



EDUCATIONAL-PREVENTIVE CAMPAIGN ON PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The second phase of the educational-preventive campaign against trafficking in human beings «It Might Happen to You» started in October 2004 and ended in September 2005. The campaign was realized on three levels:

- Workshops in schools
- Media campaign
- Showing the movies

1. Workshops in schools – Within the campaign we concentrated again on direct work with secondary school pupils. In the first phase of the campaign we had worked with secondary school pupils from the third and the fourth class aged 18-19. The latest researches in the phenomenon of trafficking have shown that there is an increasing number of victims who are under age, some of them are even younger than 14. About 90% of victims are women and girls and the purpose of trafficking is usually prostitution. Therefore in this phase of the campaign our target groups were secondary school pupils aged 14-19. We put a great emphasis on education of young people for work with other people of their age. 136 volunteers from the secondary schools in Zrenjanin were trained. They were divided into groups each with professional assistants and teachers. Each group had two workshops. The term «trafficking» was explained, the pupils were informed about the dangers of trafficking and «push and pull» factors of trafficking. They were given instructions how to work with people of their age. We prepared a handout for them with basic information they needed for their work. We gave pamphlets, leaflets, questionnaires and other material the pupils needed for their workshops to the professional assistant in their schools. There were 137 workshops and 4079 secondary school pupils went through them. The women who are members of our organization were present during the workshops. Most workshops could not be realized without our assistance because it was difficult for the volunteers to keep pupils' attention on the same level during the workshop. We came to a conclusion that the volunteers should spend more time learning how to work on education of people of their age. A thorough training will help them to become more self-confident, which is very important for this kind of work.

2. Media campaign – covered the region of the Middle Banat. The aim of the campaign was to inform the local community about the problem of trafficking in human beings in order to prevent its further spread. The campaign included three media – newspaper, radio and TV. Due to its continuity, the media campaign gave a clear picture of real dangers of trafficking. Through the media campaign we tried to explain that trafficking is a widespread problem in our country and all over the world and we discussed other current problems too.

There were 10 radio broadcasts on the local radio station called «Coyote». It differs from other radio stations in our town. Due to its special program scheme and the kind of music it prefers, mostly young people listen to this radio station.

There were 10 articles on the problem of trafficking in the regional newspaper «Zrenjanin» and once a month the members of our organization were guests of the local TV station »Santos«. Other local media also followed our activities.

We prepared materials for the campaign – pamphlets, leaflets, posters, badges and T-shirts were distributed in schools and streets. There were four street actions in the center of the town and then we distributed the materials against trafficking and violence.

We also prepared handbooks for teachers in schools, so they can be able to work with the children on prevention of this problem in the future.

3. Showing the movie – In June, as a result of our cooperation with the Cultural Center in Zrenjanin two movies, «Lila4ever» and «Parallel Life”, were shown there. The latter was made in the production of MTV and EXIT for the purpose of the anti-trafficking campaign. 1000-1200 pupils saw the movies. Their teachers accompanied them.

In the second phase of the project we continued our good cooperation with local institutions, especially schools. The secondary schools in Zrenjanin were ready to cooperate and we did not have any problems in realization of the campaign. The teachers think that our work is very useful and they helped us to organize groups and workshops in their schools.

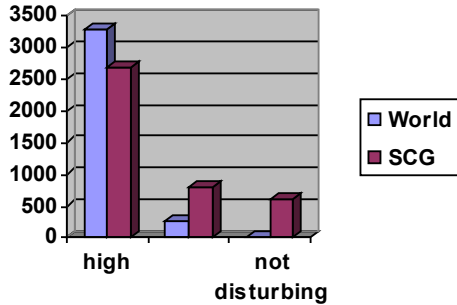
Analysis of the questionnaires

The analysis of the questionnaires showed how successful our campaign was. Direct contact with the participants was very important to us. The analysis was done on a group of 4079 pupils. On our question “Have you ever heard about trafficking in human beings?” 4061 participants gave positive answers. However most pupils did not show elementary knowledge about it. The reason for this is the source of information. Most of the participants said that they had heard about this problem on TV. However, the information that people can get from TV is very poor. It is disturbing that only 1579 secondary-school pupils said that one of three main sources of information is their family, which proves that their parents are not well informed about the trafficking in human beings and they do not talk about it with their children. Schools are in a better position and 2039 pupils said that one of three sources of information is their school.

On our question: *“How widespread is trafficking in human beings in our country and in the world?”*

2681 pupils answered that it is very widespread in our country, 801 pupils that it is as widespread as any other problem here, 171 pupils answered that it is not a disturbing problem, 428 pupils did not answer our question. 3272 pupils said that it is a very widespread problem all over the world, 264 answered that it is as

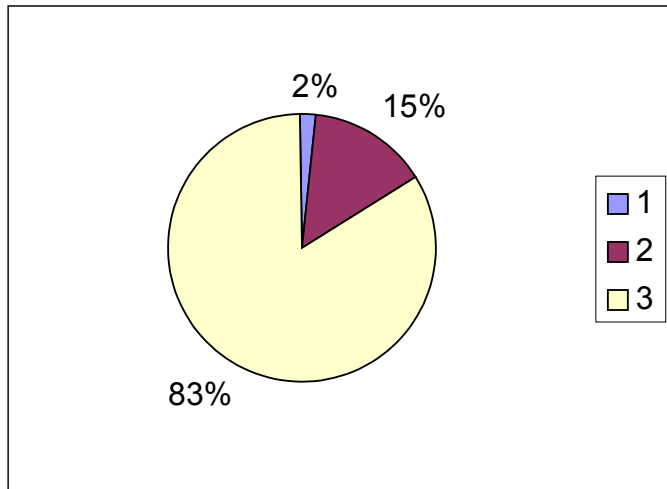
widespread as any other problem and 29 pupils said that it is not a disturbing problem.



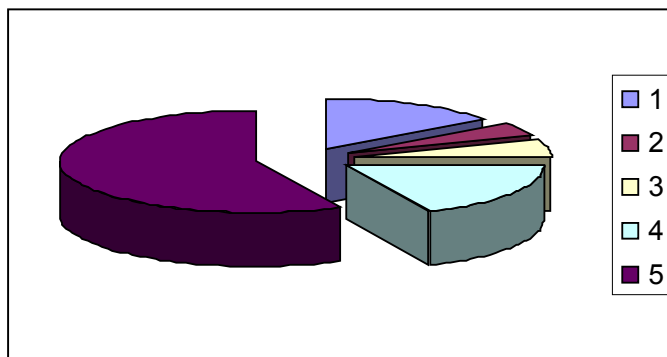
Secondary school pupils do not attach much importance to the problem of trafficking in our country. Our experience from the workshops illustrates this fact. When we informed them about the subject of our discussion they usually told us that they had heard about it and that it happened in western countries. After the workshops they

changed their opinion and most pupils thought that in our country the problem of trafficking in human beings is as widespread as in any other country in the world.

On our question "Is the term of trafficking clear to you now, after the workshops?" Only 2% of pupils, or 66 pupils said, "No, it is not clear to me". 534 pupils answered, «it is partially clear to me» and 3479 pupils or 83% said, «it is clear».



If we compare that with the pupils' evaluation of our workshops, a conclusion is that our work with secondary school pupils is useful and there is a growing need for it.



75% of pupils gave a positive mark to our workshops. 57% gave A, 18% gave B, 6% gave C and 4% gave D. Other pupils gave F or they did not tell us their opinion.

Conclusion:

During our work with secondary school pupils we faced the same prejudices and one of the most dangerous is that trafficking happens somewhere else and that they are protected from it. We found out that it is necessary to include trafficking as a topic in school programs because sporadic activities of nongovernmental organizations are not enough. The fact that this problem is on the increase in our country is especially disturbing. One of the ways to prevent it is to work with teachers in order to enable them to deal with this problem. Therefore we prepared brochures for teachers, which will help them to give lectures on trafficking to their pupils without our assistance. In the next phase, our campaign will cover primary schools in Zrenjanina and villages in the surroundings, which are in the area of a high risk since they are close to the border.

Zrenjanin
12/10/2005

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