

Social Reinsertion And Extraction From The Deviant Environment In The Community Of Beggars In Arad

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Abstract:

This paper explores the processes and conditions that affect people who practice begging in Arad. The core of the analysis is the experience of 60 people practicing begging, 154 specialists who are both in the General Directorate of Social Work and Child Protection, The General Directorate of Social Work and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The analysis was complemented by various statistical data and information available at the level of organizations involved in preventing and combating the phenomenon, such as: 69 documents and 191 case studies. The design of the research is mixed, using both document study, interview guide and sociological inquiry. This study deepens the associated or determinant factors for the deviant behavior of people who practice begging. The findings reveal that the practice of begging and deviant behaviors stem from a complex of social factors. Begging is also a phenomenon that develops gradually. The main factors contributing to the development of begging are: poverty, migration, violent behavior, the environment of origin, the educational level, the consumption of alcohol and prohibited substances. The practical implications are aimed at creating an integrated video monitoring system placed in the City of Arad in order to facilitate the intervention of mobile teams in solving problems. Also, the internal organization of an integrated dispatcher belonging to the local public administration, with a multidisciplinary approach to the operational situation and multi-institutional openness regarding the destination of the captured data. The research is a clear and concise model in the area of changing the legislative framework, with a focus on assessing the mental health of homeless people, persons who practice begging and video monitoring to prevent possible social and community problems.

Keywords: Local police, begging, migration, poverty, social work

Introduction

Begging is a phenomenon widely encountered at the national level, and social reintegration and the extraction of beggars is a complex process, a continuous challenge for social workers and other specialists, because they face resistance to change, dysfunctional family situations and even minors who take on deviant behavior patterns transmits intergenerationally. Begging is generally perceived by citizens as people with their own deviant social norms that lead to isolation and social marginalization. The reality shows that most of them live together in extreme poverty, and their own social identity is marked by social exclusion.

People who practice begging face social problems such as ethnicity, age, financial status, social status, religion, educational level. Bulboaca (2015) believes that the degree of disability is very little recorded in specialized studies, even if it

plays an important role, regardless of whether the person has an innate or acquired disability.

In 2018, a study by the National Institute of Statistics found that 23.5% of the population, and 4.6 million people, were affected by severe poverty, the situation was even worse on the level of age under 18, where the incidence was one-third. Six years later, yesterday's children, today's adults are representatives of the pauper population, being exposed to the pressures of internal and external migration. The main factor is the simulated extreme poverty manifested in its three forms: low income and consumption, lack of housing and poor housing. (Braşoveanu, 2023)

The attitude of the members of society towards beggars cannot be analysed without assessing the more comprehensive attitude towards the social categories affected by poverty. In this position, Szabo & Petrovici (2017) highlights the importance of the proximity of poor areas to areas occupied by administrative or commercial elites relevant to the general population.

Pop (2023) specifies that begging is more prevalent in the case of minors. This way of life is associated with the uprooting of the family (leaving the area of origin, alone or accompanied by close relatives). This aspect, corroborated with the intergenerational transmission of the gain of existence through the practice of begging, makes it difficult for the person to escape from the nets of the phenomenon.

In terms of social involvement, society contributes negatively to the formation of practices through constant pressure on communities that do not possess financial and social resources, the increased difference between the financial income of the company in general and of vulnerable groups, in particular the existence of a real estate not managed by the owner or the state. Real estate that is not in the administration of a natural or legal person becomes a place used by beggars and homeless people, being used for its own purpose, housing (Healy, 2017; Farid et al., 2021; Finzi et al., 2023)

Implementation in Romania, starting with October 1st, 2024, of the Integrated Electronic Monitoring System (SIME) of the suspects, facilitates the approach of the beggar community from the perspective of preventing serious incidents in which they may be involved. The applicability of this legislation to cases of domestic violence, harassment, threat, abuse and imminent risk of aggression covers a large part of the problematic relationships within beggars' micro groups. (Law 217/2003; Art. 208 of the Criminal Code; Art. 206 of the Criminal Code)

One of the conditions for reducing the incidence of begging is to reduce or stabilize the process of generating people with high poverty rates, prone to internal migration. Thus, the institutions must aim to improve the economic and social climate in the areas of origin of poor people. As indicated by the latest edition of the Social Monitor (2018), regional disparities in Romania tend to accentuate, the differences between the highest and the lowest regional average GDP, from 3.2, to, at 3.6 in two decades.

The replication of these conditions denotes an increased risk of applicability in the foreseeable future of the Romanian state. However, it benefits from the advantage of not having to experience the control of the phenomenon of begging, having the opportunity to take over the good practices developed by the Western democracies that have faced in particular, with the consumption of banned

substances among people who are in a high degree of poverty.. (Bowling, 2022; Dewiyanti& Rosmalia)

Owusu-Sekyere et al., (2018) reflect the reluctance of female individuals and their families to publicly expose them by begging as they approach adolescence. The reason lies in the risk of compromising the chances of getting married. The situation contrasts with the high probability that they will be used for begging at the stage of the first childhood and preadolescence when minors are most likely to attract sympathy and generosity of the population.

Edmund (2020) said in Project Syndicate that studies conducted in northern Europe lead to the following idea: a person's financial income is not even a credible indicator of poverty. Real indicators are centred on impossible access to services and food, with basic needs not being met in a prolonged manner. More specifically, the lack of sufficient and healthy food, the impossibility of accessing healthcare and the lack of housing space. These are the main indicators of the level of poverty that correspond to people who practice begging.

Chauhan (2013) focuses his attention on hate messages against beggars and homeless people. In social media and media, stereotypes are transmitted that hide the non-compliant approach of cases requiring specialized help. The press tends to neglect the effects that the increased level of poverty has on the person. In this way, the scale of poverty is diminished. The same effects are presented disproportionately, unrealistically and confusingly in relation to the scale of poverty in the territory of other countries. (Dița & Vîrlan, 2019)

The desire to be sensational transforms the situation of beggars and homeless people into a media trend, without specifying the harmful effects on the person and on the whole society. Moreover, the lack of real involvement in the development of the punctual topics addressed, subsequently leads to deviations in the mass perception related to psychosociology and which determine social problems.. (Sumuko & Mbang, 2023; Arefi, 2022).

The current study aims to provide a real perspective on the experiences experienced by people who practice begging in Arad. At the same time, the study involves professionals in the field of social assistance and specialized bodies who work in local public administration, who come into contact with beggars frequently.

Methodology

The purpose of the research is to multidimensional analysis of the phenomenon of begging in Arad, starting from the favoring causes to the current stage of the phenomenon, continuing with the existing institutional response.

Objectives

01: Sociodemographic definition of beggars typology and how to survive economically.

02: Evaluation of the determinants of deviant behavior and the practice of begging.

03: Analysis of the perception of professionals in the field of prevention and combating the phenomenon of begging with regard to the dynamics and associated risks.

Research questions

Q1: What are the socio-demographic factors that favor the practice of begging and what is the way of survival according to the typology of beggars?

Q2: What are the factors that determine the practice of begging and the presence of deviant behavior?

Q3: What are the perceptions of professionals in the field of prevention and combating the phenomenon of begging with regard to the dynamics and associated risks?

Sample and instrument

In the investigation process, a mixed research method was used. For a structured thematic approach, an analysis of beggars from Arad Municipality was made from a descriptive perspective, followed by an analysis of statistical data and information available at the level of organisations involved in preventing and combating begging. In this respect, there were also involved professionals who work both in the General Directorate of Social Work and Child Protection, the General Directorate of Social Work, as well as in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The descriptive analysis came about through the use of internal documents (verbal processes, interviews, statistics) that record the status of persons practicing begging and who are in the attention of the Local Police of Arad. 69 Narrative documents were used that describe in a non-standard way information about the persons investigated. These people are special cases due to the high level of relapse in practicing begging, seniority on the streets or the high risk weight they manifest on themselves. A total of 191 cases (case studies) of begging have also been analysed, representing cases with high potential for recovery, as these activities are not yet defining but only occasional.

On the quantitative side, a survey was conducted with professionals working in the Local Police of Arad, the Social Work Department and the General Directorate of Social Work and Child Protection. The questionnaire was applied on a total of 154 respondents, divided as follows: 94 people with public order attributions and the evidence of people from the Local Police of Arad, Arad, 26 Persons who work in the Child and Family Protection Service in the Social Work Department and 34 persons in the compartments aimed at child protection, protection of persons with disabilities, etc, protection of victims of domestic violence and victims of crime in the General Directorate of Social Work and Child Protection.

In order to achieve the research objectives, a mixed methodological design was used. Sharma et al., (2023) specifies that „mixed methods” is a concept that covers both qualitative and qualitative methods, being an approach focused on the subjective and objective in-depth analysis, in tandem.

Dawadi et al., (2021) believe that the use of multiple research methods could be superior compared to focusing on a single method. The explanation relates to the broad perspective on the phenomenon under investigation, which cannot be highlighted if a single research method, be it qualitative or quantitative, is used.

Data collection and processing

A total of 69 narrative documents were collected describing information about the persons being investigated, namely, beggars. There were analyzed 191 cases of begging, respectively, case studies. The quantitative method involved conducting a sociological survey, the technique used being the opinion survey, and in order to obtain the necessary data for the study, the instrument was the standardized questionnaire.

The same instrument was applied at the level of the Local Police of Arad Municipality and at the level of the partner organizations involved in the management of the phenomenon of begging, namely the Directorate of Social Work and the General Directorate of Social Work and Protection The child's. In this respect, it was aimed at making a comparison on the perception of issues both in the operational field and in the field of prevention.

As regards the concepts and dimensions researched in the quantitative analysis, the following dimensions have been inventoried for the concepts of beggar and beggar:

- Interaction with the beggar in terms of exposure, risk or potential recovery;
- Assessment of the trends and causes of the phenomenon of begging;
- the role of institutions in managing the phenomenon.

Results

The research results start from a mixed research to better understand the specifics of the researchers in Arad.

Quantitatively, the research results provide a wide range of information. The phenomenon of begging and vagrancy is predominantly dominated by male individuals who make up 81% of the existing database. 55% of the participants come from Arad County, and the rest from 33 other counties of the country, which indicates that Arad is a destination of beggars migration.

A percentage of 32% of respondents have children, information either declared or verified by the organizations involved. The average number of children is 2.29 with a minimum of 1 child and a maximum of 10. There are also respondents who do not clearly remember the number of children. Regarding the period since he was in Arad, it was determined that the average is 15.48 years, and on the streets I live for 7.69 years.

An analysis of the Pearson correlation between the age of the subjects and the years spent on the streets was conducted. Despite the limitations of the existing data, the correlation is significant of medium and positive power. Thus, the increase in the age of respondents correlates positively with the increase in the years spent on the street. There is a historical phenomenon that accumulates gradually, and punctual situations are not correlated with possible cases that come to live on the streets by chance.

Table 1. Pearson Correlation

		7. How many years on the streets?
1. Age	Pearson Correlation	.368*
	Significance of the threshold	.011
	N	47

Another perspective of the study refers to the professional history and the economic model that ensures the survival of the subjects. 20% of respondents worked and currently 40% work. The activities carried out are not taxed in the field of construction, agriculture, recycling or cleaning around areas or communities that accept and use their services. Daily income is mainly due to the practice of begging which is complemented by non-tax activities or, in fewer cases, various social benefits. In particular, less than 5% had work experience abroad.

For 22% of respondents, daily value and average financial survival was achieved. The average is 84.6 lei per day with a minimum of 10 lei calculated most often on the basis of social assistance and a maximum of 400 lei for those who work in construction and are to some extent qualified.

The overnight zones are diverse and only in 10% of cases we refer to the night shelters provided by the public administration. In general, there are a few central points such as: CFR Train Station area, Motel "Moon with good luck" where they pay daily access based on money earned, abandoned houses or Hotel abandoned "Parc", on banks, on banks, in park.

In 2020, an investigation was carried out into the situation of clandestine settlements on Marului Street. 108 Adults with false homes have been identified. Most of the identified minors lived alongside adults who had their registered residence at addresses in Arad. In 74 makeshift housing containing the 229 identified children, there were 20 employees (most of them, with the minimum wage in the economy), 14 had occasional income, 3 had sickness pension or disability allowance, 3 were at retirement age and 2 went to work abroad.

As for, the link between deviant behavior, in particular, aggressive and homelessness, the results show that 27 % of the cases have a history of violence that consists of relapse or even institutionalization in the Penitentiary; 31% have violent behavior in general (physical and verbal), and 31% they have shown violent behavior in interaction with the Local Police; 11% come from a violent environment or even violent family. Comparative analysis indicates 64% of those who have a form of violence in historically manifest behavior of institutionalization.

Following the Chi2 probabilistic test and obtaining a value of 23,671 corresponding to a statistically significant threshold, we can say that the percentage differences are not random. It is no accident that the proportion of those with forms of violence is higher within those with a history of institutionalization.

Table 2. Pearson Chi2

	Value	df	Asymptotic significance (2-sided)	Significant threshold (2- bidirectional)	Exactly Sig. (1- unidirectional)
Pearson Chi ²	23.617	1	.000		
Continuity correction ^b	22.037	1	.000		
The probability report	22.561	1	.000		
Fisher's exact test				.000	.000
Linear association	23.526	1	.000		
N valid cases	260				

Comparative analysis of forms of violence by type of subject indicates that 54% of those who have some form of violence in behavior come from the high-risk segment. Another correlation identified refers to the total forms of violent behavior and seniority on the streets. Thus, the increase in seniority on the streets positively correlates with the increase in the score of forms of violence. Analysis of forms of exploitation shows that 19 cases have experienced some form of exploitation, such as toxic relationships, slavery or human trafficking. These subjects are part of the case study segment. Analysis of addictions shows that from the base of 260 people, 104 people consume alcohol, 62 prohibited substances and 122 do not have addictions. Regarding the amplitude of the phenomenon of addiction, 11% are dependent on the consumption of prohibited substances and alcohol, respectively 42% have a single addiction. The comparative analysis of the consumption of prohibited substances in relation to the institutionalization history states that the proportion of consumers is higher, respectively, 32.2% in the segment of institutionalized ones than in the segment of non-institutionalized ones (19.4%).

As for the types of drugs used, we can note: rind (70%), aurolac (18%) and ethnobotanicals or marijuana (8%). There are only two cases when taking risk drugs. In the case of poverty, only 11 cases have reached a desperate situation due to the loss of housing or work. The poverty stage in which the subjects are located is due to a social context and the accumulation of poverty compared to the incidence of dramatic situations.

Social alienation affects 40% of the subjects, the most important forms being: school dropout affecting 18.5% of the subjects; family abandonment 16.9% which assumes that the subjects left the family home due to abuse; separation from the family, 9.6% state that they do not keep in touch with family members; 5% entourage entering unhealthy environments that have accelerated the fall; suicide attempts that, although restricted, are, however, present alongside other forms of self-mutilation.

The component of health is essential in the framework of the beggars theme: 39% have some form of medical condition or physical/mental disability. The most common disability is mental (18.5%), generally due to heavy consumption of alcohol and banned substances over long periods of time. Mutilation or self-mutilation are also common in 13.5% of subjects, on par with poor health due to exposure to harmful environmental factors.

There is a positive correlation between the total form of behavior and the total score of addictions, those with multiple forms of violent or historically violent behavior have higher addictive scores; and; between the total forms of behavior and the total score of alienation so that those with multiple forms of violent or historically violent behavior have higher alienation scores. An analysis of the regression between the total forms of behavior and the total score of addictions reveals through ANOVA's test that the model is statistically significant. Addictions contribute to the total form of behavior.

Regarding the risks of interacting with people who practice begging, there are several types. Regarding respondents who work in the Local Police, the risks are higher in terms of health and verbal aggression. As for Social Work respondents, the risks are higher in terms of physical and verbal aggression. If we look at it in parallel, how the Local Police and social workers estimate the recovery of beggars, around 40% think that the majority are irrecoverable. 17.9% of respondents believe that a large proportion could be recoverable.

The most difficult situations for both categories of professionals in relation to the target group refer to: aggressiveness and addictions of the subjects; the influence of alcohol or psychotropic substances; the inclusion of children in begging activity; mental disorders; communication, distrust of communicating with authorities and receiving help; desire to return to old habits; lack of concise normative acts.

As regards the assessed causes of begging, respondents had to rank each case according to their importance. Thus, the lower the average, the higher the hierarchical importance. It can be seen that respondents in the local police prioritize the factor of family breakdown (2,25), and social workers dependence on drugs (1,68) and alcohol (2,32). Although there are observable differences, the ANOVA variation test did not identify significant differences between groups.

Regarding the appreciation of the reasons for which beggars arrive in Arad, all respondents appreciate that the availability of the population is first (100%), followed by the generous offer of housing spaces being appreciated more by social workers (68.1%) than by local police (61.2%). In 3rd place is the low incarceration rate appreciated by 36.2% of social workers and 29.9% of local policemen. The additional reasons mentioned refer to: poverty, proximity to the border and information on opportunities in Arad. From a qualitative point of view, the research results bring significant information. There is a discrepancy between the number of subjects who need preventive, curative and reconstructive intervention and non-

governmental organizations, the material and human resources available to local authorities.

The situation becomes obvious when comparing the human and material resources usable for the intervention of law enforcement and emergency medical teams, in relation to the personnel and logistics of social assistance and general medicine/ambulatory psychiatry that can be used to prevent worsening of the economic, physical and mental state of the research subjects.

„94 functions of local policemen with public order duties in the field and dispatcher. To them are added another 33 functions from the services of discipline in construction, environmental protection and the bookkeeping of persons, as well, which have a coercive role in the use of different locations for hosting research subjects.” (R1)

The raids carried out together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs proved the hypothesis that the local police can ensure, at the same time, the takeover and management in their own locations or of the partners, or for 4 people simultaneously, from different areas of the city, at a regular tour, or for 8-10 people, if a large-scale action is organized (often with the participation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and social work structures).

„39 doctors, 78 nurses, 21 nurses, 31 stretchers, five medical registrars (and 4 social workers, which is the equivalent of all night shelter staff). They take over the subjects of the research in the situations when they are brought by ambulance and SMURD, sometimes accompanied by police, local police or gendarmerie.” (R2)

In Arad, the Social Canteen is subordinated to the Municipal Local Council, but there are no day care centers that offer combined services with a focus on satisfying the main needs: food, clothing, medical and psychological counseling, medical and psychological counseling, interaction with other similar subjects, relaxation, legal advice or professional reintegration.

„4 civil servants of the Social Work Directorate working at the Night Shelter and a total of about 30 social workers who come into contact with beggars, but not permanently, as a result of the exercise of the duties of the service. At the Night Shelter there are 50 permanent places where the beneficiaries of the minimum inclusion income can be accommodated. The number can be supplemented up to 80, during the cold season.” (R3)

Analysis of interventions by officials paid by the authorities in the public domain, in situations where people practicing begging are involved, it almost invariably reflects the blockage that occurred after the identification made by local police or police crews. The main problems are related to the temporary takeover of the Emergency Unit, followed by physical stabilization, refusal of admission and leaving the hospital unit; stationing those admitted to the psychiatric ward and leaving it after a few hours, without carrying out exhaustive assessments on the degree of deterioration of mental functions; refusal of hosting at the night shelter; refusal of specialized assistance; concealment of financial sources used for daily survival.

Clearly, beggars and homeless people do not want the help of the authorities. Expectations are related to the presence of the staff involved in supporting them, both in the natural living environment, on the public domain, and in the area of the facilities performed to shelter themselves. Only under these conditions can a

maximised availability be obtained to provide solid indications of the conditionings to which they are subject.

In the period 2019-2024, the Local Police of Arad City found the presence of 528 beggars in the city. Of these, 75 were sanctioned more than 10 times (28 are from Arad, 25 from other localities of the county and 23 from other counties of the country). The beggar with the most sanctions received 138 fines in 50 months. A disruption of the applied sanctions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Law no. 61/1991b. During the 50 months analyzed, 177 prostitutes were sanctioned, and 71 of them were fined more than 10 times.

„Distribution per year of sanctions applied: 650 in 2019, 403 in 2020, 428 in 2021, 1048 in 2022, 807 in 2023 and 253 in 4 months in 2024.” (R4)

One of the assumptions confirmed by the qualitative analysis is that at least part of the population of beggars and, by extension, the social category of homeless people, they face problems of social and professional integration due to lack of relational and lucrative skills. Regarding drug use, interviews with beggars reflect acceptance of a fairly wide range of reactions at the time of consumption: higher activism useful for begging/group games/imposition in the microgroup, disinhibition, lethargy, sleep.

„Most often they will figure out after the first fumes of the concentration „tipplei”, which will allow them to temporize a possible occurrence of stupefaction by interrupting or slowing the inhalation.” (R5)

The interviewed subjects report that in the morning they consume at least one cigarette of „many.”. Against the background of inhalation or ingestion of toxic substances, in the afternoon or early evening, „work day” ends. Most often, subjects retreat to safe areas. In the unfolding of the „work”, people who practice beggary are attentive to the hours of traffic and pedestrian, as the most tendering for the production of public mercy. The decision to bird the area is influenced by the daily schedule and the physical and mental state preceding and subsequent to the consumption of toxic substances.

There have also been cases of members of a family practicing begging. At the same time, there are situations where some family members choose to reintegrate totally or partially, and family relationships do not continue, because integration involves finding a job, which means, in conjunction with the establishment of a host or the abandonment of systematic consumption of toxic substances.

The objectives of the research were achieved, observing on the one hand the socio-demographic factors that contribute to the formation of the typology the persons who practice begging, as well as the preventive, protective factors that can support the process of social reintegration

Discussions and Conclusions

Otovescu (2013) marks the cultural identity of Romanian immigrants in Europe, developing concepts with international interest, on several spheres: social resinsertion, deviant environment, how it develops and what new peculiarities appear in vulnerable groups with specific on the area of identity transformation in a context of vulnerability. The link between the book and the current study is on the importance of involving institutions in supporting vulnerable groups, in analogy with the community of beggars in Arad, because the extraction from the deviant

environment represents a reintroduction into the community and social environment, which works both for migrants and people who practice begging.

Coman et al., (2025) brings similar results on the area of individual and social identity formation. It is observed both in the study of researchers, but also in the current study that people belonging to a particular group, relate to belonging to a community, to its values and norms. Usually, those who practice beggar need emotional support and have positive behavior patterns for effective social reintegration.

Bătrănu-Pințea & Coman (2023) show important results on the sphere of deviant behaviors, on their formation and maintenance. The present article is related to the destructive behaviors that are learned through observation, so minors who have parents who practice begging will be more likely in the future to practice in their turn once they have noticed and can mimic the deviant behavior. The authors believe that violent environments create dysfunctional behaviors and thus long begging and cohabitation on the street forming a constant behavior of distrust, survival, dependence on substances, alcohol consumption, without a constant readjustment to a formal environment and social norms.

Goian (2020) explains how the social environment becomes an important factor leading to the formation of deviant behavior. The social context in which the child grows and develops, but also the social tension felt, competition lead to aggressive behavior. In the groups of people who practice begging, there are many vulnerable people with their own specificity, but also exploiters, informal leaders who can lead illegal activity from the shadows. The author mentions that multidisciplinary intervention is an important principle both in the sphere of bullying received by students and in the sphere of social reintegration.

Otovescu (2015) presents the phenomenon of social reintegration of people coming from a vulnerable environment and presents the risk factors that produce social isolation, but also the resilience of people and its activation in order to manage to overcome the situation and balance itself. Thus, they are directly related to the strategies that people who practice begging must apply in order to get out of the vicious circle and facilitate social reintegration. The social deviance and the factors that lead to it are presented by the author Adrian Otovescu, as follows: lack of a stable shelter, high level of poverty, insecurity, unemployment, lack of stable incomes, lack or rapid degradation of family and social relations, dependencies, gender inequality and social inequality.

The research highlights that people who practice begging in the City of Arad are 81% male%. A percentage of 55% come from Arad County which denotes that the rest of the people reached this destination from other counties. The average period of stay in the City of Arad is 15.48 years and 7.69 years in relation to the cumulative period on the streets. In terms of family responsibilities, only 32% of respondents have children, with an average of 2.29 children per respondent. Family conditions emphasize the significant correlation between harmful family history and the constant tendency to live on the streets.

However, the main sources of income come from the practice of begging, complemented by the provision of non-taxed work in particular in areas such as agriculture, construction and recycling. The average daily income is 84.6 lei/day and varies between 10-400 lei depending on the organization of the activities carried out.

The previous job and professional experience state that only 20% of respondents had a profession in the past, and 5% worked abroad.

Respondents' experiences highlight the nighting areas, the most common being: motels, train stations, abandoned public spaces. 10% use public shelters. The main problems related to housing are situations where the residence is fake or housing is improvised in public spaces. The deviant behavior of people who practice begging exists and manifests itself through violent behaviors in particular, in interaction with the authorities, at a rate of 31%. The main correlation is related to violence, as being more pronounced in the behavior of previously institutionalized or older people on the street.

However, people who practice beggars face addictions, such as alcohol consumption (104 people), drug use (62 people), and 11% of respondents have multiple addictions. The main substances used for consumption are: „many” (70%) and aurolac (18%). Poverty experienced by respondents is also a main result of the shortcomings encountered during life. In terms of social alienation, 40% have forms such as: school dropout (18.5%) and family abandonment (16.9%). On the medical side, 39% have disabilities or physical/psychiatric disorders. 18.5% are mentally disabled due to drug use.

From the point of view of the results in the qualitative sphere, there is a major discrepancy between the needs manifested by the persons who practice begging and the resources available at the level of the municipality. In Arad, there are no day care centers to provide the necessary support for homeless people.

From the perspective of specialists, both in the field of social work and those who work in the Local Police, 40% believe that people who practice begging in the City of Arad are irrecoverable because of alcohol dependence, drugs and lack of family support. In this respect, the lack of a stable job correlates with the influence of substance use on working capacity and social adaptation. People who practice begging in the City of Arad prefer to maximize their income depending on the hours of pedestrian and auto traffic.

In this respect, the research results reveal a problem present both at national and international level in order to implement strategies to decrease begging and training of specialists intervening on the field.

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