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Mládež o kriminalitě a etice každodennosti

Youth on Criminality and Ethics in Everyday Life

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Summary

The publication “Youth on Criminality and Ethics in Everyday Life” was the product of a far-reaching survey of the opinions of young people. The sample group for the survey included 1501 respondents of ages between 15 and 24 years old and was selected by the quota system by an agency specialising in public opinion surveys throughout the Czech Republic.

The survey focused on the wide sphere of young people’s opinions. Primarily it took note of the respondents’ opinions on their peers’ motives for committing criminal offences. Its findings show that in the minds of young people, delinquent activities are strongly connected with intoxication by alcoholic and non-alcoholic substances, also that such activities are accentuated by the influence of the wrong type of friends, bad upbringing in the family and the bad example given by parents, and equally by boredom combined with a feeling of impunity.

Furthermore, the survey focused on the assessment of various – mostly negative – situations in life currently surrounding youths. Young people take greatest exception to situations in which harm is done to animals or people who cannot defend themselves effectively. They are also sensitive to displays of physical and also psychological intimidation (bullying, slander) and also to asocial lifestyles damaging the lives of the social environment (harming family by gambling, hard drug abuse).

We also investigated youths’ opinions concerning model situations of threat to property or persons. Here, we were mainly interested in how much the respondents would expect a passerby to step in to a situation in defence of a victim. It turns out that the respondents expect positive involvement of passersby mainly in situations where the victim’s life is in direct danger, while they expect the least positive activity in situations merely involving material loss (e.g. losing a wallet containing documents).

Some parts of the survey were directed at establishing the opinions of young people on the truth of statements with ethical implications. Some of the results illustrated a marked potential for xenophobic attitudes in young people, and also a marked acceptance of the principle of “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”. The respondents reject any negative evaluation of the young generation, they do not consider the elderly to be a mere economic burden to society, and divorce and unmarried couples to be the norm. In most cases, youths consider it right not to take the law into their own hands, on the other hand they do not have much confidence in the police.

Some of the most serious problems of the present day according to the respondents are violence to children, women and the elderly, while the threat of unemployment also came to the forefront. Drug abuse is a serious problem – young children highlighted relatively easy availability of drugs on the black market.

Respondents most of all desire a good partner in life; they want financial security, to plenty of good friends, good health and a job they enjoy. The results of the survey also showed that roughly a third of young people of primary school age have never regularly taken part in an organised leisure time activity.

Translated by: Presto