating to the research. They described the historical development of the Roma minority as well as its internal differentiation.

In the next part they define basic terminology: “life style”, “way of life”, “quality of life”, and “social exclusion”. The project’s premises, methodology and the project performance of the field survey precede the main chapters.

The fifth chapter describes Roma population from social, ethnic and demographical points of view. The authors characterise the Roma family, its current trends, position of women and men, children and elderly people within families.

The next part of the book brings important information about the health condition of the Roma population and their attitudes toward health and disease as well. The authors describe the main factors that influence the health condition of Roma, i.e. socio-cultural characteristics of the Roma, traditional way of life, different attitudes towards disease and its prevention, education, occupational inclusion/exclusion, cultural barriers in the relationship between doctor and patient, etc. This part contains information on social and health policy on national and local level in research areas.

The next chapter deals with selected social determinants on the health of the research subjects. This comes from theoretical concepts of social determinants according Wilkinson and Marmot. This concept takes in consider whole bio - psycho - social - spiritual notion of health. Wilkinson and Marmot listed ten determinants of health: the social determinants in childhood, stress, transport, unemployment, work, social support, addiction, social exclusion, and nutrition. These various determinants are discussed from qualitative and quantitative perspectives in individual subchapters. The chapter is complemented with case studies for better understanding.

The last, supplemental chapter elaborates on the effects of the specific social environment on the quality of life and health in Roma families, giving examples of selected sites of research.

Learning presented in individual chapters is encapsulated into a summary of the project research results and constructive suggestions for further advancement in this area.

The book is published in Czech and it may be obtained at the following address:

www.tridistri.cz

Book title: Kvalita života a sociální determinanty zdraví u Romů v České a Slovenské republice.

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