

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Regardless of the line of argument adopted in the considerations on the use of evaluation in the activities of public social welfare institutions aimed at counteracting domestic violence, an attempt to understand the essence of its application involves an effort to describe the existing state of affairs.

It seems that we are currently dealing with a discourse treating evaluation as an obvious, desirable state, and on the other hand, there is a multitude of sources limiting the possibilities of its application. The above demonstrates the complexity of the nature of evaluation on the basis of social assistance and makes it a multidimensional construct of meaning. This ambiguity is caused by a multitude of interpretations regarding the final role of evaluation in social assistance, which creates a set of factors that enable or limit the conduct of evaluation research. At the micro level, it may be visible in the activities of social welfare institutions the ways of interpreting the meaning of evaluation, the available resources enabling such activities, and ultimately the very attitude of local decision-makers to evaluation. At the macro level, it is, among others, social policy, the emerging culture of evaluation indicate on the instruments needed for its application.

The challenges faced by social assistance require a change of method its functioning. In place of traditionally understood administration, it should appear a task-oriented and results-oriented model of management of social welfare institutions. The modern perception of social welfare institutions operating in the area of counteracting domestic violence is related to the implementation of public policies based on objective information. An important role in this aspect is played by evaluation, which allows you to adopt a reflective attitude towards the activities carried out, allows you to expand your knowledge and increasing the awareness of specialists working in the field of counteracting violence about the effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed forms of support.

An inspiration to undertake scientific research on the use of evaluation in the activities of social welfare units aimed at counteracting domestic violence, it is admittedly unsystematic, although many years of participant observation as a social worker, crisis intervener, specializing in helping families with violence problem. Practice shows that the current system of counteracting domestic violence "suffers" from the lack of reliable information at various stages of providing assistance to people experiencing this phenomenon.

As part of scientific research, answers were sought on the current state of use of evaluation research in the Śląskie voivodeship as part of counteracting domestic violence (what is it?),

the essence and causes of the current state of affairs (why is it so?) and attempts were made to define recommendations for changing the existing state of affairs things (how to change it?).

Evaluation understood as a tool enabling the improvement of the functioning of social welfare institutions appeared in Poland with the start of our country's accession to the European Union, however, during this period, evaluations were not a common activity due to the lack of evaluation practice and culture as well as legal standards in this area. The date of May 1, 2004, in relation to the relationship, can be assumed as the period of proper development of evaluation in Poland with the implementation of numerous public interventions co-financed from European funds, which is still taking place today. The specificity of the recipients of the activities that are implemented within the system of counteracting domestic violence, it forces specialists to build forms of interdisciplinary support, taking into account reliable information on individual elements, i.e. legal, social, psychological assistance, group interactions for people experiencing and using violence, psychological and pedagogical assistance for children from families with violence problem, inter-institutional cooperation, common goal and direction of activities, coherence and complexity of all interactions, their mutual interpenetration. Considering the above, the role of evaluation in activities undertaken to counteract domestic violence seems to be more and more significant.

Identification of the importance of evaluation within the scope of activities of social welfare institutions operating in the silesia voivodeship in the area of counteracting violence in the family is the main and general goal of this work. It comes down to try to answer not only the questions: how is it? Why is it like that? How to change it? but also answers to the question: if, and if so, what role evaluation plays in the activities of the analyzed institutions. This is accompanied by the conviction that changes in the institutional dimension are a consequence of legal regulations and economic development and social awareness as well as the level of social awareness are necessary to increase the level of use of evaluation in the work of social welfare institutions.

The above-mentioned issues concerning the meaning of evaluation and the essence of its understanding were developed in the first chapter of this work. Theoretical perspective, in which two main concepts were presented: violence and evaluation, it provided a conceptual basis for quantitative empirical analyzes and the interpretation of the obtained results, and also laid the ground for qualitative research. Linking the quantitative approach and qualitative, it allowed to look at the issue of the importance of evaluation in the field of counteracting domestic violence from a broad perspective.

The subject of the first chapter focuses on the concept of evaluation - its genesis,

in relation to the four main generations of evaluation. In addition, this part of the work presents various definitions of evaluation, both on a national basis and internationally. Attention was drawn to the contribution of the Polish Evaluation Society to increasing the professionalization of the evaluation process by presenting the evaluation standards developed by the above-mentioned entity. In this part of the work, an attempt was made to present the possibilities and limitations resulting from the evaluation application to the public sphere, emphasizing in line with David Osborne's concept and Ted Gaebler, that we can see a tendency in Polish public administration to focus too much on those elements that should not be the main focus of the assessment. The aim of this chapter was not only to introduce the concept of evaluation in theoretical terms, but also to present it in an operational dimension, in such a way to be a starting point for further analyzes.

The second chapter presents the theoretical foundations of the dissertation, with reference to: the theory of social capital, the principle of subsidiarity in the context of social assistance and evaluation and evaluation as a learning tool - the concept of apparent activities and learning organizations. Particular attention was paid to the concept of social capital as understood by James Coleman, who pays relatively much attention to the concept of a closed social structure, which, according to its assumptions, is one of the necessary conditions to maintain and decompose social capital. The concept was adopted as a starting point for the dissertation, emphasizing the essence of trust in a closed social structure as a condition enabling the implementation of evaluation studies in the area of counteracting domestic violence. In addition, this part of the work refers to the principle of subsidiarity, which is not insignificant in relation to the organizational structure of social assistance. Understanding the concept of evaluation has obvious consequences at the level of institutional solutions that model the sphere of real activities. This is where attention was drawn to that evaluation can be a tool to check whether the help is provided as part of the system of counteracting domestic violence, it is carried out in accordance with the principles of subsidiary accompaniment, and thus, whether the implemented forms of assistance take into account the principles of: justice, legitimacy, acceptability, optimality and effectiveness.

The presented problem contributed to the considerations on the complex mechanisms occurring in the public space of the social assistance institutions in question in the concept of apparent actions by Jan Lutyński, which is also the theoretical basis of this work.

In the subsequent parts of the dissertation (chapter three and four), the issues of determinants of Polish social assistance and the system of counteracting violence were signaled in the family. As part of the third chapter, a short description of the organizational structure of social

assistance as well as the potential and challenges of evaluation in social work was made, which has been placed for a long time in the concepts of rational planning and praxeology, which is relatively popular in Poland, which was especially emphasized in relation to with ongoing research. The issues of chapter three also include the analysis of the evaluated activities within the framework of social assistance and contribute to reflection on the optimization of these activities, development directions, possible changes. Significant issues from the point of view of the subject matter were raised in chapter four, where the system of counteracting domestic violence was characterized in a broad way. In addition, a description of the phenomenon of domestic violence as a social problem, the sociological determinants of the occurrence of the phenomenon, was made, and the areas of implementation of evaluation research embedded in the topic of counteracting domestic violence were specified. The theoretical considerations were supplemented with an analysis of formal and legal solutions adopted in the silesia voivodeship, showing how the system of support for people experiencing and using violence looks like in practice.

The next chapter, empirical, presents the detailed methodological assumptions of the author's own research, which were the guidelines for statistical analyzes carried out in the following chapters of the work. Referring to the theoretical assumptions presented in the previous parts of the work, the starting point for the research was the qualitative analysis - the analysis of existing documents (chapter six), aimed at identifying specific facts about evaluation research carried out within the organizational units of social assistance, that is: the context of the evaluation research conducted, resources used in the field of evaluation research and the consequences of evaluation research, which are strictly understood as building useful recommendations that should be implemented in the daily operations of a specific entity. The study also included a quantitative analysis (chapter seven), the purpose of which was to search for answers to questions concerning the most frequently adopted methods and forms of evaluation activities carried out in the entities covered by the study in the area of counteracting domestic violence; differences in the organization of evaluation between entities obliged to conduct evaluation activities - specialized support centers for victims of domestic violence operating in the silesia voivodeship, and organizational units of social assistance operating to counteract domestic violence in Katowice and neighboring cities. In addition, as part of the quantitative analysis, answers were sought regarding the issue of social capital as a determinant of the location of the evaluation research itself in the daily activities of institutions implementing tasks in the field of counteracting domestic violence, their social partners and the way employees of these institutions perceive the legitimacy

of conducting evaluation research. Presentation of the currently accepted sources of knowledge in units acting to counteract domestic violence, allowing for the broadly understood development of these units and the adopted tools allowing for self-reflection and searching for answers to the question regarding evaluation as a tool determining, among others, the direction of allocating resources in the discussed units due to the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity.

On the other hand, the reasons for the existing state of affairs and the possible directions of interpretation of the obtained dependency imperatives as part of the quantitative analysis were searched for in the qualitative analysis (chapter eight), the aim of which was in turn to seek answers to the question: why is this so? It was based on the technique of individual in-depth interviews, the scenario of which included questions coinciding with the model approach to the evaluation, which was also used as part of the previously implemented quantitative approach, that is, in the model based on the triad: context-resources-results. Flowing conclusions from quantitative and qualitative analyzes have been included in individual empirical chapters. The entire work has been enriched with recommendations that are a natural consequence of research and concern the broadly understood improvement of evaluations carried out in the field of social assistance in the field of counteracting domestic violence.