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**VIOLENCE AGAINST OTHER PERSONS  
(RESEARCH IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND POLAND)**

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**ABSTRACT:** *This article is devoted to the research findings of the occurrence and nature of violence and neglect within the family in social care facilities. It also reflects the results of research looking at violence against the elderly, through the eyes of younger people. This article is devoted to the research findings of the violence against children by their own parents and legal norms by preventing and limiting violence towards other person which are in force in the Slovak Republic.*

**KEY WORDS:** *violence, elderly person, family, social care facility, legal norms in Slovakia, preventing and limiting violence*

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## INTRODUCTION

The elderly often experience a feeling of vulnerability and uselessness. They see disappointment over an elapsed life and they lose the meaning of life, which is accompanied by sadness and depression, especially if it is a period connected with the loss of a life partner. If it is even also about the estrangement from his or her own children, an elderly person experiences this reality in a very difficult way indeed. Children are for them their pride and joy, and therefore their behaviour and humiliation is incomprehensible to them. A major problem in the experience of an elderly person is also his placement into care 'in a foreign environment', from a social and material point of view, which is confirmed also by the old saying: 'an old tree does not replant'.

## THE AUTONOMY OF AN ELDERLY PERSON

To take care of someone means to assist him in quality and **autonomous living** (Kucharska, 2012). In an effort to be of the most benefit to the dependent person, many times carers become manipulative, authoritative and protective types of helpers and thus through the form of forcing their own decisions to the nursed person, or from a position of their power, or threats of punishment, or excessive protection within the meaning of defending against activities, under the pretext that danger lurks everywhere for an elderly person.

It is necessary to realise that to take on such responsibility as the full-day nursing of a sick person, or of a helpless elderly person, the conduct is stemming from the depths of the human heart, accompanied by a high physical performance and mental stress (Hrozenská, 2008). **Autonomy** means the ability to lead a life according to their own wishes, to have the ability to implement their own decisions and to live their own way of life. Autonomy means the freedom of choice, decision-making, but also the responsibility for these actions. The less a person is autonomous, the greater is the worker's share to help out, and vice versa.

Pichaud and Thareauová (1998) indicate **three conditions** in order for a person to be autonomous:

- **to have the ability** of self-determination, the ability of choice and the freedom of decision making and actions in accordance with their needs;
- **to want** to put this ability into effect, which means to be self-motivated towards caring about yourself and making decisions about yourself;
- **to have the possibility** to put the autonomy into effect, thus to live in an environment which will be suitable for putting it into effect.

The mistreatment of elderly people, known as elder abuse, was first described in Great Britain, in 1975. The first studies in this field were in the USA, in the seventies of the 20th century, and in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, since the mid-nineties of the 20th century. As the first, this issue has begun to be addressed by geriatricians.

The results of the research, in the area of violence and neglect of the elderly, may have certain shortcomings, such as:

- a random, non-representative sample of the population;
- biased answers to the questions, because it is about a sensitive subject;
- a misrepresented explanation/understanding of the questions in the elderly respondent;
- impairment of the thinking and the memory of an elderly person, which we acknowledge also in the further mentioned research results (Kamanová et al., 2011);
- an unwillingness of the elderly person to show their ‘suffering’;
- a covering up by the elderly person of unacceptable behaviour of other people towards him, because of fear, shame and other reasons.

**Personal experience of the elderly with violence in the FAMILY and in FACILITIES caring for the elderly (research findings)** (Kamanová, Blahútová, 2011):

**a) The personal experience of seniors with physical violence:**

	In the family	in a facility
has personal experience with physical violence	21%	8%
does not have personal experience with physical violence	79%	92%

From the aforementioned research results, it shows that the elderly living in the family have more personal experience of violence against their person than

those living in social care facilities. It is possible to justify this fact by less social control of life within a family and also the reluctance or fear to disclose such conduct by the people close to the elderly person.

Manifestations of physical violence **in the family**: 13% of respondents indicated: bodily harm, 13% violent treatment, 25% destruction of belongings, 49% neglect of care, 0% other.

Manifestations of physical violence in social care **facilities**: 67% of respondents indicated inconsiderate treatment, neglect in the area of the diet and drinking regime, neglect of medical care, 33% neglect in the area of personal hygiene, 0% bodily harm, violent treatment, destruction of personal belongings.

The afore mentioned assumptions also confirm the manifestations of physical abuse/neglect, which are different within the family and in social care facilities.

### **b) Personal experience of seniors with psychological violence**

	In the family	in a facility
Has experience	18%	13%
Does not have experience	82%	87%

Manifestations of psychological violence are less transparent and more difficult to identify, because within the behaviour of the elderly person, mental or psychiatric disorders may overlap. Conversely, these illnesses can often be the result of the psychological abuse of a person. The nature of this violence is determined by the environment, in which the elderly person lives, and which is related to the ‘operation’ of a given environment.

Manifestations of psychological violence **in the family**: threats and intimidation was indicated by 57% of respondents, abusive language by 29% and disparagement and humiliation by 14%.

Manifestations of psychological violence **in social care facilities**: ‘a lack of privacy’ was indicated by 60% of respondents (mainly domestic staff, who upon entering the client’s room do not knock, but go directly in), ‘intimidation for an aberrance’, from the side of the social worker, by 20%, and ‘shouting’ at him, from the side of the medical staff, was indicated by 20% of respondents.

In the context of psychological violence against the elderly, Gretkowska (2013) from the environment of the Republic of Poland, states that elderly people have limited access to assistance in the event of sudden situations (emergency medical services), where the patient's age often determines the mission of the emergency services, also about the preventive follow up of the elderly, problems in obtaining certain examinations, rehabilitation in the elderly and others.

**c) Personal experience of seniors with social violence:**

	In the family	in a facility
Has experience	10%	0%
Does not have experience	90%	0%

This kind of violence was identified in a family, which takes care of the elderly. It is a natural assumption that the following restrictions in social care facilities do not exist; it is in fact an assumption that social violence in the form of hindering contact with friends, family, etc. does not exist. Rather, it is possible to consider social violence from the side of the possibly existing close persons and friends, whose contact with an elderly person living in a facility is certainly lacking. Research in this area has not been focused on.

Manifestations of social violence **in the family**: preventing contact with friends, restriction of movement around the apartment, prohibition of watching TV or using the phone or reading daily newspapers.

Pikula (2013), pursuant to Walden-Gałuszko, states that the quality of life of an elderly person, in addition to other factors, also affects their own identity, recognition, respect, a sense of usefulness, independence from others, perception of self-worth, freedom and other things.

**d) Personal experience with economic violence**

	In the family	in a facility
Has personal experience	13%	15%
Does not have personal experience	87%	58%

Economic violence has been recorded approximately to the same extent in the family and the social care facilities. However, significant differences are in the nature of the violence, which is conditional on the nature of the environment, in which the elderly person lives.

Manifestations of economic violence **in the family**: the withdrawal of a pension was indicated by 40% of respondents, requisition and collection

of finances and savings by 40%, selling off personal belongings and property was indicated by 20% of respondents.

Manifestations of economic violence **in facilities**: 'the disappearance of valuables and other belongings of the senior' was indicated by 67% of the respondents, 'the disappearance of the personal belongings of the senior' by 33%, requisition and withdrawal of a pension by members of their own family' (two of the 300 respondents).

Personal experience with **sexual violence in the family** was not indicated by any of the respondents. Personal experience with **sexual violence in facilities** was not indicated by any of the respondents.

The most frequent perpetrators of violence against seniors **in the family**: 24% of respondents have indicated their own children, 17% partners of the children, 17% spouse, 13% grandchildren, 13% neighbours, 8% other known person, 4% partner, 4% caregiver or nurse, not one of the respondents indicated an unknown person as the perpetrator of the violence.

The most frequent perpetrators of violence against seniors **in facilities**: 30% of respondents indicated other clients of the facility, 21% caregivers, 21% cleaners, 14% members of their own family, 7% social workers, 7% nurses. Kitchen workers, maintenance workers and laundry workers were not indicated as perpetrators of violence.

### **e) Reflection of violence perceptions of the elderly and younger people**

In other research (Strážiková, 2011), the view of violence against the elderly has been studied in three groups, namely: aged 60 – 80 years, aged 20 – 55 years and the elderly living in social care facilities. The aim of the research was to find the informative character and extent of neglect, abuse and violence against older people, through the opinion of the younger generation.

The results of this research document that:

- 47% of respondents of the younger generation know of the problem;
- know how to recognise when and how abuse happens to elderly people.

The young, **for the reason** why violence towards the elderly is happening, indicate: the momentary health status of an elderly person, his social position in the community where he lives, his self-sufficiency, his satisfaction with his family and his mental health.

**Table 1.** Youth Association on the subject of an elderly person

Association	% of representation in the responses
<i>An elderly person and the need for care</i>	93%
<i>An elderly person and wisdom</i>	87%
<i>An elderly person is useful for the family and society</i>	80%
<i>I sympathise with an elderly person</i>	60%
<i>Elderly people financially augment the household</i>	37%
<i>An elderly person is a burden to society</i>	27%
<i>Optimism does not disappear when looking at a senior</i>	20%
<i>An elderly person is annoying</i>	17%
<i>An elderly person receives more from society than the young do</i>	13%

**Table 2.** The experience of young people with violence against the elderly

The form of mistreatment with the senior	I have experienced it	I know it	I have heard it	I don't know
<i>Mental abuse</i>	7%	20%	33%	40%
<i>Physical abuse</i>	7%	16%	20%	57%
<i>Generally bad dealings</i>	10%	16%	14%	60%

Even when there are interesting answers of the type: 'I have experienced it' and 'I know it', perhaps the most serious multiple-choice answers (and their abundance) is the answer: 'I don't know'. Inevitably here the question arises, 'Why this choice of answers?' Is it a sign of a strong indifference of the young towards the elderly? Or it is a significant phenomenon of contemporary society and thus about *the life of younger people without the presence and cohabitation with the elderly*, where one loses the transference of values and moral standards of behaviour of the young towards the elderly, for example, the naturalness of old age and illness, death and the loss of someone close. They lose role models of behaviour and rituals in this area and others.

The results of an examination of **personal experience** of the elderly with any violence towards the elderly, according to Strážiková (2011), talking about

similar findings as the aforementioned, according to (Kamanová, Blahútová, 2011)

- 54% think that intentional harm is quite abnormal;
- 23% think that this problem occurs also in good families;
- 13% that it occurs often, quite common.

An answer to the question of whether violence towards another person needs **intervention from the outside**, was investigated in the research by Bodnárová (2005). From the answers of the respondents, it shows that approximately one fifth of respondents consider violence in the home as a matter for the family, the others, i.e. four fifths of the respondents, considered violent behaviour in the home as such, for which outside intervention is necessary. In the case of violence, the following should intervene (when answering, the respondents had the opportunity to respond to multiple choices): The police, responded 64% of the respondents, family members 57%, the Social Department 32%, neighbours and relatives 30%, support organisations for violence 22%, municipal office 17%, doctor and the school 10%, a priest 2% of the respondents.

The research A. Gretkowski, S. Kwiatkowska (2015) we select findings on the relationship young people to older:

*What is a person like in stage of senility?* - was another question that responders had to answer for.

Their responses were very different. 44 (44%) responders pointed to negative features like cranky and grumpy. Next 20 (20%) said that old people as stubborn, 17 (17%) said that the older person gets the more religious they become, 16 (16%) meddlesome, 15 (15%) mentioned annoying, sad, child like behavior, quieter was an answer given by 11 (11%) responders, the same amount as malicious and bitter. Loneliness was mentioned by 10 (10%), 9 (9%) nervous and more careful, 8 (8%) answered serious, crafty, stingy and cantankerous, 7 (7%) said that old person becomes an experienced one. Another feature mentioned by responders was that old person becomes more stubborn 6 (6%), as many as ones that think that old people become more and more interested in gossiping. Just 5 (5%) gave an answer of sleepy and tiredness.

Senility have always been a concern for humanity, on the other hand it has always fascinated us. Quite frankly noone can nor will walk past it indifferently, because sooner or later we will all be a part of it (with exception of those killed



in accidents etc.). We all can, (and quite possibly have) different attitude towards it.

Next question that our responders got asked, was with that kept in mind. ***What do you feel when you see an old person?*** - was the first question of that group asked respondents.

Among possible answers they could choose : pity, compassion, sadness, disgust, hatred and respect. Over half of given answers 52 (52%) was respect, when seeing an old person. Next 24 (24%) feels compassion, 10 (10%) pity, 8(8%) sadness, 5(5%) hatred and just 1 (1%) person feels disgust.

**Next question went as follows: Do you think old people are needed?**

Survey says that almost everyone 96 (96%) thinks that old people are needed, while just 4 (4%) thinks that old people are not needed for anything. After answering this question youth was asked to explain their choice. Here are their explanations:

- They have bigger knowledge and life experience, they know plenty of life stories, practices, very often they support youth
- They are needed, even just within selfish reasons, because we will also be old, who wouldn't want to feel needed. Besides they have experience, from which we young can learn.
- Old people are very needed. They can support us with experience and advice. Besides how we treat old people, gives an example to children. Old person is not a toy, that you throw away. Their presence and support is very needed.
- I can't imagine a life without my grandmother, who lives with me, when I see her suffering and being happy in spite of that, I feel faith growing inside of me. Grandmother gives me hope.
- I have learned so much from my mom's parents. They helped me grow up, but unfortunately they passed away really soon. They show me, that through dark times, there is always a light at the end of a tunnel.
- They deserve respect because they are a valuable source of life's wisdom.
- They are needed, because they give good advice.
- They have lived before I was born, so I can learn a lot from them.
- Because they tell us about old times.
- Every person is needed and has its own place in the World.

- They are an important part of society, they have huge experience, they know life and its problems.
  - Thanks to their advice, we don't make the same mistakes.
  - They are smart people, who know a lot about life and their advice is on point.
  - They are needed, because they are just like us, it doesn't matter how old they are.
  - They remember what we don't remember. They are witnesses of historical events and a smart soul.
  - They teach us, what they have gathered in their lives.
  - They are needed because they provide a wide range of knowledge and experience.
- We have to take under consideration, that one day we will all get old too.
- They are very needed and we young should serve them.
  - Because they give us an example, how to be a good person.
  - Because, they are role models to us.

Explanation of 4 people who said that old people are not needed: They do nothing. They collect pensions, which can be used to help fix budget hole. Because they are just in young people's way. (taken over by: Gretkowski, A., Kwiatkowska, S., 2015)

## **VIOLENCE OF CHILDREN AGAINST THEIR PARENTS**

The result of the research (according to: Žilová, A., Okoński, A., 2013) is an analysis of the phenomenon of violence (children vs. their parents) in the city of Chelm in the Republic of Poland. Its purpose was to find out what are the conditions and indicators of non-adult children exploiting their own parents, what are the connections and consequences of this domestic violence.

The following research instruments were used: Questionnaire for students. Questionnaire for parents. Questionnaire and interview with a teacher, psychologist and a social worker. Analysis of documents.

In the city of Chelm, there are 12 kindergartens, five elementary schools, one private gymnasium, 3 private high schools for general education, five associated high schools, one high school of economics, 4 vocational schools, 2 schools of education and psychological – pedagogical help and House of Culture

for Youth, Center for Further Education, Center for Practical Teaching. The children - pupils of the schools stated - come from different social environments, from families of a different social status. Many families use the opportunity of the state's social assistance.

Families with children who attend the first classes of all the high schools without being pre-selected considering their social situation of their families or other indicators were involved in the research. Students and pupils in the age of 13 - 15 participated in the research.

Research sample included 184 pupils of first class, including 95 girls and 89 boys and a group of 183 parents of the students asked.

In the group of respondents consisting of **students**, 82,5% of respondents comes from complete families. One-parent families were stated by 10,4% of respondents. Upbringing by relatives only (without parents) was stated by 6% of respondents and foster family was stated by the 1,1% of respondents.

With respect to the situation at job market considering the employment of mothers, 70,5% of mothers is employed in their home country (in Poland), 20,8% is not employed, 6,4% works abroad, 2,3% of other mothers works occasionally.

From the group of fathers, 72,4% of asked respondents works in the home county (in Poland), 13,8% works abroad, 9,9% of fathers doesn't work at all and 3,9 % has occasional job.

The results of the interviews and of the subsequently conducted research confirmed that violence of children against their parents is becoming important problem of a contemporary family.

#### **a) Results of the research considering respondents - parents and children**

A group of 110 parents (47,6%) stated that they don't have any family problems that would influence the family in a negative way. 39 of respondents (16,9 %) admitted difficult family situation. A big problem for 25 respondents (10,8%) from the group of parents is alcohol abuse and long-term unemployment (23 families 10,0%). For 22 respondents (9,5%) is family violence a significant problem. Another complication stated by 12 respondents (5,2%) is serious illness or long-term illness of a family member.

The most common unwanted phenomenon occurring in a family is for 31 (16,9%) of respondents (parents) educational problems with their children. 26 of respondents (14,2%) stated as a problem aggressive behaviour of children

against their siblings and aggressive behaviour of children against their parents. Domestic violence was confirmed by 22 of respondents (12,0%). The same percentage of the parents asked stated as a problem the usage of vulgarisms - (22 parents 12,0%).

**REACTION OF PARENTS TO THE DISOBEDIENCE OF CHILDREN AND THE REACTION OF CHILDREN TO THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY PARENTS**

In the case of disagreement between children and parents, young people often behave rebelliously, try to gain attention, they refuse orders for no reason. There is very often changing of moods from laughter to tears; it comes to misunderstandings between children and parents. Young people very often end up in rage and they refuse to accept and fulfil the restrictions and punishments given by their parents.

In the answers of the respondents, parents evaluated their response to their children's resistant behaviour. Children evaluated the reaction of parents to their resistant behaviour. On the basis of the table stated below we can conclude that considering the situation given, the biggest differences in the answers of the both groups are in "anger of a parent" and "raising the voice". Here we can assume that the big part of children considered (evaluated) raising the voice of parents as a sign of anger. An interesting result for both groups of respondents is the evaluation of the situation as "wait until it's gone" (ca. 1/3 of parents and almost half of the children). Here the question follows: "is it the wait-and-see attitude", coming from wisdom and experiences of parents?" or "is it escape way how to give themselves a break from children?", evtl. there are also other questions that can possibly arise.

**Tab 2** Reactions of parents to the children's resistant behaviour

Indikator	Answer of parents		Answer of children	
	N=183	%	N=184	%
<b>anger</b>	21	11,5%	72	39,1%
<b>beating</b>	19	10,4%	20	10,9%
<b>Raised voice/ shouting</b>	109	59,6%	56	30,4%

quandary	21	11,5%	25	13,6%
wait until it's gone	62	33,9%	84	45,7%
powerlessness	26	14,2%	19	10,3%
<b>Totally</b>	<b>258</b>	-	<b>276</b>	-

### a.2 Consequences for a child as a result of its disobedience

In the process of upbringing, parents undertake many steps that have influence on the disobedient child. It is very important for a young person to be aware of the fact that he/she will have to accept the consequences of her/his inappropriate behaviour. Parents sometimes punish their children with an extra work; they often prohibit phone or computer usage. Another form of a response to the disobedience of a child is an explanation and a lesson on how the child should behave. A child often doesn't understand the consequences of its behaviour, meanwhile its parents feel helpless. Beating of a child by its parent is very negative behaviour.

**Tab 3** Punishments for child's disobedience, avoiding of responsibility and not learning to school

Indicator	Answers of parents		Answers of children	
	N=183	%	N=184	%
<b>Punishment by an extra work</b>	20	10,9%	47	25,5%
<b>Prohibition of fun stuff (computer, TV, phone, staying outside, extra money and others)</b>	127	69,4%	94	51,1%
<b>Repeated explanation on how a child should behave</b>	95	51,9%	65	35,3%
<b>A child bears no consequences</b>	29	15,8%	23	12,5%
<b>Parents are helpless, they draw no consequences</b>	19	10,4%	25	13,6%
<b>Totally</b>	<b>290</b>	-	<b>254</b>	-

Among the most common consequences for a child's disobedience, avoiding of responsibility and not learning to school is according to the parents and adolescents prohibition of fun stuff (computer, TV, phone, staying outside, extra money). A significant measure for the respondents of both groups is explanation on how an appropriate behaviour of a child in a situation stated should look like. This reaction was seen as positive more by parents than by children. A punishment by giving an extra work was stated more by children than by parents. In relation to this there is a question of a duty

of children to participate in the household in the form of housework appropriate for the age of a child.

### **REACTIONS OF A CHILD TO THE PARENTAL PROHIBITIONS**

Common forms of a punishment for disobedient children are prohibitions to which people react in different ways. In a situation when children have something prohibited, various emotions come to their expression, which can be characterized by humbleness, stillness, respecting of the parental decision. It happens that a young person reacts with shouting and harsh demanding of something, resistant behaviour and ignoring prohibitions or blackmailing his/her parents.

**Tab 4** Reaction of a child to the prohibitions

Indicator	Answers of parents		Answers of children	
	N=183	%	N=184	%
<b>A child is shouting and making its demands</b>	32	17,5%	41	22,3%
<b>It behaves in resistant way and ignores the prohibition</b>	26	14,2%	46	25,0%
<b>It blackmails the parents in the way that it will do something to himself/herself, if parents don't fulfill his/her "whims"</b>	11	6%	21	11,4%
<b>It threatens that it will claim at school that his/her parents beat him/her and that they are alcoholics</b>	8	4,4%	14	7,6%
<b>It threatens them in other way, for example that it won't go to school</b>	5	2,7%	0	0%
<b>it gets offended</b>	72	39,3%	66	35,9%
<b>It expresses its different opinion but it respects the decision of parents</b>	93	50,8%	71	38,6%
<b>A child submissively accepts the prohibition</b>	25	13,7%	43	23,4%
<b>Totally</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>-</b>

Considering the answers on the question what are the most common reactions of children to the parental prohibitions, both of the groups stated respect of parents' decision. The second most common answer with high concordance considering the answers of both groups of respondents is that a child gets

offended. As very interesting we can consider the answer "a child behaves rebelliously and ignores the prohibition". This answer was given by the ¼ of children, the same answer was stated by 10 percentage point less of the parents. It seems that sometimes parents consider their children's ignorance as a form of silent agreement, or eventually as another form of conformist behaviour of a child. It is similar considering the answers of children and parents who tell about blackmailing parents in the particular situation. In this case the self-evaluation of children seems unfavourable towards their own behaviour more than the evaluation by parents. We ask here repeatedly: "is it wisdom of parents, unwillingness to see the reality, indifference, or something else...?"

### **REACTION OF A CHILD IN THE CASE OF NERVOUSNESS IN A FAMILY**

In the situation of nervousness in a family, children tend to behave in different ways. Among the most common reactions there are getting offended or going outside, away from the family, with the purpose to get calm. Negative behaviour of a child is shouting, demanding, banging the door, beating, or intimidation and blackmailing their parents.

In accordance with the role of this paper we point out to the answers of parents and children telling us about blackmailing or about a tendency of a child to blackmail, pursuit violence against other persons or subjects - against its physical environment. The answers in both groups of respondents oscillate between 40 - 50 % of answers of this character.

Tab 5 Reaction of a child to the parents quarrelling

Indicator	Answers of parents		Answers of childrens	
	N=183	%	N=184	%
shouting and harsh demanding	35	19,1%	36	19,6%
rebels and leaving the house	41	22,4%	65	35,3%
leaves and debris door	24	13,1%	53	28,8%
It blackmails the parents in the way that it will do something to himself/herself, if parents don't fulfill his/her "whims"	17	9,3%	20	10,9%
It threatens that it will claim at school that his/her parents beat him/her and that they are alcoholics	16	8,7%	18	9,8%
it gets offended	101	55,2%	85	46,2%
Conclude himself	32	17,5%	37	20,1%
destroying objects	17	9,3%	22	12,0%
trying to strike	16	8,7%	18	9,8%
He is leaving to calm down	61	33,3%	91	49,5%
beats	29	15,8%	18	9,8%
<b>Totally</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>-</b>

### WAYS BY WHICH A CHILD IS CLAIMING ITS RIGHTS IN IS FAMILY

Children use various ways on how to achieve their ideas and wishes. Usually they genuinely please but it happens as well that they shout, blackmail, threaten and harshly claim their demands even with the effort to hit or kill their parents.

A lot depends on the attitude of all the family members and values, which are given to a child in the course of its upbringing. It is important that a child could establish and realise a constructive interview with its parents without any negative emotions.

From the results of the research follows that the most common ways of a child demanding its rights and "whims" towards their parents is a genuine please. On the other hand, there is shouting and harsh demanding of things like for example computer, phone, money, staying away from home. 10% of respondents has an experience with beating. It was admitted by 15% of parents and 10% of children. Considering the age of the respondents (children), it is difficult and dangerous life experience for both parties.



**Tab 6** Demanding the rights, expectations and needs of a child in a family

Indicator	Answers of parents		Answers of childrens	
	N=183	%	N=184	%
<b>Genuine please</b>	128	69,9%	136	73,9%
<b>shouting and harsh demanding of things like</b>	23	12,6%	27	14,7%
<b>extortionthreat</b>	13	7,1%	17	9,2%
<b>swearing</b>	19	10,4%	18	9,8%
<b>deceives</b>	15	8,2%	26	14,1%
<b>beats</b>	29	15,8%	19	10,3%
<b>other</b>	25	13,7%	2	1,1%
<b>Totally</b>	<b>252</b>	-	<b>245</b>	-

Young people show different behaviour while having arguments with their parents. In such situation, parents need to be very careful and enough considerate for themselves and for their children as well. In the case of any form of violence and aggression from the child it is necessary to carefully analyse the phenomenon, draw conclusions and undertake consistent disciplinary measures. It is important that parents teach their children about mutual rights and duties and so that they prepare them for the possible difficult life situations which they should manage without any conflict with their environment.

Structure of a family, economic situation and a situation of an environment are closely related with the violence of children towards their parents. Results of the research enable the formulation of the following conclusions:

- The most wide spread connection to the violence of the children against their parents is the inability of families considering upbringing, bad social and life conditions, alcoholism, taking revenge at other people for own life failures.
- Young people are often being taught aggressive behaviour through the patterns of behaviour they can see in their families
- Unclear and not good relations between parents and their children, lacking the feeling of safety, acceptance at home and other factors not included in the research are related to the aggressive behaviour of teenagers.
- The most common connection of aggression of children towards their parents is malfunction of emotional bounds between parents

and children, which is subsequently related to excessive indulgence, parental tolerance towards the aggressive behaviour of their children with expressions of aggressive behaviour of children towards them and other people.

## **LEGAL NORMS VALID IN SLOVAK REPUBLIC WHICH RESTRICT AND PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST OTHER PERSONS**

It is possible to state that in Slovakia, the issues given are nowadays sufficiently legally treated by the amendment of the **Criminal Code** no. 421/2002 of the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic, of Civil Code and of Civil Procedure Code from the year 2003.

For example according to § 208 of the Criminal Code, "**Abuse of a close person and entrusted person**" in the point 1 it is stated: *"By abusing a close person or a person entrusted for care or upbringing, causing him/her physical suffering or psychological suffering*

- a) **by beating, kicking**, hitting, by causing wounds and burns of various type, humiliation, contempt, constant observation, threatening and causing fear or stress, violent isolation, emotional blackmailing or by a different behaviour that endangers physical or psychological health or restricts the safety of the person,
- b) **by unreasoned denying of foods**, relax or sleep or by refusing of essential personal care, clothing, hygiene, health care, living conditions, upbringing or education,
- c) **forcing into begging**, or to repeatedly perform the actions requiring *physical or psychological load that is too excessive considering age or health state of a person or which could lead to the health damage*,
- d) **exposing to the influence of the substances** which could cause damage to the person or by e) unreasoned restricting of the access to possessions that the person has right to use, sanction by
- e) taking away the freedom for the period of three until eight years will be imposed.“

**For the protection of the victims of home violence**, § 89 Art. 23 op. cit. Law of c) prohibits approaching the victim for the distance lesser than five meters and staying near the living place of the aggrieved party. In the case that such

a measure wouldn't be respected, it is possible to impose sanctions against infringer. In the same way it is punishable to frustrate the provisional measure imposed in the civil legal procedure for the protection of the persons endangered by violence.

The amendment of the Criminal Procedure no. 422/2002 of the Collection of Laws narrowed the range of criminal activities for which prosecution an approval of an aggrieved party is needed. Moreover, it ensured by legislative measures **that the criminal acts towards a family member were prosecuted and that an approval from a victim of the violence wasn't needed.**

On June 19th 2002, the amendment of Civil Code was approved, paragraph §146 was added by the Art. 2 which enables the court on the basis of a proposal by one of the spouses to **restrict the usufruct of the other spouse for the flat or house belonging to the undivided ownership**, eventually to exclude the spouse from the total usage when **the further co-living became unbearable** due to physical or psychological violence or threat of such violence against spouse or close person living in the common house or flat.

In the § 705a there is a possibility of the court to restrict the usufruct for **the person who committed physical or psychological violence against his/her spouse**, divorced spouse or against close person.

Court can order the bully **not to enter the house or flat for a certain period of time** during which the close person or an entrusted person lives against whom he is legitimately suspected of committing the act of violence.

## CONCLUSION

Important role in the emergence of domestic violence play biological factors such as temperament, damage of nerve system, traumas of central nerve system, organic damage of a brain.

Other factors are psychological factors which can include personality disorders, disorders of emotional control and control of behaviour, stress, frustration, strong negative emotions, and traumatic experiences.

With the emergence of domestic violence there are factors which also play very important role, such as factors of social environment, which are part of important social-economic status, social isolation and unemployment.

The occurrence of aggression and violence are becoming significant social-cultural negative behaviour. Its biggest risk is that the patterns of violence and aggression in behaviour are transferred from generation to generation; they impose the norms of standard behaviour of individual members of a family and are related to the problem of hegemony of one gender over the other on the basis of the physical hegemony of a man.

A significant cause of a conflict in a family are stress connected to the marriage, in which a very important role is played by the acceptance of a spouse as a life partner, the feeling of own identity, satisfaction in sexual life, principles ensuring the domestic life, keeping and character of social contacts, choice of friends, attractiveness of a partner towards the others and so on.

The primary background cause of conflicts can be encountering of two different patterns of family functioning of the spouses, which were gained from original families.

By domestic violence there can be also present addictive substances such as alcohol, drugs, which lead to aggression and weakening of the ability of self-control. The cause of a conflict can be also the perception of social isolation, which is characteristic for families of alcoholics, families with children of various social statuses, families different in comparison with their environment considering their life style, young couples changing their place of stay, entering the unknown environment.

In relation to the violence it is important to mention issues related to parenthood including the questions of children planning, problem of unwanted children, and family with many children, etc. Another cause of aggression and violence can be direct provocation and revenge in such a case when an individual is encountered by aggressive behaviour from other person. Important issue is an inability of human communication without pressure and aggression. In domestic violence the one who used to be victim in the past is later the aggressor himself.

Important connection of emerging aggression can become jealousy of partner's income, job position, and friendship with other persons of different gender or attractive appearance.

Relevant are also the problems related to the care of a little child, when a person is not able to bear the cry of a baby, he/she then behaves aggressively to make the child silent.

In everyday life, there are only rarely clear factors which occurring separately. Most commonly they build a net of behaviours in which the items are dependent on each other.

The conclusion is that the main cause of domestic violence is the conviction that the conflicts can be solved only by force. Very important aspect is an effort to impose own opinions and conviction. Significant is lack of capability to control own anger and rage. Important is the fact that violence breeds violence.

In the process of upbringing, accepted behavioural patterns which effect young person, shape his/her value ladder and character features. It is very important for a child to live from its early age in an environment of generally accepted attitudes and values thanks to which it can evolve properly. Vulgarism, aggressive behaviour and alcoholism, drug addiction which a child has to face influence its upbringing and significantly contribute to its aggression and violence of children in family.

Even though that after all, the legal measures do not directly protect the person who is being threatened by violence and by neglecting, they indirectly under the threat of sanctions educate persons who would like to commit such an act for different reasons, evtl. those who can control their behaviour only with difficulties. Another significance of the legal measures in relation to the violence committed on the other persons is that they are manifestation of social attitude of Slovak Republic towards the violence committed on a person. It is being defined as an unwanted phenomenon which is socially unacceptable.

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