

Migration and its Social Implications

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Abstract:

The article underlines the phenomenon of migration trying to explain the causes and effects that are generated by it. Migration is present even from the beginnings of humanity and it is also mentioned in the Bible sometimes influencing the demography of the countries in which it is produced. The causes differ from one people to the other or from one historical period to the other. Today migration affects the population of our country both from an economic and social point of view. The most powerful effects have repercussions on the families with children who frequently remain without any adult supervision while the parents are away to work abroad. The statistics from various organizations recorded alarming numbers determining the intervention of the decision factors in order to ameliorate and prevent this phenomenon.

Keywords: *migration, home alone children, legal guardian, emigrant, immigrant*

Migration is a phenomenon intensely-publicized because of its frequency within the Romanian society, affecting directly or indirectly the lives of the individuals. Since it is a complex phenomenon, which concentrates around it many of the social problems, migration drew the attention of several researchers from various fields who formulated definitions, typologies, theories and explicit schemes of the phenomenon. Being a result of the mobility of the population from a certain territory, migration represents “a socio-demographical event which refers to the transfer of a person – individually or as part of a group of persons – outside the community of residence, during a given reference period, in order to change the residence or the usual job” (Sandu 1984) thus resulting “the change of the social status of a migrating person” (Vlăsceanu, Zamfir 1998). The phenomenon generated both negative and positive effects involving all the domains of the Romanian life or of the

countries where it took place. Migrants may be classified according to a study of the Romanian Caritas Confederation from 2003 in:

- Economics – those persons who are involved in a payed activity in the case where it is not a citizen of that particular country;
- Irregulars – persons without documents who move from one state to another.

The phenomenon of migration is as old as human kind. Migration is also mentioned in the Bible as the exodus of the Jews from the time of Moses, and then in the 1st century AD when they left in all the four winds. Another migration is that of the Polish, after their state was conquered by the neighboring empires, the first took place in the 18th century and the second during World War II, when 12 million Polish people from the annexed territories were banished by the Soviets. We may also speak of migration in the case of the Czechoslovaks from Sudentenland, who were forced to evacuate the territories occupied by Hitler, in 1938, after the Munich Agreement. In the post-war period in Western Europe, after World War II, there were many states that developed programs in favor of the immigrant workers (those who entered the country). In 1973 these programs were interrupted as a consequence of the economic crisis caused by the rise of the price of petrol (www.creează.comlegislație/demografie/Migrația-si-consecintele-sale257.phfs).

In France, the General Society of Immigration was founded even from the inter-war period, and in 1945-1974 the French state developed a politics to support the immigrants. In 1974 the French state changed its politics and proposed a remigration bonus to those who would like to return to their countries, and in the 80s, France banishes clandestine immigrants.

England is a country that led a politics close to its former colonies, especially India, and London became as we have mentioned, one of the most cosmopolite capitals of Europe. Germany established a special relationship with its Turkish workers, and other countries such as Italy, Spain or Portugal presented massive emigrations (emigrations representing as we have mentioned the total number of people exiting from a country) during the inter-war period because of their dictatorial politics (www.creează.comlegislație/demografie/Migrația-si-consecintele-sale257.phfs).

The Communist regime in Central and Eastern Europe determined massive migrations of persons who initially had a very good financial situation (industrialists, noblemen, bourgeois, politicians) or of intellectuals who did not agree with the regime, who were “hunted”, imprisoned by the communists and considered to be enemies of the nation. Migration was stopped by closing the borders, and in this case, crossing the frontier meant very high risks. There was also the possibility to go to German Democratic Republic and then through Berlin to cross into Federal Republic of Germany which was the final destination (www.creează.com/legislație/demografie/Migrația-si-consecintele-sale257.phfs).

In the period between 1949 and 1962 a number of 2.5 million persons are mentioned and in 1962 the Berlin Wall is built by the Russians with the purpose to block these departures, and after that, until 1989, only 5000 persons were able to cross into the Federal Republic of Germany thus receiving political asylum into the western countries. Romania had some peculiarities in the case of this migration in 1945 most of the Transylvanian Saxons were deported to Siberia accused by the communists of collaboration with the German domination. In this context, there was an agreement that these ethnics should be remised to the German state, in 1970-1980, for a certain irredeemable amount of money, paid by the German state. After 1989 this exodus of the Saxons continued so their number decreased significantly from 4% of the population of Romania in the period between wars to only a few thousands (0.3%) today.

In the past decades we confronted with both legal and illegal migrations due to the difficult conditions that exist in some countries. Since it is the closest country to Africa, Italy confronted, starting from the 80s, with successive outpourings of illegal population formed of: Albanians, Moroccans, Tunisians, Somalians, etc. But the largest ethnical group from Italy is represented by Romanians, with a percent of 1.5 of the population. Migrations from Eastern to Western Europe extended significantly after 1989 with the fall of Communism, to which the war from Jugoslavia added which determined thousands of Albanian refugees from Kosovo and Muslims from Bosnia and Herzegovina to leave.

The diaspora is formed of the total number of communities of the same ethnical origin that lives abroad and is represented by those who were forced to emigrate, exiled, or persons who migrated into those countries to have a better paid job. In the Romanian diaspora today there are about 10-12 million persons, some of them exiled during the Communist regime because of the persecutions and other in various condition. The diaspora had important representatives who fought and represented their country proudly in the communities where they lived.

Migration after 1989 represented a number of 5 million Romanians (the exodus was 19.7% of the population of the country), it is called modern migration and it has various causes:

- The search of a job or of a better paid job;
- Political, ethnical or religious persecutions;
- Poverty, hunger;
- Inimical climate (desertification, lack of potable water etc.);
- Natural disasters (floods, fires, earthquakes, eruption);
- Atomic calamities (wars, radiations, atomic, nuclear explosions).

We may say that migration is caused by inimical factors which push the population from one place to another, or factors which attract to another territory (wealth, developed industry, better life conditions, better social protection (through assistance and services offered to the vulnerable population), personal security. Medical care, optimum conditions for education, politics of certain countries regarding immigrants etc. (there are countries such as Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand who encourage immigrants offering them facilities).

We must mention as a feature of migrations and migrants that in general:

- migrations presume short distances;
- big cities;
- migrants are mostly young;
- men migrate more than women (statistics show that 52.5% are men while 47.5% are women);
- traditional countries for immigration are USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Great Britain, France, Saudi Arabia;
- some of the emigration countries such as Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece have lately immigration countries.

The effects of migration may be positive and negative both for the receiving countries and for those from which the immigrants come.

In the countries of destination the following changes are recorded:

- economic effects. One may say that immigrants are a manpower that covers the lacks in some departments in the countries where they relocate, thus becoming a competition for the resident population when they have the same level of education from a professional point of view. In these circumstances social tensions may occur between the majority and the minority groups which is why some of the immigrants take jobs that are below their education level. There are also case when immigrants present superior education, occupying privileged positions such as the situation in the Persian Gulf where highly qualified engineers and technicians come from abroad;

- The demographic effects represent the fact that immigrants contribute to increasing the population since they are mostly young, thus contributing to the change of distribution on age segments and to the change in racial, ethnical and religious composition of the population;

- Social effects can be of a cultural nature offering various forms of manifestation: culinary, artistic, sportive, religious etc. Their representation in the majority of the population is segregational, occupying special neighborhoods in the suburbs where specificity consists of speaking the mother tongue and manifestations of crimes. Encouraging integration is the responsibility of the country that receives immigrants by organizing courses to learn the language;

- Sanitary effects consist of the appearance of diseases for which the autochthonous population did not develop immunity which is why several measures of prevention were taken such as medical controls of the immigrants from the moment they require a visa to enter the country.

Positive and negative effects in the originating countries may be:

- Economic. Sending money home amounted to the collections for export trade which was a positive thing on the economic level. The education of some of the persons who work abroad improved so when they returned into their country there were persons who improved their qualifications. This was encouraged in some countries through the programs for immigrants such as: Turkey, Pakistan, Cuba, Mexico, etc.

The effect of those who work in Europe meant for Romania a vacation of the jobs, which reduced the unemployment rate in comparison with the economic level of the country. Each year around 4-5 billion euros came into the country sent by those who work abroad, constituting a financial source (sometimes the only one) for a few millions Romanians who improved their life standard. This determined the development of the area of home constructions, an increase of the marketing of electronic devices, cars, and in the same time it created jobs and encouraged consumerism.

Another side of migration is constituted by the integration of the Romanians in advanced civilizations which means a change in the civic spirit regarding the observation of the law, order, cleanliness, attitude towards work, representing a positive factor for Romania (www.creează.com/legislație/demografie/Migrația-si-consecintele-sale257.phfs).

The negative effect consists of the loss of human resources which can cause economic and social imbalance:

- Social. Sometimes these can be dramatic through the change of the relationships between husband and wife, parents and children. The change of the status of the spouse that remains at home may influence the relationship in a negative manner when the other spouse comes back into the family with habits that may perturb the dynamic of the home.

The effect on the demographic perspective of the phenomenon is negative such as the increase of the age limit of marriage (nuptiality rate) and implicitly of the birth rate, since the Euro-commuters are mostly young with the ages between 18 and 40 (www.creează.com/legislație/demografie/Migrația-si-consecintele-sale257.phfs).

Effects of the migration on children

Starting from the effects of migration on a social level, we will mention the manner in which this phenomenon affects the relation between parent and child. To this respect, the National Authority for the Protection of the Children's Rights and Adoption mentioned official statistics regarding children with one or both parents working abroad, with an alarming increase in the past years, from 85.00 children in December 2015 to over 97.500 in March 2017. It is underlined that of the

total number, over 12.700 are children from the South developing Region Muntenia. Thus, 4.724 children are from Prahova county, 2.642 children are from Dâmbovița county, 2.604 children from Argeș county, 1.122 from Teleorman county, 740 children from Ialomița county, 631 children from Giurgiu county and 238 children from Călărași county. However, the General School Board, the organization Save the Children and the Ministry of Education reported a larger number of children with their parents working abroad, over 200.000, of which over 22.000 from the South developing Region Muntenia. But this data does not reflect the complete amplexness of the phenomenon, and the statistics do not comprise the pre-school, those who are not enrolled in school or who abandoned school.

The affective states of the children who are left home alone because their parents are forced to work in another country, are powerful but silent, because they have no place where they can express themselves, they either don't have anyone to talk to, or they don't ask for help, because they feel responsible to behave more mature than their actual age. This can be considered one of the social phenomena in Romania post-revolution, which is very ample, which affects children in the first place and on which we need to focus with concernment

says Gabriela Alexandrescu, Executive President of the organization Save the Children Romania. The amplexness of the phenomenon of the children whose parents are working abroad determines the necessity to develop a network of specialized services dedicated to these children. Starting with 2010, with the help of 17 local programs over 6.000 children and their legal representatives, persons who took taker of them or even their parents, benefited from services of direct intervention (<https://copiisinguriacasa.ro/parintiinformati-copii-protejati-salvati-copiii-vine-in-sprijinul-parintilor-plecati/>).

Because there are no exact data regarding the actual number of children who have parents working abroad, since August 2015 the manner of collecting the data is regularized in Appendix 1 of the Government Decision 691. It says that each year, in the last trimester, the public Service of social assistance must require from schools that function within its jurisdiction, data and information regarding the children who have parents working abroad and children who returned into the country after having lived abroad with their parents for more than a year. Each school must present a list of children who belong to the categories mentioned

above (with a series of details on each one of them) within 15 days from the time of the solicitation (<https://copiisinguriacasa.ro/parintiinformati-copii-protejati-salvati-copiii-vine-in-sprijinul-parintilor-plecati/>).

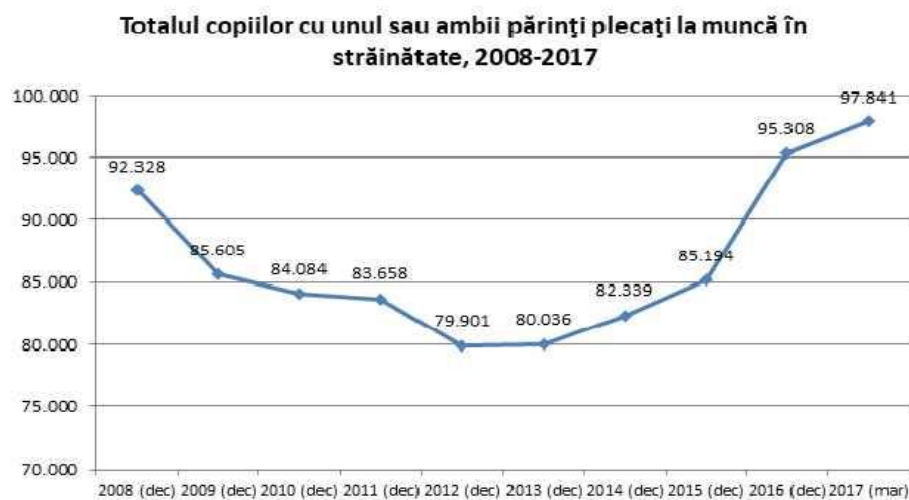
Each trimester, on a general level, the National Authority for the Protection of the Children's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA) presents a statistic based on the data reported by the public services of social assistance (SPAS). The data have been collected from each administrative-territorial unity by the general directions of social assistance and child protection from each county (DGASPC). According to these statistics in March 2017, there were in the files of the authorities in charge of the social assistance a total number of 97.841 children with parents working abroad, increasing in comparison with December 2015, when there were 85.194 children recorded.

The distribution on counties with the data from March 2017 indicates us the region with the largest number of children having parents working abroad, who are in the care of the authorities, which is the North-East region, with a total number of 31.785 children (especially Suceava county – 9.031 children, Neamț – 5.616 children, Bacău – 5.593 children and Iași – 5.945), followed by the South-East region with 16.714 children (especially from Galați county – 6.218 children, Constanța / 3.708 children and Vrancea – 3.238 children) and South-Muntenia region, with a total number of 12.701 children whose parents are abroad included in the official data (the majority of them from the counties Prahova – 4.724 children, Dâmbovița – 2.642 children and Argeș – 2.604).

On the counter pole there is the region București-Ilfov, with 1.059 children. In Bucharest, in the 3rd district has the largest number of children with parents working abroad, 415, followed by the 1st district with 260 children, 4th district with 101 children, 5th district with 77 children, 2nd district with 52 children and 6th district with 50 children (<https://copiisinguriacasa.ro/parintiinformati-copii-protejati-salvati-copiii-vine-in-sprijinul-parintilor-plecati/>).

Table 1. Evolution in time of the data gathered by ANPDCA:

Anul	Total	Cu un singur părinte plecat	Cu ambii părinți plecați	Cu părinte unic susținător plecat	Lipsiți complet de grija părintească	Intrați în sistemul de protecție specială
2017 (mar)	97.841	66.054	18.846	12.941	31.787	4.117
2016 (dec)	95.308	62.978	18.646	13.684	32.330	3.870
2015 (dec)	85.194	53.507	21.610	10.077	31.687	4.227
2014 (dec)	82.339	49.855	22.050	10.434	32.484	3.753
2013 (dec)	80.036	47.394	22.329	10.313	32.642	3.674
2012 (dec)	79.901	46.917	22.993	9.991	32.984	3.346
2011 (dec)	83.658	49.470	23.924	10.264	34.188	3.654
2010 (dec)	84.084	48.037	25.567	10.480	36.047	3.544
2009 (dec)	85.605	48.665	26.472	10.468	36.940	3.623
2008 (dec)	92.328	53.125	28.795	10.408	39.203	3.684

**Fig. 1.** Total number of children with one or both parents working abroad 2008-2017

(According to: <https://copiisinguriacasa.ro/parintiinformati-copii-protejati-salvati-copiii-vine-in-sprizijul-parintilor-plecati/>)

The change produced by the departure of the parents abroad has a negative impact over the mental of the child which occurs abruptly and on undetermined periods of time. The mechanisms for adaption to such a change in the situation of the child/adolescent are not developed and they cannot find the necessary psychological resources to solve the problems that occur. In order to attenuate the negative impact felt by the child on the emotional level, it would be indicated that this process of departure of the parent is prepared according to several stages which require: information, stabilization, adaption and transition. The first three stages are covered before the parent(s) leave to work abroad.

Information of the child regarding the departure of the parent abroad has the biggest emotional load, for actually there is no special moment in which the parent may speak with the child about this event. It has been observed that the sooner this action is fulfilled the better, because the child has the necessary time to reflect and get used to the thought regarding his parent's departure. In this case, it is necessary that he is presented with the real reasons that motivate the parent to leave and he must be convinced that he is not the cause for his parent's departure. These specifications and clarifications are necessary so that the child doesn't feel guilty. It is also necessary to mention the person that will care for the child in the absence of the parent that is to prepare this relationship. To this respect it would be good that the parent consults the child regarding that person, making sure that this particular person has the psychological abilities and moral qualities that are necessary for this responsibility. The child should be informed regarding the practical aspects (his home, the clear role of the person that will care for him, the routines that will change in his life, the responsibilities that he will have while his parents are abroad, who will take him to school, the rules and habits of the home, the occupation of the guardian passions/hobbies, if there are any other children or how many there are etc.) in the new context (<http://www.avocatul.ro/articol-copiii-ai-caror-parinti-sunt-plecati-lamunca-in-strainatate-sunt-verificati-periodic-de-autoritati/>).

One must also take into account the fact that the persons who will become guardians need to know as much as possible on the child (what he likes to eat, who are his best friends, what makes him proud, how he uses to help around the house, what are his favorite subjects at school etc.) and

to involve him is making decisions that regard him directly. Information shared by both sides manage to reduce the level of uncertainty, thus facilitating the consolidation of a positive relationship between the child and the person that will become his guardian, diminishing the possibility of negative decisions (Cairns, 2002).

The stabilization stage necessitates the reducing of the emotional hyperexcitability of the child by the persons who will care for him after the parents' departure. It is considered that the gradual exposure to the new environment and the adults' consistency may constitute positive steps in consolidating the relationship. Gradual exposure requires accomplishing several periods of trial during which the child is to adapt to the new situation. It would be preferable that the parents of the child participate at the beginning of the trial period. The adults who form the new context of the child must prove consistency in relating with respecting the promises and commitments assumed before him, in order to gain his trust (<http://www.avocatul.ro/articol-copiii-ai-caror-parinti-sunt-plecati-lamunca-in-strainatate-sunt-verificati-periodic-de-autoritati/>).

Presenting the truth in each situation may be considered a way that reduces the child's fear and anxiety through the fact that it suggests he can trust the responsible adult with his care. Establishing clear/specific rules and the daily routine/program help the emotional balance of the child offering predictability for the future actions. The child knows his limits and consequences in the case of disrespecting the rules thus having predictability on what is about to happen in the following stage.

This stage was fulfilled when the child starts to issue signals in the following form: he communicates easily (with the persons that will care for him after his parents' departure) on the difficulties he encounters, he manages to manifest pro-social behaviors in the new context, considering the new "home" a secure environment in which it is possible to feel uncomfortable, scared, frustrated, but with the possibility to overcome the negative states of mind (Bradley 2001).

In the first two stages (information and stabilization) the child may experiment varied emotions of anger, anxiety, sadness, shame, guilt etc. In these moments the child needs his parent to prove that he understands what he is going through and that he is aware of the gravity of the situation. The parent must identify the feelings of the child, he must name

then and discuss them with the child, without him feeling judged, criticized or minimized.

The stage of adaption implies the stabilization of the feeling of security within the new relationships, the child being able to acknowledge their different role and nature and to move from the position of a dependent person to that of an autonomous one. The support that the adults offer the children is to develop his social skills, his positive concept of self, to form new relations with the persons around him and to experiment his own power of control and trust in himself. The development of the habits of independent life is important in this stage: the ability to manage a budget, the ability to action in various situations so that he feels safe, the ability to identify and use communitarian resources, to plan his time etc. (Cairns 2002).

The stage of transition may be a positive experience when the feelings of loss and abandonment caused by these departures are fading, and the feelings of security and the autonomous spirit in the new context are solid. To this respect, transition must be predictable (the child knows exactly the day, the time when he will be taken to the adult that will care for him), previously planned together with the child and it must generate a mental set of positive expectations.

The role to monitor the growth and care of the children whose parents are working abroad, according to the new regulatory document belongs to the Public Service of Social Assistance (SPAS). The representatives of SPAS are obliged to visit the homes of the children who have both parents working abroad or in the case where the parent that is the single financial supporter, the single-parent household. Through these check it is observed if the parents working abroad have assigned somebody, maybe a relative to be the legal guardian of the child and if the law is respected. This is also the case for the children who have a single parent working abroad and the case of the children who have returned into the country after having spent at least one year abroad with their parents. In the case where there is no relative or other person as signed by the court to take care of the child, the person that will care for the child is informed that it is her obligation to care for him, and in 48 hours, to announce the local public administration to which he/she

belongs, according to the Law 272/2004 regarding the protection and promotion of the child's rights.

The person who cares for a child whose parents are working abroad must offer all the information regarding the address of the parents and to prove that she maintains contact with them. The regulatory document mentions that, in the first six months since receiving a copy of the decision of delegation of the parental authority, the representatives of SPAS visit every two months the home of the relative assigned to care for the child. To this respect, information and guidance is offered regarding the responsibility for the care of the child and, subsequently, the visits are semestrial (<http://www.avocatul.ro/articol-copiii-ai-caror-parinti-sunt-plecati-la-munca-in-strainatate-sunt-verificati-periodic-de-autoritati/>).

The SPAS representatives file a report regarding the evolution of the child and the manner in which he is cared for, as it is mentioned in the HG no. 691/2015 after a visit at home. The document must include information on the school performance, the physical state of the child and his friends. Depending on the results of the report, authorities may take different measures as follows. If there are any suspicions regarding the damage of the emotional state, of the state of health, the child is placed in a program of psychological counseling and a medical check is required by the family doctor. In the case where the child belongs to a group of friends with a criminal behavior, the SPAS representative asks for the support of the General Direction of social assistance and the child protection informs the police and the school to which the child is enrolled. In the case where there are suspicions that the child suffers from an abuse, neglect or bad treatment, the SPAS representative must announce the General Direction of social assistance and child protection. If the school performance of the child whose parents are working abroad is decreasing, the elementary teacher/form master is obliged to ask for the help of the school counselor. If there is no improvement in three months' time since the school situation was announced and the child was integrated in the school environment, the SPAS representative must ask for the help of the school counselors of the county centre/Bucharest city for educational resources and assistance (<http://www.avocatul.ro/articol-copiii-ai-caror-parinti-sunt-plecati-la-munca-in-strainatate-sunt-verificati-periodic-de-autoritati/>).

From a legal perspective, the parents that work abroad and leave their children at home must “notify the authorities, the public service of social assistance at home, at least 40 days before leaving the country”, according to the regulations of the Law no. 272/2004. The rule also applies in the case where both parents decide to leave. Through the notification it is compulsory to assign a person that will care for the child while the parents are away, and this person must be a part of the extended family, she must be at least 18 years old and she must provide the necessary conditions for the care of a child.

Those who do not notify the authorities and do not assign a person to care for the child while they are away, risk being fined (<https://copiisinguriacasa.ro/parintiinformati-copii-protejati-salvati-copiii-vine-in-sprijinul-parintilor-plecati/>).

Confessions of children whose parents are working abroad

Investigations in this field, presentations of some articles that appeared in newspapers, mass-media and interviews on the field emphasized the feelings and problems which these children have to face.

Thus, Realitatea TV, in October 2007 presented the drama of a child of 12 years old from Argeş:

This child hung himself when he found out that his mother will leave to work in Italy. The relatives mention that the boy was very sensitive and he could not get used to the thought that he will have to live without his mom. It is mentioned that the boy's parents have been divorced for ten years. The child lived with his mother and his stepfather. The woman had been working in Italy for several months. She wanted to return to work soon. The boy left a note in which he takes his farewell from his mother and his sister:

I'm sorry that we have to part upset with each other. You don't have to worry about my funeral because there is that man that has to bring money for the wood. Sister, do not give up school. Mom, you take care because people are mean.

The boy's form master thinks that he did such a thing because he just couldn't bear the thought of living without his mother. In the past years, the number of children left to the care of other persons from outside the family increased dramatically (http://www.realitatea.net/un-copil-de-12-ani-s-a-sinucis-pentru-ca-mama-sa-urma-sa-plece-in-italia_95297.html).

The case of another child of 10 years old who committed suicide because he missed his mother who was working in Italy was presented by Ziarul de Iași in 2006:

The fact that Răzvan pined for his mother was told to us by his elementary teacher. "He was a playful child with a brilliant mind. Yesterday (two days ago – n.r.) in geography he kept his finger on the book of maps, following the road to Italy. After all this, I realize he was thinking of his mother. Now there are candles on his place in the classroom", said Elena Stamate. The boy who was 10 was last seen alive while he inflated his ball on the doorsteps, half an hour before he committed suicide. Moreover, ten minutes before his tragic act, his neighbor of 12 years called to invite him to a computer game, but he didn't answer. Around 4 pm. The little one was found by his dad. Yesterday, everybody cried for the little "angel". As a coincidence, Răzvan played at school the role of a butterfly in a school play about spring. The "angel" wings had been made by his father.

Other confessions of children whose parents are working abroad:

My life is sad because I miss my mother, but I have my grandparents' love and they are like parents to me.

It is hard for a child to make it on his own, but it is also good, because nobody bothers you and you learn how to be independent.

It is good in the case where you grew up with a sense of responsibility and you have a good head on your shoulders and your parents can trust you.

It's very hard for me to be responsible at this age.

It is a great responsibility, especially when you are the eldest and you are still underage.

I think this is the carefree situation that a parent has in relation to his child. When you are alone you do whatever you want while the parents are away. You can give up school and get into all sorts of dangerous groups.

You are on your own, without mother and you have to care for yourself. A little mistake can turn into a big one.

I was aware of the fact that right after my parents' departure nothing will be the same, but I know that they do all these for me. We keep in touch. We speak daily on the phone and the relationship is just as strong as it used to be.

For me this represents a sad moment, I have no pleasure in returning home, because I know no one to talk to, there is nobody waiting for me with food, it is more like a state of depression which sometimes is combined with fear (Ziarul de Iași in 2006).

According to article 18 of the Convention regarding the Child's Rights, it is mentioned that each child has the right to know and to be raised by his parents, and the parents have common responsibilities for the growth and development of the child. In other words, children must

grow up with their parents and they must preserve the relationships with them – a right that is neglected in the case of the migration of the parents when children are left home alone. This generates the dilemma that we face today: a mother and a father often migrate with the best intention – to offer their children a chance to a better life from a financial point of view. But this choice, most often neglects the unwanted secondary effects that occur when a child grows up without his parents.

The responsibility of a parent is indeed great if he does not see his children as a gift and responsibility given by God, with Whom he collaborated directly in order to bring them into this world. Saint John Chrysostom, speaking about bringing up the children, referred to the work of a sculptor or of a fisherman:

If good precepts are impressed on the soul while it is yet tender, no man will be able to destroy them when they have set firm, even as does a waxen seal. The child is still trembling and fearful and afraid in look and speech and in all else. Make use of the beginning of his life as thou shouldst. Thou wilt be the first to benefit, if thou hast a good son, and then God. Thou dost labor for thyself.

They say that pearls when first they are collected are but water. But if he that receives them is skilled in his craft, he places the drop on his hand; and, moving it with a gentle rotating movement as it lies on the palm of his upturned hand, he shapes it skillfully and renders it perfectly round. Then, when it has received its form, he can no longer mold it; for that which is soft and with its proper shape not yet set firm is in every way adaptable and therefore is easily suited to every purpose. But that which is hard, having acquired a certain material outline, can be deprived of its hardness only with difficulty and is not changed into another shape. (Saint John Chrysostom, 2006)

In the same time, Saint John Chrysostom, one of the great teachers of the Church, accuses the lack of a proper education given to children and compares it with a crime.

The children's unruliness comes from nothing other than the insane attachment of the fathers to earthly cares. Paying attention only to earthly cares, and counting nothing to be more important, they involuntarily begin to neglect the souls of their children. I will say of these fathers (and let no one consider these words to be born of anger), that they are even worse than child-killers. The one only sunder the body from the soul, but the other casts them both into the fires of gehenna.

Death is inevitable according to the natural order, but the second fate could have been avoided if the fathers neglect had not led up to it. Physical death can be

ended instantly by the resurrection when it comes, but no reward awaits the lost soul; it will receive not resurrection, but will have to suffer eternally. This means that we not unjustly call those fathers worse than child-killers. It is not so cruel to sharpen the sword, take it in the right hand and plunge it into the little child heart, as it is to destroy and degrade the soul, for there is nothing equal to the soul. (Saint John Chrysostom, 2006)

Among the confessions of the children on the experience of being left in the care of their relatives we observe frequently the use of terms which characterize the manner in which they perceive the departure of the parent(s) to work abroad: **loneliness, lingering, liberty, care, fun, problems, responsibilities, nothing.**

Of the declarations of responsible factors that interacted with the children who are in the situation of growing without parents during various periods of time there are underlined the feelings which they experience and the situations that are assimilated sometimes with abandonment:

The child has identity, he knows who he is, he is only deprived affectively for a longer or shorter period of time, but he is not abandoned (social assistant).

From a legal point of view, the term abandonment no longer exists (...) we do not speak of abandoned children (social assistant).

Another positive aspect is the children's responsabilization with household duties (...) through the departure of a member of the family, the duties remain the same, only they have to be divided between fewer members (...) (sociologist)
<https://copiiisinguriacasa.ro/pentru-specialisti/>.

The reactions of the children are described by professionals as following a well-defined trajectory. They remark initially changes in the physical aspect, followed by school abandonment and absenteeism, by the change of the group of friends, of the entourage and sometimes by committing some crimes, all generated by an affective deprivation.

right after the departure of the parent abroad, the child suffers of an economic deprivation, until the parent manages to work and to send a certain amount of money at home, then the child suffers from an affective deprivation, and this is what matters the most for the child (...) then his supervision is diminished, and for the period of age from 10 to 17 years old of preadolescence and adolescence, when there is this period of revolt and the child has the natural tendency to grow apart from the adult it is clear that he will join an entourage and this is what generates the problems that lead the cases to us, to justice (jurist)
<https://copiiisinguriacasa.ro/pentru-specialisti/>.

The effects on the child are obvious: on a physical level, the children do not care for themselves anymore, they don't pay attention to the way they dress; on a behavioral level they become slack, they are not interested in the opinion of the others, they quit socializing with their fellows; on an educational level there is a constant decrease of the results; on an emotional-affective level the child creates his own world, he isolates himself (...) the children's reactions have a repetitive character (...) initially these changes may be observed in the children and then you find out that one of his parents is away, and if it is the mother, the changes are more obvious (school counselor).

The children's reaction of protest is (...) you are free, be happy with this (...) but the children miss their mothers and they consider that they no longer have a family (...) (school counselor) <https://copiisinguriacasa.ro/pentru-specialisti/>.

The job of being a parent may become not only difficult but sometimes even burdensome, when the parent does not understand that the children's priorities are affective, and then come the material necessities. The situation of the children left "home alone", whose parents left to search for a job abroad is a very delicate and actual problem. These children, although they are not officially "abandoned", because they are left to the care of their relatives, they encounter severe emotional and motivational problems, which affect the development of their personality.

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