

Households in the time of coronavirus. Work, education and support under uncertainty

The objective of the project is to assess the changes in living conditions of the households during change and uncertainty caused by the pandemic, especially professional situation and scope and forms of support offered by public institutions, NGOs and informal groups to individuals and families affected by the social and economic consequences of COVID-19 pandemic.

The starting point for the analyses will be the diaries and blogs collected during two editions of the memoir competition: "Everyday life in the time of coronavirus". In the first edition 448 diaries were collected and second edition, which will end in March 2021, will probably have a similar number of participants. The gathered material will enable the analysis of around 900 diaries and comparison of daily life in both waves of the pandemic. In addition to the analysis of the diaries, researchers will analyse results of other projects devoted to the study of the pandemic in Poland and in the world.

The data collected by means of the memoir competition will be followed by:

1. Individual in-depth interviews with the representatives of institutions offering support, such as schools, social support institutions, job centres
2. Case studies of authors of memoirs representing categories of households that were chosen for detailed analysis. This involves home visits, individual in-depth interviews with memoir authors and short additional interviews with household members.

The main hypothesis of the research, formulated based on a preliminary analysis of memoirs, states that **pandemic, although largely disruptive to the rhythm of everyday life, does not lead to quick changes in the social situation and material status of a family.** However, it results in escalation of existing problems and barriers in everyday life and mostly affects individuals and families that had been struggling with various problems for a longer period of time (first group of respondents). Another separate category that requires quick identification is people who are in a difficult situation mostly due to the pandemic, although they had been coping well before (second group of respondents to the in-depth interviews). The research will also include another group of respondents who believe that their household situation did not deteriorate. The collected memoirs and interviews will help identify the scale and directions of changes occurring to households, ways of coping with the pandemic and satisfying needs, and existing social support networks. After a year the interviews will be repeated in order to verify the situation of the households and the impact of the pandemic. The result will be 24 case studies from an almost 2-year period. The material will be unique and will allow scientific analyses of pandemic and unexpected change on the living conditions and social situation of a household.

The household perspective will be confronted with the perspective of social support institutions responsible for satisfying key needs and intervening in the time of crisis. This will be representatives of social support institutions, labour market policy institutions and education (principals and teachers) which will enable the analysis of the areas of social support, social work, labour market and education. This will be a total of 24 in-depth interviews with the representatives of the above-mentioned institutions.

The collection of data from biographic studies (memoir competitions), case studies and interviews with representatives of social support institutions will enable a better understanding of the process of handling the consequences of the pandemic by the households, their mechanisms of satisfying needs and receiving informal and institutional support. On the basis of these, we will formulate the recommendations for the local and national social policies.