# Unemployment as a Predictor of Poverty and direct Impact on the Quality of Life of young Adults

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**Original Article** 

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#### Abstract:

**Introduction**: The work focuses on the positive probability of influencing young people to achieve education in the real chance of getting meaningful, long and dignified work and thus prevent poverty due to unemployment. Current expectations regarding the quality of life of young people who have negative control.

**Methods:** Quantitative methodology has been chosen for research purposes. Due to the specificity of the topic, it was not possible to use standardized questionnaires and therefore we proceeded to compile our own questionnaire. By means of questioning we found out on the sample of respondents, where the demand for work is currently the greatest and the chances of their application on the contrary, the lowest, in the context of their application on the labor market, the existence of their real differences and limitations.

**Results:** The research findings reflect the current state of employment for young people in the labor market. It shows that

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finding a suitable and unambiguous criterion of applicability in a particular field is currently very problematic.

**Conclusion:** The carried out quantitative analysis brought statistically significant findings in terms of set objectives and other intentions arising directly from the analyzed issue.

#### Introduction

Today's society places great emphasis on building the complex value dimension of a young person, which is constantly changing under the influence of the spectrum of life situations. Frequent social, economic and political changes in today's society result in the emergence and development of several social problems. One of these problems is precisely unemployment, which affects the lives of people all over the world now more than ever before. Even experts Lisý et al. (2007) are of the opinion that unemployment is perhaps the most complex problem of the current market economy, while the effort to create new jobs or the effort to minimize the burden of unemployment and consequently the emergence of poverty is not only a serious economic but also a social and political problem. Losing a job or failing to get one's first job is an unpleasant event for every person, which affects both the life of the individual and the entire society. According to the Sociological Dictionary (Jandourek, 2012), unemployment is currently a natural phenomenon that occurs in any democratic society based on a market economy.

We believe that unemployment is a complex social problem, the consequences of which, such as the emergence of poverty, have an impact on various areas of human life and society. Unemployment as a socio-economic phenomenon is closely connected with the labor market. Therefore, we can conclude that poverty, also due to unemployment, currently also affects the economically active, but nevertheless low-paid population. Despite the fact that these persons are employed on the labor market, as a result of their small earnings, they form a new class of the poor, the so-called the working poor. Poverty resulting from low income and based on income differentiation is a serious type of poverty. It is often associated mainly with positions on the secondary labor market, where the demand for unskilled labor is concentrated. Rather than the insufficient quality of human capital, it is their unreliability that pushes workers to the secondary labor market (Mareš, 1999). The opinion of Sirovátka (2003), who says that the manifestation of increasing risks is not only unemployment (especially long-term), but also job instability, interrupted work careers, temporary employment, involuntary part-time work, work below the qualification level, deteriorated wage and working conditions of employment, involuntary and nonstandard forms of employment, such as subcontracting, self-employment, or even informal employment.

With the article, we wanted to point out the advantages of a responsible approach to education among young people. Such an approach greatly increases the likelihood of securing meaningful, long-term employment that provides dignity and stability, thereby significantly reducing the risk of unemployment poverty. In addition, the article identifies various aspects of the overall quality of life of young people that are negatively affected by unemployment.

#### Methods

The actual implementation of the research consisted of systematic data collection using a questionnaire as the main research tool. Mathematical-statistical processing is carried out by first-stage data analysis, in which, with the help of the Excel program, we demonstrated the correlation between selected socio-demographic characteristics and the indicators set by us, by second-stage analysis, in which we also tested the hypotheses compiled by us using contingency tables in the Excel program and by verifying the hypotheses, with the help of the SPSS program.

# **Research objectives**

- 1 We identified the primary goal as proving the correlation between unemployment and real factors affecting the chance to get a job, especially the quality of education achieved.
- 2 Secondary goal of the research was to determine the correlation of unemployment to the quality of life of young people.
- 3 Tertiary goal was to determine the correlation

of social isolation and the length of the unemployment period in the overall context of unemployment.

# Sociodemographic data

Socio-demographic data show that respondents with completed first, second and third level of university education took part in the research. The research group consisted of 355 men, which is a percentage of 45.34%, and 428 women, which represents a percentage of 54.66% of the 100.00% of the research sample.

## Results

In the first hypothesis, we concluded that young people who already consider applicability on the labor market when choosing an education have a significantly better quality of life than young adults who cannot find employment on the labor market due to an inappropriate choice of school.

From the results of the research, we can conclude that a statistically significant difference was confirmed (the critical value of the tested criterion p= 0.0324 is  $\leq$  as 0.05), which makes our hypothesis no. 1 confirmed in practice.

Table 1 Quality of life and approach to study choice

Quality of life and choice of study	reş	gularly	often		occa	sionally	I don't feel any changes	
	count	%	count	%	count	%	count	%
I considered the possibility of my application	86	52,44%	91	39,91%	83	41,71%	96	50,00%
I did not consider the possibility of my application	78	47,56%	137	60,09%	96	53,63%	116	54,72%
Together	164	100,00%	228	100,00%	179	100,00%	212	100,00%

Chi square = 8.78 df = 3Cramer's V = 0.1059 p = 0.0324

**Table 2** Social isolation and approach to study choice

Social isolation and study choice	agree		rather agree		rather disagree		do not agree	
	count	%	count	%	count	%	count	%
I considered the possibility of my application	59	30,73%	77	38,69%	127	55,70%	93	56,71%
I did not consider the possibility of my application	133	69,27%	122	61,31%	101	44,30%	71	43,29%
Together	192	100,00%	199	100,00%	228	100,00%	164	100,00%

Chi square = 38.49 df = 3Cramer's V = 0.2217 p = 0.0001 Original Articles 77

In the second hypothesis, we concluded that young adults who cannot find a job due to an inappropriate choice of school have a significantly greater sense of social isolation than young people who have secured a stable social environment by choosing their studies appropriately.

From the results of the research, we can conclude that even in this case a statistically significant difference was confirmed (the critical value of the tested criterion p=0.0001 is  $\leq$  as 0.05), which makes our hypothesis no. 2 confirmed in practice.

In the third hypothesis, we found that young adults who are unemployed for a long time due to an inappropriate choice of school have a significantly longer unemployed status than young people who are unemployed only for a short time due to an appropriate choice of study.

From the results of the research, we can conclude that a statistically significant difference was confirmed (the critical value of the tested criterion p=0.0497 is  $\leq$  as 0.05), which makes our hypothesis no. 3 marginally confirmed in practice.

## Discussion

The research findings confirmed the significant dependence of quality of life assessments on the duration of unemployment. The longer the examined persons were unemployed, the lower their quality of life was in the mentioned aspects. As other research points out, the context of the environment from which the unemployed come

from also requires separate attention. These are mainly regions with a rising unemployment rate in the monitored period. In this context, the chances of the long-term unemployed to find a job are significantly lower compared to the short-term unemployed. Unemployment means a situation of loss, the impossibility of finding adequate employment, which in the long run results in the emergence and increase of poverty.

#### Conclusion

In an effort to preserve a healthy and prosperous society for the next generations, it is highly desirable to pay attention to the social and psychological aspects of unemployment and thus eliminate the emergence of poverty. For young people, whom the public considers to be the future of the country, it is essential to ensure not only too much theoretical knowledge but also enough practical experience or the opportunity to develop their competences directly in everyday practice. In order for this to be the case, it is necessary to guide and guide young people in such a way that their decision about further education is not only in line with their interests or ease of study, but above all that it is in line with the requirements of the labor market.

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Length of unem- ployment period and choice of study	more than 24 months		from 12 to 24 months		from 6 to 12 months		within 3 months	
	count	%	count	%	count	%	count	%
I considered the possibility of my application	70	45,75%	98	47,80%	95	39,75%	93	50,00%
I did not consider the possibility of my application	83	54,25%	107	52,20%	144	60,25%	93	50,00%
Together	153	100,00%	205	100,00%	239	100,00%	186	100,00%

Chi square = 5.15 df = 3 Cramer's V = 0.0811 p = 0.0497

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