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Short scientific article

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONDITION OF POVERTY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (Demonstrated by qualitative research)<sup>1</sup>

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*Abstract:* Poverty is a historical and class-conditioned social phenomenon. The people who are in the condition of poverty have limited resources (material, cultural, social, etc.). The long-term poverty measurements by applying the relative and subjective method have enabled identification of the basic profiles of poverty in the Republic of Macedonia. The condition of poverty directly affects the following: the material status, the social status, the bio-mental condition and the culture of living and behaviour of the people who are in that condition. The consequences of the condition of poverty are numerous; we will address the housing, nutrition, health condition, family relations, education, as well as social communication. The purpose of this work is to examine, describe and explain the consequences of the condition of poverty with the three basic groups of poor families: traditionally poor, newly impoverished households and chronically poor families by using the data from the qualitative measurements. The poor people have had difficulties adjusting to the newly emerged situation in the Republic of Macedonia. The family members have mostly tried to escape the newly emerged situation in the grey economy. Reproduction of the second generation of poor families is evident. The generalizations referred to regarding the researched problem arise from the qualitative research conducted on a sample of 60 families which were followed throughout a ten-year period.

*Key words:* poverty, consequences, qualitative measurements, families.

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## Introduction

The finding that approximately one billion people live on the existential edge is very surprising, considering the great world-wide economic advancement. Many scholars relate the increased number of poor people in the world to the processes and changes that have been taking place on both global and local level – globalization.

Many of them search for the reason for the condition of poverty in the economic underdevelopment, the small or insufficient "poor" resources of the country. The beginnings of the development of the economic progress theory are characterized by finding alternatives for increasing the life quality of the people. As the time was going by, the focus shifted from the people to the production. The production growth has been gradually becoming an imperative of the developing economies, while the living quality of the people has been marginalized. These thoughts deserve attention because the changes in the degree of poverty are basically a result of the changes in the country's economic growth, as well as of the changes in the income distribution (inequality). There is no doubt that the globalization has its own influence on the condition of poverty, however we cannot agree that it is the main cause for the constantly increasing number of poor people in the world.

In this work, we have focused our attention on the consequences of the condition of poverty, which, to a large extent, determine the quality of living of the people, the families, and the groups which are in the condition of poverty.

The analyses of the macro- and microeconomic indicators in the Republic of Macedonia point to the conclusion that the process of impoverishment has been constantly present in our country. Namely, the overall transition period has resulted in a number of socio-economic changes: decrease of the employment and increase of the unemployment; decrease of the actual salaries; high level of corruption; increase of the social welfare beneficiaries; increase of the emmigration, especially of the young educated workforce; regional underdevelopment; social exclusion and citizens' lack of safety; decrease of the living standard.

By applying the relative and subjective method, the long-term poverty measurements have enabled identification of the basic poverty profiles in the Republic of Macedonia.

The purpose of this work is to systematically describe and explain the consequences of the condition of poverty. It has also tried to find an answer to the question "Is there a connection between the duration of the condition of poverty with the three types of poor families and their living conditions, the manner they handle things in their life, their attitude towards the education, health, nutrition, hygiene as well as for the social consequences?"

The purpose is to ask the members of the three groups of poor families

(traditionally poor, newly impoverished families and chronically poor families) to directly identify the problems they face, and therefore the qualitative method has been used.

There has been a special overview in the work of the qualitative data obtained by the researched 60 poor families.

## 1. Methodological approach

We are aware of the resistance that certain number of methodologists have in relation to the use of the qualitative research approach (Lisa, 2008). However, guided by the research aims, we have used a qualitative research approach in this work.

Why a qualitative orientation in the research? Because we would like to systematically gather the data on the consequences of the condition of poverty with the three profiles of poor families in a form of impressions, words, sentences and other, directly from the members of these families. We consider that the interpretative and critical sociological approach, use of logic in the practical acting, speaking the language of “cases and contexts” will enable us to better describe and explain the consequences of the condition of poverty in the Republic of Macedonia. Namely, by a detailed and authentic research of the conditions the poor families live in, the manner they handle things in life, their attitude towards the education, health, hygiene and nutrition, their social communication, the image of the consequences of the condition of poverty shall be much more precise. Using this research approach, we can obtain a clear picture of the background or the context of this occurrence as well, thus enriching the scientific fund on this social phenomenon. That is the reason the qualitative research orientation had been selected (Carl, Louise, 2003).

**1.1. Interviewees** – For the purpose of obtaining relevant data of the researched problem, the quota sampling has been used. First, five towns, namely Skopje, Tetovo, Kumanovo, Gostivar and Kavadarci, have been selected. Then, 10 families from each town, excluding Skopje, have been selected, whereas 20 families have been selected from Skopje. When selecting families, a special attention was paid to equal representation of the three types of poor families (traditionally poor, newly impoverished families and chronically poor families).

**1.2 The research time line** – Guiding ourselves from the aims, the necessity for giving a “motion picture” of the living conditions, the manner of handling their lives, the attitude towards the education, health and nutrition, and the social consequences, a panel longitudinal research (Annabel, Bryan, 2008) has been used for the period between 2003 and 2013.

**1.3 The research procedure** – During the research, the language of “cases and contexts”, as well as bricolage techniques (Neuman, 2009) have been used. A wide range of variables has been researched: life quality, education,

health, nutrition, social consequences, etc. The coexistence of several factors and events has been analyzed in the period of research. The explanation and interpretation are in the form of narratives, given through time sequences.

## 2. The profile and condition of poverty in the Republic of Macedonia

The poverty measurement and observation according to the double method by using the information on the basic structures of social welfare beneficiaries have enabled identification of three basic groups of poor families in the Republic of Macedonia: traditionally poor, newly impoverished families and chronically poor families. (Donevska, Dimitrievska, Novkovska, 2011).

*Traditionally poor* are the rural and agricultural households that are at highest risk of impoverishment. The main characteristics are: low education level of these household members, low economic potential because the income from the agricultural activities is the main source of living.

*Newly impoverished families* are the households that have felt the dynamic decline of the living standard during the transition period (households without a single employed member, households with employed members who do not receive salaries on time, households having more members).

*Chronically poor* are the elderly people, disabled people, institutionalized people, the agricultural families without any constant income.

Poverty is a multidimensional, historical, class-conditioned social phenomenon. The condition of poverty mostly disables (hinders) the participation in the social life of the community the poor people/groups belong to.

According to the data of the State Statistics Office, the percentage of poor people in the Republic of Macedonia in 2011 amounted to 30.4%. The most vulnerable groups are the multimember families, namely 48.5% of the poor people live in families containing 5 or more members. The poverty rate with the unemployed amounts to 40.7%, i.e. 46.0% of all poor people are unemployed. We should accentuate that 54.6% of the poor people live in families where the head of the family either has no education or has finished only elementary school. (State Statistics Office. 2012)

The condition of poverty directly affects the material and social status, the biological and psychological condition, as a specific culture of living and behaviour of the family, the people/groups that are in the condition of poverty. Namely, poor are the people, families and groups whose resources (material, cultural and social) are at such level that excludes the minimally acceptable manner of living in the country they live in. (Income Poverty in the EU, 2007).

Special attention is to be paid to fulfilling the needs. Each person should fulfill the various needs. The limitation of fulfilling the needs is mostly a consequence of their condition of poverty. The opinion that the poverty of the

citizens is their own fault (there are such), and that the limitation of fulfilling their needs is their own choice is wrong. All the people want to live similarly to their fellow citizens. The great differences in the manner of living often make poor a certain number of people who cannot live like the others. In condition of evident polarization: rich – poor, low – high income, cheap – luxurious products, modest flats with small surface area – luxurious flats with big surface area, one can expect as a consequence that there will be increased subjective feeling for the own bad position (the feeling of poverty). As a matter of fact, the research enables better understanding of the members of the three types of poor families and obtaining a clear image of the consequences of the condition of poverty experienced by these families.

### 3. Research results

Guided by the purpose, by using the qualitative research design and the longitudinal research, many data were collected on the three types of poor families. Three narratives will be shown for the needs of this work. In our opinion, they can give a clear picture of the researched problem.

**Family 1** - 2003, 4-member family. The husband is 46 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary technical school. The wife is 45 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, finished secondary school. The son is 15 years old and a high school student. The 69 year-old father of the husband lives with them, he is retired.

Living conditions (2003) – They live in an apartment of 60 m<sup>2</sup>. They have received the apartment from the factory where the spouses had worked. They have been buying it off in installments. Each fourth year they pay 800 EUR in order to buy the apartment off. It is well equipped. Most of the things were bought after their wedding. The apartment maintenance is a problem for this family. The husband says, “we used to paint the flat every year (when both the spouses had worked), now every fourth year or so”. They use woods for heating, which they collect by themselves (with license). They regularly pay the utility bills. They pay special attention to the electricity consumption. They have a car and use it only when necessary. Namely, the wife’s mother lives in a nearby village. She provides them with various victuals.

Living conditions (2013) – They still live in the same apartment. Nothing has been replaced during the period of research, the things have been ruined. They cannot pay the regular installment for the apartment and the utility bills. The electricity has been cut off several times. The car has not been registered. The wife’s mother passed away 6 years ago. As the husband says, “we have no need for licensing the car, to get even deeper in debts; we are already drowning in debts.” His father passed away in 2010. Now they do not even have his pension, or any additional income from the village.

How did they live in the period between 2003 and 2013? In 1989 when

the wife had been blackmailed (to either leave the job or return the apartment), she was dismissed. The husband says, "since then our life has been going downwards". We started living a very modest life. We are careful with every single penny. In the beginning (2003) the only income in this family was the father's pension. They had help from the wife's mother. She had provided them with food. After the death of the father and the wife's mother (2010, 2007) this family has had no income. They survive by collecting medicinal plants. (2013) The husband says, "that income has also been cut down. I need to ask for license for collecting plants every year, and that license needs to be paid but is not always obtained. Many times the plants rot because sales are difficult." Now they often borrow some money (1000, 2000 denars) in order to survive, but that possibility is also gradually slipping away. "We have no one to ask from", says the husband.

This family no longer has any income. In the beginning (2003), 60% of the family budget was spent on food, 10% on utility bills and the remaining 30% on hygiene, clothes, gasoline, wood and other. In 2013 their condition is alarming, they have no money for food.

Youth and education – (2003) The son is in his sophomore year at high school and has no problem with the studying. The provisioning of books is, however, a problem. He walks to school and carries a home-made snack. Just like his parents, he has a positive attitude towards the education, wants to continue to the university. He goes out with friends once a month. The parents think that he should go out when he gets older and then they will try to provide him with more money.

(2013) The son is 25 years old. After finishing high school, he did not continue with his education. He goes out with his friend more rarely. He says, "I am embarrassed, I cannot pay for a single drink". He starts looking for a job, takes whatever work he finds, but not as an economic technician. He was also abroad, but he did not succeed. He has no girlfriend. The condition of his family, he says, "strongly affects me, I do not feel confident. I am very strained when communicating with others. I am constantly afraid that I might embarrass myself".

Nutrition (2003-2013) – Due to the good planning and the cooking skills of the wife and the fresh food produced by the wife's mother, the family had a proper nutrition until 2007. They used to buy 1 kilo of meat every week. Each day the wife made various soups, home-made bread, a lot of winter salads, collected various fruits in the mountain and made juices, jam and other foods. The victuals used have been mostly home produced or procured from the stores with the lowest prices. There has been a remarkable change of the food quality after the death of the wife's mother; it has become monotonous.

Hygiene (2003-2013) – The personal hygiene and that of the home is at a satisfactory level. The hygiene habits have not been changed after ten years.

**Health** - The members of this family have been exposed to stressful situations during the entire period. Insomnia and tension have been constantly present with all family members as a result of the situation. The stress, especially with the parents, has caused functional disturbances (heart beating – tachycardia, increased blood pressure) and the wife even has organic damages (stomach ulcer). The son has got a reduced immune system.

**Social consequences** – In this period, this family managed to maintain a good social communication with the family members, relatives and friends. However, it has changed its lifestyle. They have not been on a holiday since 1990; neither has their son. In the beginning (2003) they went to various celebrations and weddings, cutting down the already small budget or giving as a gift something that they had previously bought (for example, bed linens). Now they go almost nowhere, as they say "we are ashamed to go empty-handed, although our friends and family know our situation".

**Family 2** 2003, a seven-member family. The husband is 39 years old, he is a hireling, has primary education. The wife is 33 years old, housewife, has not completed elementary school. They have 5 daughters. The youngest is 8 years old and the oldest are 16 years old (twins). They are all students in an elementary school (the twins have repeated a year, therefore they still go to an elementary school).

**Living conditions (2003)** – They live in a ruined house in the suburb of a village. They have inherited the house from the husband's parents. It is in a very bad shape. It is made of substandard material. They have no bathroom. There is a tap and an outhouse in the yard. Most of the furniture is inherited from the parents. It is in a very bad shape. The house is not well-maintained. They use woods for heating, which they sometimes collect. The electricity is often cut off.

**Living conditions (2013)** – They still live in the same house. Nothing has been replaced during the period of research; the things have been completely ruined. They have no electricity, the house is in an extremely bad shape, the roof is leaking, the windows are broken, the yard resembles a landfill. How did they live in the period between 2003 and 2013? This family lives on social welfare, they hire-purchase in the village shop, donations from humane people, help from the villagers. The husband works in the fields as a hireling.

(2013) The condition has not been changed. They still use social welfare. Other income, as the spouses said, "we have none, the villagers do not help us, in addition to that, everyone blames us for any damage in the fields". Talking to the villagers, we reached a conclusion that the condition of this family is due to their bad habits. The villagers mostly said that "they are lazy, they do not take care of the daughters, they live off the money the daughters earn by prostitution".

**Youth and education** – (2003) All daughters go to elementary school only nominally. These children have almost no interest in learning. They socialize only little with the other children from the village. The parents do not stimulate them to study.

(2013) Two daughters have not finished elementary school and are married. Two of the daughters have finished only elementary school. Only one daughter has finished secondary technical school, she is married and does not communicate with the family.

Nutrition (2003-2013) – This family has a bad nutrition throughout the entire researched period. They consume food with a suspicious quality, cheap food past its due date, monotonous. Their meals are not regular.

The analysis of the monthly consumed products and the manner of procurement has demonstrated that this family consumes grain products (bread) and vital fats (margarine, cooking oil) above the prescribed nutrition standards. The remaining products (meat, fish, eggs, milk and dairy products, vegetables, fruit, sugar and processed sugar) are below the prescribed standards. The victuals are cheap and past their due date. It should be mentioned that beside the limited budget, the family does not give up on consuming cigarettes, coffee and snacks.

Hygiene (2003-2013) – The personal hygiene and that of the home is not at a satisfactory level throughout the entire researched period. The hygiene habits in 2013 have become worse, especially when the mother and the father are concerned.

Health - The members of this family have been exposed throughout the entire period to lack of living funds. The feeling of tension is constantly present with all family members as a consequence of the condition. It was felt more in the beginning of the research. The bad living conditions, the low-quality and irregular nutrition are the reasons that more family members have low immune system and psychosomatic diseases. There are visible psychological problems, especially in the case of the mother (anxiety and depression).

Social consequences – In the beginning of the research, the family managed to preserve relatively good social communication with the family members, the relatives and the villagers. However, there have been changes in the living style in time. They communicate almost with nobody and they go nowhere. Two daughters have been married three times. It is alarming that their families are also poor. Some of the daughters are prostitutes.

**Family 3** - (2003) 3-member family. The husband is 51 years old, disabled pension (has problems with the spine), secondary education. The wife is 48 years old, unemployed due to bankruptcy, secondary technical school. One daughter, 19 years old. Living conditions (2003) – They live in an apartment of 55 m<sup>2</sup>. They have received the apartment from the factory where the spouses had worked. It is well furnished. Living conditions – (2013) They still live in the same apartment, but it is pretty ruined. Part of the furniture and appliances have been sold out. There is a significant worsening of the living conditions from 2003 until 2013.

How did they live in the period between 2003 and 2013? In the beginning, the family rented a space and opened a clothes shop. The wife



procured the goods by herself from Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and Hungary. Soon in 2006 they entered into big debts, and faced a great difficulty. They could not return the debt they had borrowed from the usurers. The problems of this family began then. The husband committed suicide. The wife was totally destroyed. She started selling everything she could (car, appliances, music systems, etc.). The daughter ceased her studies in Skopje and started working. But they did not earn enough money. Their debts increased. They sold the apartment. The family is on the edge of survival, because, beside the minimum help by the son-in-law's parents (mostly agricultural products), the temporary employments of the son-in-law and the daughter, they have no income.

**Youth and education** – The parents' attitude towards their own education and that of the daughter was positive in the beginning. As the family started decaying, they lost interest in education. The inferior socio-economic status of this family affected the daughter's attitude towards the education. She neither finished the university, nor wanted to. She got married in 2011 and has a son. Neither she nor her husband have permanent employment.

**Nutrition** – This family has not had healthy eating habits in the entire researched period. In the beginning, they usually ate junk food (pizza, barbecue, sandwiches, etc) as they stated, "we have no time for cooking, we are either on the road or in the shop". Later, they changed the eating style, when they started having financial difficulties. They bought cheap food in shops where they could pay by installments. In the last years, they cannot buy products in that manner. Many times they say, "we cannot buy bread".

The analysis of the monthly consumed nutrition products demonstrates a difference in the product consumption between 2003 and 2013. In the beginning, the consumed products are in the range of the normal standards. In 2013 the family's consumption of meat, fish, eggs, dairy products, milk, vegetables and fruit is below the prescribed standards. They usually consume grain products, vital fats, sugar and processed sugar. The consumption of cigarettes, coffee and alcohol beverages is accentuated.

**Health** – The health condition of all members is ruined in the researched period. The husband, besides the spine problems, also had psychological problems – anxiety and alcohol dependency. He committed suicide. In the researched period, the wife has had organic damages (stomach ulcer and diabetes) and psychological problems (severe depression). The daughter has had frequent functional disturbances (increased blood pressure, heavy breathing, disturbed sleep, sense of tension).

**Hygiene** – The hygiene in the beginning was at a very high level, but as the family got into troubles, the interest for hygiene in the apartment and the personal hygiene was reduced, especially in the case of the wife.

**Social consequences** – In the researched period, the family has suffered many traumas. Larger amounts of alcohol were consumed, especially by the husband. Frequent quarrels, violence, suicide are part of them. The unfavorable

conditions in the family have had negative effect on the daughter. Namely, she and her family are faced with the consequences of the condition of poverty.

#### 4. Conclusions

The results from the conducted analysis indicate that:

**The living conditions** are different with the three types of families. Such finding was confirmed in the narrations of the three families. Most of the researched families live in houses/flats, property of their parents/personal. There are differences mostly in the furnishing of the flat/house, the materials it is made of and its size. The flats/houses of the newly impoverished families were in better condition in 2003. Most of the researched traditionally poor and chronically poor families have had small, ruined, badly furnished flats/houses since the beginning of the research. Most of the families use wood for heating. The electricity is often cut off. After 10 years, the condition of the homes of the newly impoverished families is similar. In the period 2003-2013 changes can be noticed with all families, depending on how these family members have lived their lives. There is a noticeable connection between the duration of the condition of poverty, the type of family and the condition of the house/flat.

**How they handle things in life** – The fact that it comes to family members who are not employed in the public or the private sector, they try to find their way out in non-formal employments. The parents, children, men and women try to handle things in different manners. There is a noticeable difference in the manner how the newly impoverished families handle things in their lives, depending on whether they can work in the agriculture, whether they have saved some money and whether they have some help from the parents, relatives, etc.

The members of two other types of families are much more passive in relation to how they handle things in life. They mostly live on social welfare, help from friends, humanitarian aid, begging, other.

A special emphasis should be put on the relation between the male and female labour in the family and the way of living, when the family is in poverty. Namely, the research generates the presumption that the woman in the newly impoverished families handles herself on the labour market much better than the man. Due to her resourcefulness and complete dedication to the family, these families mostly survive.

**Attitudes towards the education** are mainly generated by the educational degree of the parents, the duration of the condition of poverty and the cultural attitude towards the education.

The attitude of the parents towards their own education and that of their children is basically positive in the beginning of the research with a bigger number of parents from the three types of families. The parents' attitudes change

depending on the duration of the condition of poverty and the type of family. Namely, if they see no perspective and mechanisms for overcoming poverty, their interest in education reduces.

The parents' attitudes towards their own education and that of the children are more positive in the newly impoverished families than those of the parents of the other two types of families.

The research has shown that the children's attitudes towards education depend on: the duration of the condition of poverty, the inferior socio-economic condition of the family, the inability to raise an awareness for the need of education in general in such inferior position. An inability has also been determined for raising the awareness of the children in these families that the education is an important factor for a way out of the poverty. Here, it is a fact that there is absence of wider and more efficient social action for overcoming the unfavorable conditions of the members of such families. This does not apply to the particularly talented children.

**Nutrition** – the fact that the condition of poverty affects the food quantity and the quality is indisputable. The analysis of the consumption of the foods points out that the condition of poverty conditions a specific nutrition culture. Most families consume grain products (bread) and vital fats (margarine and cooking oil) more than the prescribed nutritional standards, as well as all other products (meat, fish, eggs, milk, dairy products, vegetables, fruit, sugar, processed sugar). With regards to the nutrition, the research has confirmed that these families mostly consume low- and suspicious-quality food, food past its due date, monotonous. With regards to the quantity of the consumed food, it has been confirmed that meals are often skipped. This occurrence is more frequent when the parents are concerned.

A finding should be accentuated, which is characteristic for the newly impoverished families. The situation forces these families to search for ways out. They usually rent land and produce different kinds of vegetables and fruit for their own use. They are well informed where and when the victuals are the cheapest. They collect different edible items (blackberries, blueberries, tea plants, mushrooms and others) and make winter salads out of them. The resourcefulness and the skills for survival in these families should be especially emphasized by consuming home-made foods out of seasonal vegetables and fruit.

**Hygiene** - With regards to the hygiene, we can conclude that the personal hygiene and that of the home in the newly impoverished families is at a satisfactory level throughout the entire researched period. The hygiene products are mostly used in a reduced manner. There is only a difference in the hygiene habits, only in those newly impoverished families that in the entire researched period have continuously faced financial problems. The other families have bad hygiene habits from the beginning of the research.

**Health** – the 10-year long research of the 60 poor families have enabled close insight of the health problems of the members of the three types of families.

The long-term condition of poverty with the members of the poor families have caused functional disturbances, psychosomatic diseases and psychological problems with numerous members. The newly impoverished families are the most vulnerable category. The consequences for the health of the members of the researched families are more expressed with the parents. Although with most families the general tendency is to protect the children from the stressful situation in the family, the results show that the health condition of an increasing number of children is disturbed.

There are numerous **social consequences**. The common feature for all researched families is the reduced social communication, especially the parents', as well as the moral and mental decay, especially if there are no minimal positive changes in their financial situation in the entire researched period.

The longitudinal research has enabled identification of the second generation of poor families. This occurrence is more pronounced with the chronically poor families.

Based on the published conclusions from the panel longitudinal research, the following conclusions and recommendations arise.

It is undisputable that the analyzed families have a bad quality of life considering the fact that they are poor. Their living quality is directly related to the duration of the poverty. The longer the poverty lasts, the higher the risk is for worsening of: the living conditions, hygiene habits, nutrition, health condition of the newly impoverished families. The duration of the poverty affects the attitudes toward the education. Namely, the longer the period of poverty, the more parents' attitude toward their own education and that of the children goes from positive to negative. The duration of the condition of poverty affects the manner how the men, women and children handle things in their lives in these families. The women in the newly impoverished families handle themselves on the labour market much better than the men. The longer the period of poverty, the greater the risk of functional disturbances, psycho-somatic and mental illnesses to the members of the newly impoverished families. The longer the period of poverty, the greater the risk of self-isolation of the members of these families. The findings related to the social grouping of the second generation of poor families are worrisome. Namely, if the period of poverty is longer, the children of these families tend to socialize only with other children like them.

**Annex: The food consumption, condition 2003/2013**

	Substandard 2003/13	Standards of the Office 2003/13	Above the standard 2003/13
Grain products	8/12	0/8	52/40
Meat, fish, eggs	51/43	9/13	0/4
Milk and dairy products	48/46	10/9	2/5
Vital fats	11/11	12/14	3735
Vegetables and processed vegetables	42/39	13/13	5/8
Fruit and processed fruit	41/37	12/14	7/9
Sugar and processed sugar	41/40	15/15	4/5

Source: Own research

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## ПОСЛЕДИЦИТЕ ОД СИРОМАШТИЈАТА ВО РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА (ПРИКАЖАНО СО КВАЛИТАТИВНО ИСТРАЖУВАЊЕ)

Весна ДИМИТРИЕВСКА

Сузана СИМОНОВСКА

*Апстракт:* Сиромаштијата е историски и општествен феномен условен од класниот поредок. Луѓето кои се во состојба на сиромаштија имаат ограничени ресурси (материјални, културни, социјални, итн.) Долготрајните мерење на сиромаштијата, со примена на релативниот и субјективниот метод, овозможува идентификација на основните профили на сиромаштијата во Република Македонија. Мерењата на сиромаштијата и набљудувањата со двојниот метод и употреба на информации за основните структури за социјалната благосостојба овозможува идентификување на три основни групи сиромашни семејства: традиционално сиромашни, новоосиромашени и хронично сиромашни семејства. Состојбата на сиромаштија директно влијае врз следново: материјалниот статус, социјалниот статус, биоменталната состојба и културата на живеење и однесувањето на луѓето кои се во таа состојба. Последиците од состојбата на сиромаштија се многубројни; ќе се задржиме на условите во домот, исхраната, здравствената состојба, семејните односи, образованието, како и општествената комуникација. Целта на овој труд е да ги истражи, опише и објасни последиците од состојбата на сиромаштија со три основни групи на сиромашни семејства: традиционално сиромашни, новоосиромашени домаќинства и хронично сиромашни семејства со користење податоци од квалитативни мерења. Трудот дава одговор зошто се примени квалитативниот пристап за да се покажат последиците од состојбата на сиромаштија. Во анализата се употребуваат различни извори на податоци: набљудувања на природната средина, интервју (индивидуално и групно) и различни видови на пишани документи. Сиромашните луѓе имаат потешкотии во приспособувањето на новонастанатата ситуација во Република Македонија. Членовите на семејствата најчесто се обидуваат да избегаат од новонастанатата ситуација во сивата економија. Репродукцијата на втора генерација сиромашни семејства е видлива. Генерализациите што се наведени во однос на истражувачкиот проблем произлегуваат од квалитативното истражување спроведено на примерок од 60 семејства коишто се следеа во текот на десетгодишен период.

*Клучни зборови:* сиромаштија, последици, квалитативни мерења, семејства