

Abstract

In the present thesis, the researcher set the research objective of a double nature: cognitive and practical. The cognitive research objective indicated by the researcher was to describe and explain the resocialisation process that takes place in the Re-adaptation Centre 'Mateusz' in the sociological perspective. The practical objective is to suggest changes in the direction of reforms of the post-release assistance in Poland. The idea is to introduce a new institution fulfilling the role of a 'sluice of freedom', modelled on the Re-adaptation Centre 'Mateusz'.

The thesis, preceded by the introduction, is divided into the theoretical and the research part.

The theoretical part opens with an explanation of the concept of resocialisation. It contains notions such as resocialisation, re-adaptation, reintegration and post-release assistance. An important aim of the theoretical part is to present resocialisation in the context of selected sociological theories: anomie theory, direction of social control, interactionism, neoinstitutionalism and deinstitutionalisation strategy. The links between resocialisation and other sciences, such as philosophy, psychology and pedagogy were also presented. When addressing the practical aspects of resocialisation, a number of limitations that the process meets was found, not only in the fact of isolation, but also in the interaction between the former inmate and free-life conditions. Problems faced by the persons released from penitentiaries and the solutions provided by the presents assistance programme were outlined. It was shown how the effects of penitentiary isolation negatively influence the first steps of the former inmate after release.

The research part starts with the presentation of the methodology. It explains the choice of the topic and object of research, its aim and scope. Paradigmatic conditions of the methodological assumptions were presented. The grounded theory was selected as the strategy for qualitative research. Then, the organisation of the research was outlined. The research procedure was preceded by the pre-research phase. After that, 5 observations of the constant participants (3 daily observations and 2 two-day observations) and interviews with the respondents (10 interviews with Centre residents, 7 interviews with its former residents, one interview with the Centre Manager, and two with experts) were carried out. The analysis also included letters written by the inmates from penitentiaries to the Centre Manager.

The results of the analysis are preceded by a description of the respondents' profiles: Centre residents, former residents and other respondents such as the Centre Manager and the experts.

The analysis performed for the purpose of the present thesis not only provided answers to the research questions presented in the study, but also allowed for a discovery of areas that provoke additional questions. Thus, it allowed the researcher to reach their goal and indicate directions to be taken in the following studies.

The thesis ends with the research conclusions and literature.