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INTRODUCTION

We present the fourth volume of *Current psychosocial problems in traditional and novel approaches* prepared by research workers from the Institute of Psychology, Kazimierz Wielki University and our coworkers from other universities.

This volume is devoted to three worlds of human life: the world of intimate relations, the world of mind and the world of communities, large and small. The first world is created by close interpersonal relations between husband and wife, between family members and between teachers and pupils. The effects of turbulences in the life of adults on their own development and development of children are also analyzed. A painful problem of mothers serving prison sentences with their children is touched. The significance of social groups in supporting of young people coping with developmental problems is discussed. The volume offers some theoretical and empirical considerations related to our mind: the possibilities of concentration training, imagination and creativity development in children.

The authors of the texts compiled in this edition are concerned with all aspects of close relations that lead to the appearance of attachment bonds, vital for individual and social development, success in life in general, including success at school. Emotional and ideological closeness determines the effectiveness of coping with challenges and difficulties. In the life of young people much depends on the conditions of entering adulthood and resources provided by the closest developmental environments, first of all the belief in one's agency, ability to create oneself and one's life path and ability to take responsibility for one's decisions.

Also much depends on the social and cultural environment, so on people we meet on our life path and with whom we enter into often complex relations. These relations constitute our everyday experiences, often difficult to assimilate and understand in the emotional, cognitive and evaluating aspects. Sometimes we do not see the meaning of behavior of others, of events that we witness or we are involved in – even without our consent. Coping with such experiences uses the personal resources of the subject but often requires the engagement of resources of interpersonal relations and through them – social and cultural resources in a broad sense. Without support of the others, the correct or satisfactory functioning in different social roles can be difficult or distorted. In some situations the support offered by others is necessary for finding the right

way of action or solving problems with consolidation of structure of one's own personality.

The fourth volume of *Current Psychosocial Problems in Traditional and Novel Approaches* contains ten chapters organized into three parts of monographs concerned with one of three worlds of human life, the world of intimate relations, the world of mind and the world of communities, large and small.

In the first chapter Dorota Suwalska-Barancewicz and Hanna Liberska analyze the significance of sexual differences in functioning of partners in a relationship. Their considerations are illustrated with the results of studies on the supplementing roles of the sexes in functioning of a couple.

Chapter 2 prepared by Maria Abramová, Galina Goncharova and Vsevolod Kosyuk rises important questions on the strategy of acculturation in the families of ethnic minorities. The problem gains particular meaning in view of recent migration of people leaving their fatherlands in search for safe conditions of living in Europe.

In the Chapter 3 Beata Hołtyń and Piotr Goska-Hołtyń in their contribution analyze selected consequences of divorce, the authors indicate the possibilities of supporting the stability of falling apart marriage.

The subject of Chapter 4, provided by Elzbieta Kaminska and Hanna Liberska, touches the problem of values of mothers serving prison sentences with their children. The problem is treated with great sensitivity and knowledge of the area of study.

Monika Deja, Janusz Trepła and Magdaleno Leszko prepared Chapter 5 devoted to the problem of attention training in children. The authors supply arguments illustrating that attention training at early stages of life contributes to improved functioning of the cognitive sphere and affects the processes of orientation, learning, problem solving and coping with everyday experiences.

Agnieszka Bieńkowska is the authoress of Chapter 6 concerning the belief in a magical power of words in early adulthood. From the developmental point of view it is a bit worrying phenomenon, the magical thinking is normal in young children but what about adults?

In this Chapter 7 Natalia Pilarska and Hanna Liberska ponder on selected aspects and dimensions of socialization in religious groups. They propose an original model of relations permitting empirical verification of potential significance of belonging to such groups on psychosocial development of young people.

The impact of emotional intelligence and communication competence of the teacher on development of emotional intelligence and attachment bond in the student has been the subject of interest for Martyna Bucholc and Hanna Liberska, analyzed in Chapter 8. The idea of formation of attachment bond between the

student and the teacher rises resistance or resentment. Nevertheless, studies have confirmed the existence of such a bond and its importance for education success.

Joanna Jankowiak and Hanna Liberska in Chapter 9 refer the study on the significance of psychological sex of an individual and the stereotype of ideal politician in evaluation of a woman contender for presidency and voting decision. Some results are surprising and confirm that the stereotype of a dependent woman is still present in our social reality.

Chapter 10, written by Ewelina Kamasz, Dominik Pieczewski, Donata Szalbierz and Piotr Zbieranek, concerns the temperamental and personality determinants of political views of the third-age students.

The book is addressed to all those who are not afraid of building close relations with other people and believe that such relations can be a great support in battling life problems and in development of one's own personality and uniqueness. Close personal relationships are a source of good emotions and joy of sharing one's life, thoughts, feelings but also suffering. It is definitely worthwhile to care about their quality as in this way we bear witness to our strength, to what is human and common in us and at the same time exceptional and beautiful.

Scientific Editor
Hanna Liberska

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