

Public administration interventions during the pandemic in the context of quality of life of seniors

Lenka Lachytová

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the daily functioning of people all over the world, its effects are still being felt in many social areas. The greatest impact of the pandemic was demonstrated in the field of healthcare, which was enormously overburdened, with increased mortality of individuals, which was not only caused by the disease itself but also by limited access to regular healthcare. The pandemic also caused a deterioration in people's mental health due to the inevitable isolation and a generally lower quality of life. At a time when the pandemic and the dangers associated with it escalated, individual governments around the world were forced to proceed with fundamental restrictions and intervention measures to protect the health of the population. A scientific monograph entitled Public administration interventions during the pandemic in the context of quality of life of seniors, authored by Lenka Lachytová, is devoted to these and other aspects that are directly related to the Covid 19 pandemic. The publication provides a wide spectrum of knowledge about the level and functioning of applied public administration interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic, considering society's economic, social, and legislative conditions. It is primarily focused on public administration interventions that significantly impact the quality of life of the most vulnerable group of residents in society - seniors.

With its structure, the monograph captures the selected issue in a more complex and detailed manner, which was also visible in the scope itself, which is processed on 447 pages divided into 4 chapters dedicated to selected topics necessary to understand the issue. Although this topic is vast and complicated, the chapters are logically processed and the solved problems connect to each other appropriately.

The first chapter is focused on analyzing public administration interventions during the pandemic, the goal of which was to respond to the crisis situation, minimize the spread of the virus, protect public health, and ensure the safety and well-being of citizens. These interventions are categorized in the first subsection into individual groups, according to the area in which they were applied. In the second part of the first chapter, attention is paid to the European Union, which, like the individual states, responded to the pandemic by issuing numerous documents, guidelines, recommendations with an effort to coordinate and unify the interventions of the member states. From the conclusions of the first chapter, based on analyses and comparisons, it follows that the public administration during the pandemic implemented a large number of measures with the aim of minimizing the spread of the virus, for example movement restrictions, quarantines, travel bans, closing schools, shops...

The second chapter of the monograph draws attention to the issue of aging and what the aging of the population means for the state in terms of social and health assistance and care. It was the COVID19 pandemic that pointed to the need to reassess individual aspects of social and health care for seniors, considering the flexibility of systems in society. The chapter is processed on a significant number of pages of the monograph, which proves the importance of this issue. The chapter, among other findings, emphasizes the fact that the pandemic revealed and deepened a number of problems that became even more pronounced in this critical period, especially in the field of long-term care and social services as such.

In the third chapter, the author approaches the quality of life of seniors based on selected indicators and strategies in the field of social inclusion of vulnerable groups. The findings show that the most vulnerable population group has become even more endangered as a result of the pandemic, not only in terms of the risk of poverty, but also in terms of social exclusion.

The fundamental chapter of the publication is the fourth chapter, which contains details of the conducted research and its results. Among other things, the aim of the research was to determine the perception of the quality of life of seniors in home care and in social service facilities before and during the pandemic period. To analyze the social support of seniors in home care before and during the pandemic, but also to identify the degree of satisfaction of seniors with home care before the pandemic and during the intervention measures of public authorities in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic. The results of the research carried out on a large research sample are valuable material both for experts and for the public interested in this issue because they provide a real picture of the investigated issue revealing some problems and shortcomings in the complex care of seniors.

The scientific monograph is the primary output of the project VEGA 1/0595/21 Public administration interventions at the time of COVID 19 and their impact on the quality of life of citizens of selected communities.

The creation of a monograph focused on such an issue is appreciable not only from the point of view of the actuality and scientificity of this topic, but also for the possible future emergence of similar crisis situations.

The publication can be an inspiring contribution to public administration institutions responsible for social policy in the field of proposing changes in the conditions of long-term social care, with the aim of constantly improving the quality of life of seniors and meeting their needs.

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Public administration interventions during the pandemic in the context of quality of life of seniors

Publisher: Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR, Poland - Warszaw

Year of publication: 2023

Number of pages: 447

Language: english

ISBN 978-83-8209-274-5

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