

## SUMMARY

Presented monograph represents a final outcome of the GA ČR project no. P407/11/0380 entitled “Prosocial behaviour and its personality aspects in the context of volunteering” carried out between 2011 and 2013. Its aim was to present scientifically relevant and – if possible – sufficiently integrated theoretical information acquired mainly in the field of psychology related to the phenomenon of volunteering as a specific form of prosocial behavior; and further, to conduct a broader empirical research on their basis focused on the diagnostics of chosen prosocial characteristics of volunteers’ personality.

The first chapter attempts to uncover the core of volunteering; it offers an overview of definitions concerning this phenomenon, as well as its most essential characteristics in terms of typologies and categorizations. It describes effects of volunteering on both individual and social level and further focuses on ecological and international attributes of volunteering. A brief report on the state of volunteering and existing research outcomes related to it in Czech Republic is also offered.

The second chapter focuses on the issue of prosocial behavior which constitutes a psychological basis of volunteering. It is introduced from the view of contemporary psychology and an overview of its possible classifications is offered. Further it pursues the issues of altruism and empathy. It concludes with a summarization of principal ontogenetical relations and gender aspects of prosocial behavior.

The third chapter comprises an overview of crucial sociodemographic, personality, social and organizational factors which may modify volunteering activities. The chapter’s core is a comparatively elaborated description of decisive prosocial personality characteristics including motives, personality dispositions, values, individualism – collectivism, belief in a just world, self-efficacy and social norms, most of which are subjected to subsequent empirical investigation.

The fourth chapter offers a standardly organized description of the research project. Its basic aim was to determine how the subsample of volunteers differs from the control subsample of present and future helping professionals in terms of chosen prosocial personality characteristics, as well as to investigate how these prosocial personality characteristics are mutually related in studied subsamples. Six questionnaires were utilized to reach the research goal (PSB – Prosocial Personality Battery, BJW – Belief in Just World, PVQ – Portrait Values Questionnaire, VFI – Volunteer Functions Inventory, SES – General Self-Efficacy Scale) and the sample of respondents was relatively large (N = 808). This chapter presents the outcomes of a statistic analysis, their discussion, interpretation and arising conclusions.

Volunteering seems to be a multifaceted phenomenon which is based in prosocial behavior and results from an interaction of dispositional and situational factors. A comparison of volunteering helping and professional helping shows that volunteering behavior is supported by more apposite structure of prosocial personality characteristics including specific value preferences, particularly in women who are engaged long-term and intensive volunteering activities. Further, a strong empirical support for the validity of the psychological concept of prosocial personality is brought by the research outcomes.

The monograph is complemented with standard proprieties such as a list of resources, an enclosure with selected statistic data analysis outcomes, subject and name indexes and summaries in Czech and English.

The field of psychological investigation of volunteering in Czech Republic seems to be quite insufficient in both information and research. Therefore, this monograph stands for the first Czech psychologically-oriented publication to attempt to systematically address some of the principal aspects of this highly noble and socially significant issue.