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LEISURE OF YOUTH IN MODERN SOCIETY

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ДОЗВІЛЯ МОЛОДІ У СУЧАСНОМУ СУСПІЛЬСТВІ

At the age of 18 young people get the right to vote, take their driving license and they can get married. Children and youths also have the right to have influence in their local councils. Some of these rights and obligations are regulated in laws and conventions such as the Children's convention [2].

Plummer argues that knowledge from the sociology of emotion and psychoanalysis can help to stretch citizenship theory beyond its traditional focus on formal rights. He requires us to carefully consider more intimate kinds of resources and types of relationships entailed in active citizenship [7].

During the latest part of the 20th century, the question about young people's citizenship has been actualized in Europe. The reasons for this are partly attributable to young people's decreasing interest in political parties and other associations of thought, the occurrence of anarchistic youth revolts, and the spread of fascistic ideas among the young generation.

To understand citizenship in relation to young people's leisure is a central challenge. Young people spend most of their leisure time in their near surroundings and, therefore, leisure options provided by the local councils are important. As leisure activity is not mandatory to the councils, each council's political ambition decides to what extent leisure activities will be seen as means of fostering young people into citizens [5].

The image of youths is at least two sided. On the one hand, young people are presented as individuals who are creative and interested in, and willing to take responsibility for, matters which concern them. The councils offer facilities, such as youth houses, and economic support to help them to arrange and carry out activities such as music events, festivals, dance or theatre. There is a notion expressed that through participation in creative activities like dance and music, young people's democratic sense will develop. On the other hand, young people are seen as individuals who need places to hang around, meet with their friends and have free access to activities such as listening to music, playing games and using the Internet for chatting. These are the youths who do not enroll in voluntary leisure associations [1, 2].

There have been many attempts to define leisure. According to Torkildsen [9], Rojek [8], Horna [4] hundreds of theories and descriptions of leisure have been produced during the 20th century.

The English word leisure appears to be derived from the Latin *licere*, 'to be permitted' or 'to be free', hence the French word *loisir*, meaning 'free time', and the English word 'licence', meaning permission or freedom to act. Thus, the word leisure is associated with a complexity of meanings in our language. Generally it is defined in terms of 'freedom from constraint', 'opportunity to choose', 'time left over after work' or as 'free time after obligatory social duties have been met' [9, 73]. The word *leisure* can mean different things, such as leisure in common or leisure for young people; leisure as free time or leisure as an activity.

Often the definitions of leisure have a normative character. In social science, especially in the United States, Canada and Great Britain, the word serious leisure has been used since 1982. In Europe, the United States and Canada a considerable amount of leisure research has been accomplished since the 1950's [5, 2].

The matter of leisure has been a part of the concerns about the physical and moral qualities of the growing urban population in the industrial era. Leisure has to do with regulation and self control [8].

The interest in modern leisure is an effect of the industrial society, when organized spare time became available for people. When De Grazia published his large historical exposé *Of Time, Works and Leisure* in 1962, which became one of the classic texts, leisure was established as a research field. De Grazia (1962) meant that

anyone can have spare time but everyone can not have leisure. He also stated that the access to leisure is a democratic question [3].

Mossberger, Tolberg and Stansbury have made a larger survey in the USA of 1 190 respondents of the age of 20. Their primary source of data is a national telephone survey conducted in 2001. In the survey questionnaire there were questions such as: access to the Internet, about having or not having an e-mail address and about attitudes towards learning new computer skills. They found that a digital gap exists and is characterized by skill divide as well as by an access divide. Digital divide, in this case, means differences in access to information technology based on demographic factors such as race, ethnicity, income, education, and gender [6].

Young people spend most of their leisure time and activities in their near surroundings and, therefore, the leisure options provided by the local councils are important.

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