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## Some characteristics of leisure time of young people in the Republic of Srpska

### Abstract

*This paper analyzes several aspects of the leisure time of young people in the Republic of Srpska on the basis of the data obtained from the sample, which served as the basis of the study with which we have examined the attitudes and perceptions of young people about their free time at the age from 15 to 25 years. The aim of this study is to determine how young people in the Republic of Srpska spend their free time and how it affects other segments of their personal and social life, as well as the overall image of young people. The paper pays special attention to the impact of economic and social factors on the quality of leisure time, as well as monitoring the level of interest of young people in the RS for cultural, educational and sports facilities in their free time.*

**Keywords:** *Leisure time, the youth, young people in the Republic of Srpska, content and quality of the leisure time*

### Introduction

Throughout the history, leisure time had a different role and meaning. Once there was no division and differentiation of work and leisure time, then the free time belonged only to the privileged social classes and in the industri-

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al age began a struggle for the shortening of working hours and increasing the leisure time. Today again there is a predominance of the working time over leisure time and thus leisure time occupies the particularly important place in the life of every man and especially in the area of social research.

Leisure time of the youth is important and deserves special attention of the researchers, scientists and social institutions. It is important to find out how young people use their free time, that is, whether they use it in the high-quality, creativity and diversity?

Martin Holt<sup>4</sup> mentions the leisure time as a space for expression of the authentic I in every man. In his research, he stated that young people have argued that the free time, especially the time spent with friends in places such as cafes or home space is where they can be who they really are. Leisure time is one area where there are no barriers as there are in working, educational, social or family milieu. It is a space where young people can relax and express their true identity.

By observing the everyday conditions and on the basis of some preliminary research in the Republic of Srpska, we can see that young people most of their free time spend on social networks, surfing the Internet and in the cafes.

Before the evaluation of empirical data collected, it is necessary, in an abbreviated form, to mention the several general attitudes about who are the young people, what is the notion of free time, including to what is related to the population of young people in our society.

The concept of young people in different countries has a different definition and meaning depending on the factors such as: value-cultural orientation, the socio-economic living conditions, educational features, political orientation and the like. What is universally true for young people is that they are the transitional category (social group) at the transition between childhood and full adulthood, "when they have to overcome the complexity of mutual relations of personal and socio-economic changes in order to overcome the transition from the dependence to independence, the taking of the effective control over their life and the acceptance of social roles and the specific social engagement."<sup>5</sup>

Leisure time is the subject of interest of most scientific disciplines which are centered around the man. While in the past it was the subject of the struggle between social classes as a human right, in the present, and especially in the future, the free time becomes a segment of time that is expanding every

<sup>4</sup> Martin Holt, *Young People, Leisure and the Construction of Sexual Identities: A report on work in progress*, UK: University of Birmingham, 1998.

<sup>5</sup> Enes Pašalić, *The youth of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (research)*, Brčko, 2006.

day. As such, at the same time it brings advantages but also the threats to the individual and to society as a whole. The free time is important for the socialization of children and young people and provides them the opportunities to meet the different needs and interests. It also helps them in activating the creative abilities for which satisfaction and expression they did not have the opportunity in other segments of life.

In this study, we put in the spotlight the current state of the free time of young people in the Republic of Srpska, specifically looking at the two aspects: a) the impact of socio-economic factors on the quality of free time and b) the interest of young people for educational, cultural and sporting activities that can potentially improve the quality of their free time.

## **1. Review of the literature**

The famous researcher of the leisure time, Joffre Dumazedier, gave the following definition of the free time, "Leisure time is the collection of occupations where an individual can deliver his heart, be at rest, whether for entertainment, whether for voluntarily develop of their social participation, their information or their subsequent education, since is freed from all the professional, family or social obligations. " He shared the daily life into 3 parts: work, commitment out of work and leisure time and showed that casual leisure time has three important functions: the relaxation that occurs in the reproduction of energy (recuperation) for the work again; entertainment, (a function that frees us from boredom) and the third function is related to personality development (it releases from the stereotypes of everyday life, clichés and uniformity and predictability). This function of the free time allows more free social participation and selfless care of the body and spirit. It provides new possibilities for voluntary integration into the life of recreational, cultural, social groups. It provides a free complement of the affective or intellectual knowledge, the fostering of competencies acquired in the young age, but which are always outbalanced with the constant and complex evolution of society. "<sup>6</sup>

Free time is usually defined as the time outside the work commitments, family responsibilities and the additional work in preparation for a job or performing the tasks from the previous jobs. With the free time individual disposes at its discretion and preferences. It is not caused by any external

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<sup>6</sup> Cited from: Aleksandar Todorović, *Sociology of the free time*. Belgrade: Interpregled. 1984. p 76.

requirements that are beyond the wishes and the will of the individual. Free time is the time of the active rest, leisure, personal development, spontaneous socialization, creative personality confirmation independent from the compulsory labor. "An important characteristic of thus conceived leisure time is therefore not the formal waste of time, but the creative design of the time which to individual remains available after meeting the given obligations."<sup>7</sup>

The famous theorist in the field of industrial sociology, Georges Friedmann, distinguishes the free and the liberated time. In his opinion, liberated time is the entire time outside the compulsory labor. However, this is not the time in which he can come to the fore with his free choice. Free time means the time interval that is exempt from any obligation, in which one person is trying to express himself by choice and, if he has the ability and resources to develop.<sup>8</sup> So if we think along the lines of Friedman, a total budget of time outside of work can be divided into liberated and free time. Here is the word about the time exempt from the compulsory labor, which is important for obtaining the man's existential funds or exempt from work that is used for a man to be institutionally educated and to create opportunities for career advancement and to acquire skills to perform certain tasks important for raising the living standards. The liberated time can be devoted to family obligations, professional obligations or doing some traveling for the following obligations. Only when that time is excluded from the total out of work and out of mandatory budget time, what remains is the free time that individuals can devote to their wishes, personal satisfaction, creation and enjoyment. Free time in which man feels no obligation and pressure of any external factors and for which he can decide how to use it, is also called the leisure time.

Leisure time can be seen as the part of an overall "time budget" to which man rejoices because it is a haven and refuge (escape) from coercion, duties, supervision, frustration and stress. Symbols of such free time are mostly fun, entertainment, recreation, relaxation, peace of mind, dedication to yourself or hanging out with friends. Freedom, creativity and imagination are the elements which are used to build and fill the free time that can qualify as the leisure. The way the free time will be filled, implemented or used depends on the social situation, standard of living and professional status, age, gender and education, but also of the overall situation in the society and the immediate living and working environment. Members of different social groups differently understand and experience their free time and we do not have the universal understanding of what is leisure or free time, in different cultures and

<sup>7</sup> Vlatko Previšić, *Free time between the pedagogical theory and the educational practice*. In the Magazine „Napredak“ no. 4. Zagreb: HPKZ. 2000.

<sup>8</sup> Cited from: Ratko Božović, *The temptation of free time*. Belgrade: Mladost. 1979.

social groups. There is a significant difference in the way of spending leisure time between the poor and the richer societies. As absurd, the poorer, have more free time, but it is burdened by poverty and is not perceived as happiness and satisfaction, it is not creative, fulfilled, meaningful and liberating, while the richer societies and the environments have less free time, but it can be used in a meaningful and quality manner.

There are different social phenomena, circumstances, aspirations and motives of different groups and organizations and institutions to “occupy” the man’s leisure time. Such tendencies are characteristic of various sports, cultural, political spectacles and mass gatherings in the squares and streets that are distracting people from their desired ways of spending the free time. Even Henri Lefebvre warned that it is “increasingly difficult to distinguish the manipulative and false needs from the authentic, human needs,” which will bring people into a situation that their “human essence is realized through the trivial activities and facilities” that they will expensively pay their free time, “not only economically, but morally and mentally” and in that way the entertainment industry is beginning to “kill” the man’s leisure time.<sup>9</sup> The spectacle which the media promotes and exposes (mass entertainment, sporting events, betting, reality shows) becomes a separate marketing product that people (especially young people) are buying like buying any other goods in supermarkets.

Young people are less direct and immediate organizers of leisure and entertainment, and more and more consumers of what is offered by the highly professional machine designated as the entertainment industry. Consumers are becoming the passive audience, unprepared for the active spending of the leisure time. Instead of their creativity and active participation, consumer advertising industry competes in facilities where young people are the passive participants and often only the observers.

The notion of the free time today is different than in the past century, especially the middle of that century. The classic definition of the free time does not meet the current needs of the scientific research of the problem, because it relies on the distinction between the free time and the time spent on paid and unpaid work in addition to personal daily duties. As Roberts says, such a definition today can not include unemployed people, pensioners, housewives and some other social categories. Therefore Roberts talks about two kinds of definitions of free time<sup>10</sup>, one is “out of date”, inherited from the previous theoretical discourse and the other is a definition that includes contemporary experiences that are not related only to the classical form of labor spent on

<sup>9</sup> Henri Lefebvre, *The critique of everyday life*, Zagreb: Naprijed, 1988. p. 143.

<sup>10</sup> Roberts, Ken., *Leisure in Contemporary Society*. Wallingford, UK: CAB International, 1999.

a job that is separate from the house. This is the classic definition of the free time, which relies on the “normative dimension” of relations of work and leisure time. Roberts points out that the economic and technological changes in recent decades have influenced the change of the character of free time (as well as the character of work), and it is needed its conceptual redefinition. Haworth and Veal<sup>11</sup> underline that in the late twentieth and the early twenty-first century appears again the problem of theoretical and scientific understanding of free time, because there is the fewer classic work and increasingly the casual labor, as well as the time “without work”, with which are affected many social categories, especially young people. The key question is, underlined by Haworth and Veal is how to find a balance between the deficit of free time of the certain social categories and the “surplus” of the free time for other categories.

The modern concept of leisure time involves a completely new elements such as recreation, hobbies, volunteer activities, group and individual creative satisfaction and leisure activities, acquiring new skills, traveling and visiting of the interesting places, various other activities in the political and NGO organizations and movements. For the quality leisure time the most important is the “positive perception of the individual and the feeling of the satisfaction in the recreational and other activities” that individuals carry out individually or in groups.<sup>12</sup>

Different countries have different definitions and meaning of young people depending on factors such as: value-cultural orientation, socio-economic living conditions, educational characteristics, traditions, ideologies, political orientation and the like.

According to the United Nations a young person is any person between 10 and 24 years of age<sup>13</sup> and by the following categories: Teens 10-19 (10-14 early phase, late phase 15-19) Youth 15-24; Young people 10-24. It follows that one-sixth of the world's population are young people<sup>14</sup>.

The Council of Europe considers the young person until its 30th years of age, while in Indonesia this boundary moves to the age of 40, and young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina are persons between the ages of 14 and 29, though officially it is not yet adopted the policies for young people, and it

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<sup>11</sup> John T. Haworth, A. J. Veal, *Work and Leisure*, New York: Routledge, 2004.

<sup>12</sup> Liu, Huimei, “Personality, Leisure Satisfaction, and Subjective Well-Being of Serious Leisure Participants”, *Social Behavior and Personality: an international journal*. Volume: 42. Issue: 7, August 10, 2014.

<sup>13</sup> Retrieved from [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

<sup>14</sup> OIA. SIROP no. 5- Special report on the development of youth policy, the theme: “*Effective youth participation in the international conferences*”. 2003.

is not agreed the age limit that will be common for the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, according to the Youth Organization of the Republic of Srpska by youth are considered the faces between the ages of 16 and 30.<sup>15</sup> We will, in this study, be based on the notion of young people, which is defined by the Law on Youth Organization of the Republic of Srpska.

## **2. Youth and leisure time in BiH**

In this part of the paper we considered and we rely on those studies or parts of the studies containing data and indicating the problems, tendencies and aspirations among young people, and that correspond directly with our subject of research.

With the help of the Institution of Ombudsman for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2013 a survey was conducted, Ombudsman in your school "in six cities and twelve schools.<sup>16</sup> School visits are used to create a space for dialogue with children in order to obtain their opinion on the importance of the right to rest, play and recreation. Representatives of the Council of students of each school filled the questionnaire, which staffed exclusively created for the purpose of this report. With questionnaires we wanted to find out information about how children usually spend their free time, do they have it enough, and with which activities are they engaged in their leisure time. Respondents were of different ages, which ranged from ages 7 to 18. The question of whether, in addition to school and other commitments they have enough time to play and socialize, most children said they have enough free time, while only a handful of students pointed out that they do not have enough time to play and socialize. Slightly more than half of students have more than three hours of free time a day, 2/3 of respondents daily use about 1-2 hours of free time, and only 11 respondents said that daily they have about 30 minutes of free time. Their spare time, young people tend to organize with friends or alone, and in the lowest number of cases they organize their leisure time including parents.

The subjects of that research usually spend about two hours a day to socialize and play with friends. When it comes to the types of activities that

<sup>15</sup> The Government of the Republic of Srpska Banja Luka, the Law on Youth Organization, 2004: <http://www.mladi.gov.ba/ba/doc/ZAKON%20O%20OML.%20ORGANIZOVANJU.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> More about this look in a Special Report of the Ombudsman for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, „*Children and Leisure Time*“, Banja Luka, 2013. [http://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/documents/obmudsmen\\_doc2014051313564240bos.pdf](http://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/documents/obmudsmen_doc2014051313564240bos.pdf)

children are engaged with in leisure time, research has shown that it is usually hanging out with friends, then sports, the Internet, different courses, music, whereas in the smallest number of cases, young people spend their free time with TV, while some respondents did not respond to this question. A large number of young people surveyed said they play sports. Although the majority of young respondents did not answer the question what literature they like to read, still some respondents indicated that they like to read. Respondents who prefer to read pointed out that they prefer different types of literature, ie. to have a free choice of books to read, as well as a variety of magazines and comics.

The company "BH-GFK Market Research Centre Sarajevo" on a representative sample of 1,500 randomly selected respondents across the BiH investigated how young people spend their free time. According to the results of this study young BiH citizens spend their leisure time mostly with family and friends. At least once a week (49% of respondents) in their spare time goes to the tavern; 60% of respondents never visits the cinemas; 48% of them never goes to concerts and more than 70% of young people never went to the theater and exhibitions. This study has established that among young people are largely represented sports activities, then watching TV, listening to music, going out and excursions, and in the last place is travelling.<sup>17</sup> In particular, it seems paradoxical the fact that 63% of young people do not perceive the school as the one that can support them in the planning of leisure time.

Another study was conducted in Tomislavgrad in the period from January to April in the 2014 with a focus on young people and their leisure activities. The survey was conducted on 200 subjects, mostly high school population groups, the number of males and females is equal. Based on this survey, 34% of young people said they spend most of their free time on Facebook, while 23% spend their free time in cafes, and 15% of those polled said they are engaged in sports. Also, 49% of them are going out with friends every day, while 28% of the respondents said they only go out on weekends. Like the time of going out 69% of respondents said that they are not limited with time, but 40% said that the best time for going out is from 23h to 5h. Those outs are often in bars (80% of respondents).

There is also another survey conducted in October 2012. The survey method of young people residing in the municipality of Novi Grad.<sup>18</sup> Public

<sup>17</sup> More about that see in: Izet Pehlić, *A small number of young people spend their leisure time in a quality manner*, <http://novovrijeme.ba/izet-pehlic-mali-broj-mladih-kvalitetno-provodislobodno-vrijeme/>

<sup>18</sup> More about that see in: [http://www.novigradsarajevo.ba/public\\_html/obraci/Istrazivanje\\_Mladi\\_u\\_Novom\\_Gradu\\_Sarajevo\\_final.pdf](http://www.novigradsarajevo.ba/public_html/obraci/Istrazivanje_Mladi_u_Novom_Gradu_Sarajevo_final.pdf)

opinion research was done for the purpose of creating the new municipal Youth Strategy from 2012 to 2016, which treats the position and needs of young people in the municipality of Novi Grad. The research results should to municipal bodies dealing with youth, but also other institutions in the municipality and the city, provide insight into the needs of young people. For the purposes of this analysis were interviewed 500 people aged from 18 to 28 years old. The survey method used was a face-to-face and was carried out through the visits to homes (door to door) - about 20%, at various venues of young people (cafes, shopping and sports centers, clubs) - about 30% , universities - about 30% and on the street - about 20%. For the study was made the gradation in three levels based on age. The majority of respondents were aged between 22 and 25 years old. When the survey was conducted in account was taken that both sexes are equally represented. Of the total number of respondents, 53,80% were women. In this study it was found that young mostly use their leisure time on the fun and socializing. More than half of the respondents their leisure time spend mostly on entertainment and socializing (52%), followed by the sporting activity, but significantly less (17%). For cultural events leisure time is mostly consumed by 10% of respondents.

Based on these studies, we have some indicators of how young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina spend their leisure time. Based on these indicators we learn that spending free time in various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in some segments coincides and in some is different. In the first research students have sufficient time for the rest and relaxation while only a handful of students pointed out that they do not have enough time to play and socialize. In all studies it was shown that their leisure time, young people tend to organize with friends or alone, and in the smallest number of cases in the organization of free time young people include parents, school or any other institution. In these researches results was shown that young people in BiH leisure time usually spend with family and having fun with friends. Also, when it comes to the types of leisure activities, indicators show that young people spend their free time socializing with friends, playing sports, using internet, listening to music, while on the other hand, indicators show that young people spend the small amount of time watching television.

### **3. Methodological approach to research**

#### *3.1. The subject of research*

In this paper we set the subject of research as the search for the answer to the question of how young people in the Republic of Srpska spend their leisure time?

We were especially interested in how much influence have the social and economic factors, and the money and the standard of living of young people and their families in the ways and forms of using the leisure activities, as well as how education, culture and sports activities are present in the content of their free time.

The survey started from the basic hypothesis that young people are the passive consumers of the media culture and social networks as well as the passionate visitors of cafes and clubs. To this was added the claim that the standard of life has a decisive effect on the quality, type and forms of spending the leisure time, as well as the claim that cultural and sports activities occupy a significant portion of total leisure time of young people in the Republic of Srpska.

#### *3.2. The Sample*

Survey of the opinion and attitudes of young people in the Republic of Srpska on the options that they currently have and would like to perform in their free time was done using a questionnaire to a sample of 750 respondents, of which 646 were obtained by the correct questionnaire. 300 respondents were interviewed in Banja Luka, and 346 in other cities in the Republic of Srpska: Prijedor, Doboj, Mrkonjić Grad, Čelinac, Trebinje, Vlasenica, Prnjavor, East Sarajevo and Teslić. In determining the sample it was taken into account the size of the city and population, so in Banja Luka, as the largest and the most developed of these cities, was surveyed the most of the respondents of the planned sample. The questionnaire was subjected to the statistical analysis by which we obtained all the relevant information for the targeted research.

##### *a) The age of the respondents*

The age of the respondents ranged from 15 to 25 years old. Subjects were divided into three age groups:

- *The first sub-group: from 15 to 18 years old (this group includes mostly high school students)*

- *The second sub-group:* from 19 to 22 years old (this group includes students of the first cycle of studies)
- *The third sub-group::* from 23 to 25 years old (this group includes students, mostly graduates or students of the second cycle of studies, as well as employed and unemployed young people).

*b) The gender of respondents*

The study represented both sexes. The selection of respondents from the basic group was selected randomly.

### *3.3. Data collection and processing*

In the research of the opinion and attitudes of the young people was used the questionnaire. Each member of the representative sample was subjected to the poll. The questionnaire or the instrument of the survey in the present study, is composed of a series of closed questions or questions with the answers provided in advance which the respondents, depending on their attitudes and opinions relating to the research topic, could choose. The questionnaire consists of the three main parts:

1. introduction to the questionnaire;
2. issues relating to the general information about the subject (making sure that we do not seek information that jeopardize the anonymity of respondents);
3. issues relating to how they currently spend their free time, how satisfied are they with the offering activities and what would they like to change in the terms of the offer for the leisure activities.<sup>19</sup>

*Data processing* is performed within the SPSS statistical package. The answers are usually presented as frequencies, percentages and arithmetic means, and the Chi-square test.

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<sup>19</sup> This work is part of a research project so it will not be covered with all the material that has emerged as a result of implementation of the Questionnaire.

## 4. Results of the Research

### 4.1. Socio-demographic structure of young people in the research

The total number of respondents (646) on the whole territory of the Republic of Srpska, is divided into three age groups: 15 to 18 years old (41,3%), 19 to 22 years old (41,8%) and 23 to 25 years old (16,9%). The questionnaire comprised 39,9% of men and 60,1% of women. According to the type of settlement participants usually live in the metropolitan area with 58,5%, in the second place are the suburbs with 25,9% and in the third the rural areas with 15,6% of the total number of respondents, which is certainly in line with the earlier rapid deagrarianism and the quasi-urbanization of the BiH society.

The first age group (15 to 18 years old) was related mainly to people who are attending high school. From the total number of respondents this group includes 306 of them or 47,4%. The type of education they gained in high school, is also divided into three groups: professional schools enroll 2,8% of total highschool students, grammar 20,3% and 24,3% is for technical schools.<sup>20</sup>

The second and third group (from 19 to 22 years old and from 23 to 25 years old) refer mainly to the students of the first and second cycle of the studies, namely 52,6% of the total number of respondents. With an insignificant number of those who completed college or they did not attend it. Taking into account that and the members of the first age group circled the answer to this question, we have the following results: From the total number of respondents 49,7% go to university (mostly the second and the third age group), while 50,3% does not go to college (which mainly includes high school students and an insignificant number of young people who have completed high school and do not go to college).

Given in mind this socio-demographic structure of the respondents we feel that we can reach the relevant knowledge about what young people mean by free time, how they use it, how satisfied are they with high-quality offer of leisure activities, and what they propose for the improvement of the quality of implementation of social life in the form of free time in the Republic of Srpska.

### 4.2. The impact of social and economic factors on the quality of free time

Bosnia and Herzegovina, and therefore the Republic of Srpska as its integral part, in its transition period is characterized primarily, as in the case of

<sup>20</sup> **Note:** For easier processing of data, subjects who do not belong to this age group, rounded the option of not going to school.

many other transition economies, by high unemployment. Because of inadequate qualifications on the supply and demand of labor force, as well as the lack of job creation comes to the major imbalances in the labor market. The removal of these imbalances poses a major challenge for economic, social, educational and other policies. The employment rate increased from 2006 to 2008 (29,7% vs. 33,6%), followed by decline in 2009 and 2010 (33,1% and 32,5%). It is especially characteristic the sexual difference in this category, which in 2010 amounted to 42,1% among men and 23,3% among the unemployed women.<sup>21</sup>

Although the employment situation is for concern, the question of how do you assess your material status, most respondents answered by rounding the option mediocre, even 64,4%, while the material situation as poor assessed only 6,8%, and as very well 28,8 %. This was the answer, mostly by the first age group - high school, so we certainly observe it with caution, bearing in mind the fact that the assessment of the situation by so relatively young people is questionable (Table 1.1).

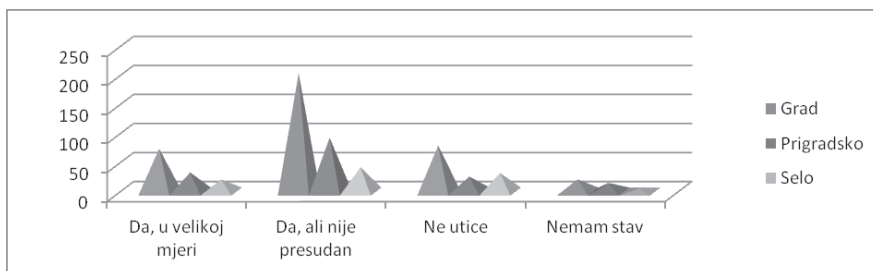
**Table 1.1:** *How do you assess your material situation?*

|       |           | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | Very good | 186       | 28,8    | 28,8          |
|       | Mediocre  | 416       | 64,4    | 64,4          |
|       | Bad       | 44        | 6,8     | 6,8           |
|       | Total     | 646       | 100,0   | 100,0         |

When we talk about the influence of material factors on the way and quality of leisure time of young people, we have come to the following findings. On the question relating to whether the money affects the quality of leisure time, 52,5% of the respondents said it affects, but that it is not crucial, while 19,8% said it affects to a large extent and 21,2% of respondents said that it does not affect.

By crossing questions about housing and the impact of money on the quality of free time we got results that indicate that young people from the urban areas consider significant the influence of money on the quality of leisure time, as well as that young people from suburban areas consider the influence of money important, but not decisive. (Chart 1.1).

<sup>21</sup> Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2010, the Agency for Statistics BiH.

**Chart 1.1:** Place of residence and the influence of money on the quality of leisure time

By crossing the questions on employment and the impact of money on the quality of free time, we see that young people who are employed feel that money is very important or that it is important but not decisive for quality leisure time. Only 20% of young people believe that money does not affect the quality of free time. Young people who are unemployed still do not see a huge role of money in achieving the quality leisure time. Thus, 53,6% of respondents think that money is important but not decisive for the quality of free time, while 19,1% of them considers that money is “largely” important for the quality of leisure time (Table 1.2.). Here, one can conclude that young unemployed people, who are mostly high school students, have “idealistic” experience of the (small role) of money in everyday life, especially in the organization and implementation of the quality of free time.

**Table 1.2.** Employment and the influence of money on the quality of leisure time

| Are you employed? | Do you think that money affects the quality of free time? |                             |                    |            | Total         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|
|                   | Yes, to a great extent                                    | Yes, but it is not decisive | It does not affect | No opinion |               |
| YES               | 13<br>32,5%                                               | 14<br>35,0%                 | 8<br>20,0%         | 5<br>12,5% | 40<br>100,0%  |
| NO                | 116<br>19,1%                                              | 324<br>53,6%                | 129<br>21,3%       | 36<br>6,0% | 605<br>100,0% |
| Total             | 129<br>20,0%                                              | 339<br>52,5%                | 137<br>21,2%       | 41<br>6,3% | 646<br>100,0% |

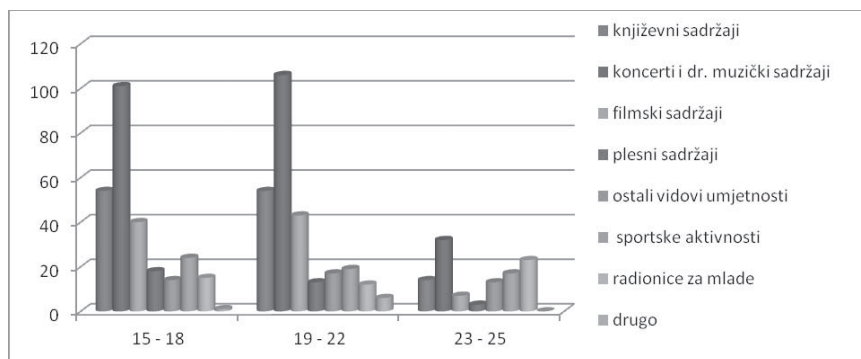
Looking at the results of this study, we observed that the socio-economic status of young people in the cities of the Republic of Srpska, is indeed low,

to the level of social alarmism. Most young people have the status of a student- unemployed and it is very small percentage of those who are employed, whether they are students or not, at least watching this pattern. The picture did not change even on a larger scale. It is the imperative to develop strategies for finding new jobs and better offers for leisure activities, otherwise the society is threatened by the expansion of risky, delinquent behavior and the emigration of young people to the developed Western countries.

#### 4.3. The interest of young people for educational, cultural and sports facilities

In this part of the paper we will observe how the respondents are interested in educational, cultural and sporting activities as part of the activities in their free time. We believe that these contents can be a significant indicator of the quality of free time, and striving for it to be meaningful, creative and to resist routine and spiritual emptiness. Please note that by education in this context we do not refer to the standard school, systematic education, but on a personal, freely, of his own choosing education that will further enhance human capabilities and intellectual profile.

**Chart 1.2:** Crossing the age group with the important amenities for young people



A more detailed study of the previous graph (1.6.) gives us the following information: that young people aged from 15 to 18 years are mostly interested in the music content (37,8%), followed by the literary content (20,2%) and the least for the other types of art. Young people aged from 19 to 22 years, are also mostly interested in music content (39,3%), followed by the literary content (20%), and then for the movie content (15,9%). The interest in sports

and sporting events in the first age group is (9%), and in the second (7%). The third age group (23-25 years old) is also dominated by the interest in concerts and other music content (29,4%), in the second place is engaging in various workshops at youth centers (21,1%), and sports (15,6%), then literary activities (12,8%), while the lowest interest is in dance content (2,8%). The final overview of the respondents' perceptions, tells us that the greatest interest of young people is for concerts and other music content (37% average of the whole group of respondents), followed by the literary content (18,9%), for movie content (13,9%), slightly less interest is in sports activities (9,3%), while the lowest interest is in toys and dance facilities (5,3%). We see that young people are little interested in creative activities in their free time (more than 50% is monitoring the music and film content) as sports, dance, other forms of art and creative workshops. Youth leisure time is more oriented towards a passive acceptance of cultural events and entertainment, than to the creative content.

**Table 1.3:** *Crossing place of residence with the existence of facilities for young people*

| Place of residence | Does in your place exist? |                  |                |                    | Total         |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                    | Youth center              | House of Culture | Another object | There is no object |               |
| town               | 136<br>36,0%              | 148<br>39,2%     | 55<br>14,6%    | 39<br>10,3%        | 378<br>100,0% |
| suburb             | 39<br>23,4%               | 53<br>31,7%      | 43<br>25,7%    | 32<br>19,2%        | 167<br>100,0% |
| Total rural        | 193<br>29,9%              | 231<br>35,8%     | 114<br>17,6%   | 108<br>16,7%       | 646<br>100,0% |

Based on the research, we found out whether young people in the communities in which they live (town, suburb, rural) have facilities and institutions which provide them a variety of cultural, educational, sports and other facilities, which would have affected the quality of their free time. In the part of the population that lives in the city, 36% respondents responded that they have a youth center, 39,2% that they have a House of Culture, 14,6% answered that they have another facility that provides them with similar opportunities for cultural activities. Also, there were those who said they do not have such facilities due to lack of facility, or institution that would initiate such content (10,3%). For young people from suburban areas, 23% responded that they have a Youth center, 31,7% that they have the House of Culture, and 25,7% that they have a facility where they have cultural, educational and sports facilities. Also, it is considerably higher percentage of respondents in the suburb

who responded that there is no facility that provides them with the opportunity to use the facilities listed (19,2%).

By crossing the gender structure of the respondents with the proportion of certain programs in their free time, we followed what is the interest of young people for cultural and sports events, now through the prism of gender perceptions. Respondents circled positions on a scale from 1 to 8, where 8 is the lowest and 1 the highest value.

**Table 1.4:** Crossing the gender with the representation of the activity in the free time (theater)

| Gender | THEATER    |            |            |            |            |            |             |              | Total         |
|--------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
|        | 1          | 2          | 3          | 4          | 5          | 6          | 7           | 8            |               |
| male   | 15<br>5,8% | 7<br>2,7%  | 10<br>3,9% | 7<br>2,7%  | 9<br>3,5%  | 12<br>4,7% | 29<br>11,3% | 168<br>65,4% | 257<br>100,0% |
| female | 33<br>8,5% | 20<br>5,2% | 25<br>6,4% | 14<br>3,6% | 25<br>6,4% | 23<br>5,9% | 50<br>12,9% | 198<br>51,0% | 388<br>100,0% |
|        | ,0%        | ,0%        | ,0%        | ,0%        | ,0%        | ,0%        | 100,0%      | ,0%          | 100,0%        |
| Total  | 48<br>7,4% | 27<br>4,2% | 35<br>5,4% | 21<br>3,3% | 34<br>5,3% | 35<br>5,4% | 80<br>12,4% | 366<br>56,7% | 646<br>100,0% |

Based on the table above (1.4), which analyzes the visits to the theater, we see the bigger growing interest among women 8,5% than among men 5,8%. We see that there is very little interest among the young for the theater as a form of leisure activity, even 56,7% of (average) young people showed little interest in the theater. One reason may be the lack of theaters in all the places where our respondents come from.

**Table 1.5:** Crossing the gender with the representation of activity in the free time (literary evenings)

| Gender | LITERARY EVENINGS |            |            |            |            |            |             |              | Total         |
|--------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
|        | 1                 | 2          | 3          | 4          | 5          | 6          | 7           | 8            |               |
| male   | 21<br>8,2%        | 7<br>2,7%  | 6<br>2,3%  | 5<br>1,9%  | 8<br>3,1%  | 3<br>1,2%  | 28<br>10,9% | 179<br>69,6% | 257<br>100,0% |
| female | 36<br>9,3%        | 8<br>2,1%  | 12<br>3,1% | 16<br>4,1% | 19<br>4,9% | 16<br>4,1% | 45<br>11,6% | 236<br>60,8% | 388<br>100,0% |
|        | ,0%               | ,0%        | ,0%        | ,0%        | ,0%        | ,0%        | ,0%         | 100,0%       | 100,0%        |
| Total  | 57<br>8,8%        | 15<br>2,3% | 18<br>2,8% | 21<br>3,3% | 27<br>4,2% | 19<br>2,9% | 73<br>11,3% | 416<br>64,4% | 646<br>100,0% |

Also, when it comes to literary evenings (Table 1.15) it is the greater interest among women (9,3%) compared to men (8,2%). Yet, here we see that the interest in literary evenings is even smaller than for the theater (64,4% average of both gender groups) which confirms the low level of creative and meaningful cultural component in the free time of youth in Republic of Srpska. If we gather the interest in literary evenings of both genders (17,5%), which was recorded as the highest value (1), then we see that it is near the 18,9% of those stated in the chart 1.2. where the interest for the literature took the second place of all the cultural activities. It shows the stability of a group of young people in their perception of the role of literary content in their free time.

**Table 1.6:** *Crossing the gender with the representation of activity in the free time (sports and recreation)*

| Gender | SPORTS AND RECREATION |       |       |       |       |      |       |       | Total  |
|--------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|
|        | 1                     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6    | 7     | 8     |        |
| male   | 112                   | 37    | 24    | 23    | 14    | 9    | 18    | 20    | 257    |
|        | 43,6%                 | 14,5% | 9,3%  | 8,9%  | 5,4%  | 3,5% | 7,0%  | 7,8%  | 100,0% |
| female | 62                    | 30    | 43    | 52    | 49    | 36   | 49    | 67    | 388    |
|        | 16,0%                 | 7,7%  | 11,1% | 13,4% | 12,6% | 9,3% | 12,6% | 17,3% | 100,0% |
| Total  | 174                   | 67    | 67    | 75    | 64    | 45   | 67    | 87    | 646    |
|        | 26,9%                 | 10,3% | 10,4% | 11,6% | 9,9%  | 7,0% | 10,4% | 13,5% | 100,0% |

The interest in the sports and recreation (Table 1.17) is dominant in males (43,6%) compared to females (16%). Overall interest in sports (26,9% average of both genders) is not large, which suggests that young people are more focused on passive elements of fulfilling their free time.

Based on the above indicators, we can conclude that the interest of young people for cultural, educational and sports facilities varies in relation to the age structure, gender, and place of residence. An important task of the creators of activities that will appeal to young people is the search for forms that will interest young people to fulfill their free time with the certain cultural and sports facilities.

## **5. Discussion**

When it comes to leisure time of youth, our research has shown that young people most of their free time spend on fun, use of the Internet content, listening to music, watching movies, spending time with friends, while reading books, visiting other cultural events and recreational activities are suppressed. Here we will once again consider two aspects through which we traced the quality of free time of young people (the impact of socio-economic factors and the interest in the cultural and sports facilities).

When we talk about the impact of socio-economic factors on the quality of free time, we see that (although the employment situation is worrying) the question of how do you assess your material status, most respondents answered by circling options mediocre, even 64,4%, while their material condition as bad estimated only 6,8%, and a very good 28,8%. These data suggest that the “fair” and “poor” material state should negatively affect the quality of leisure time, and the diversity and richness of content that fulfill the leisure time. However, young people have not explicitly declared in that direction, but forms of spending free time (mass, cheap fun) suggest that this is still a fact that young people do not notice right away or hide it.

When we talk about the influence of material factors on the way and quality of leisure time of young people, we have come to the following findings: the question relating to, “whether money affects the quality of free time”, 52,5% responded that it affects, but it is not decisive, while 19,8% said it affects in a large extent and 21,2% of those surveyed responded that it does not affect. Here we see that the one-fifth of youth is committed to the full impact of money on the quality of leisure time or full rejection of capabilities of that influence. So these two poles are balanced, we are left with the mean (half of the respondents) that accepts the possibility of the influence of money on the quality of free time, but does not consider it crucial, implying that it is possible to find quality content with little or no money. Now we see that two thirds of respondents accept that there is some degree of influence on the quality of free time, and we can say that money affects the quality of the time for the most of the youth population. Therefore, our starting hypothesis that “social and economic status has a decisive effect on the quality of free time” in the statements of our respondents, was not confirmed.

When it comes to cultural and sports activities in fulfillment of the free time of young people, in our research we found out that young people aged from 15 to 18 years old are mostly interested in music content, then the literary content and at least for the other forms of art (painting, fashion, classical

music, visual arts). Young people aged from 19 to 22 years old, are also the most interested in music content, then the literary content, and for movie content. When it comes to music content, it should be noted that young people by that mean the pop music and folk music as the most important part of mass entertainment and mass culture (concerts in squares, stadiums and sports halls).

Interest in sports and sport activities in the first age group is 9%, and in the second 7%, while in the third age group sports activities were present in 15,6 percent. Surprisingly low is the interest of younger age groups for sports facilities in their free time. The reason may lie in the fact that it is talked about young people who are in the process of education where there are physical education classes, which compensates the need for participation in sports activities. We see that the oldest group of young people is the most interested in sporting activities, which may be a result of increased activities and recreational sports among the students who are at the end of the studies or those who have already completed their studies so they can devote more time to sports and recreation. Of course, it is known that a large number of youth sporting events follow via media. Our initial assertion that “educational, cultural and sports activities occupy a large part of their free time” was confirmed in the statements of our respondents.

## **Conclusion**

Based on indicators in the survey we can conclude that the interest of young people for cultural, educational and sports facilities varies in relation to the age structure, gender, and place of residence. An important factor is the weak tendency of young people to fulfill their free time with certain educational, cultural and sports facilities, which largely depends on the family, schools, institutions that are engaged in these facilities and, of course, the environment in which our respondents live.

Leisure time gives young people opportunities for cultural and creative development of personality. The use of free time through cultural and sporting activities provides the opportunity for young people to meet their own needs and interests, and significantly improve their overall abilities and skills. Relationship to the free time is a contemporary social phenomenon of modern society and youth in it, which includes all spheres of their life and is reflected in all spheres of life and work. Young people in Republic of Srpska leisure time experience as fun and leisure mixed with elements of passive

consumption of mass culture (in fact seeking satisfaction), rather than as a creation, freedom, enjoyment in the values of true culture, recreation and sports facilities or the commitment to charity and volunteer work.

Cities in the Republic of Srpska possess different capacities of educational, cultural and sports facilities and centers, and therefore young people have, the different possibilities for meeting their own interests. Young people from the underdeveloped municipalities of Republic of Srpska do not have the opportunity to spend their free time visiting a variety of high-quality cultural events (theaters, galleries, ballet, classical music), and thus they direct their free time towards the other, “quasi-cultural” aspects of the fulfillment of free time.

This research has shown that young people in the Republic of Srpska are not entirely the mere consumers of everything that is available to them, i.e., that they are still able to resist the rush of the culture of the spectacle, culture without true values (sometimes without any value), which is represented with the culture of reality shows and Harry Potter and the various manifestations of kitsch and trash, all supported by media culture.

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