INTRODUCTION

Solution of the Research Intent SCHOOL AND HEALTH FOR 21st CENTU-RY at Faculty of Education, Masaryk University is planned for years 2005-2010 and this publication CONTEMPORARY SCHOOL PRACTICE AND HEALTH EDUCA-TION can offer a part of issues investigated within this Research Intent. The authors of contributions are members of our solution team for the Research Intent and also other Czech and foreign specialists interested in participating in the solution. Relation between "school" and "health" is very relevant both from standpoint of contemporary social and professional documents (first of all we mean the program of the World Health Organization "Health 21 - Health for all in the 21st Century" and all materials based on this document plus Framework education programs that are essential for the Czech school system and significantly emphasize health topics) and also by natural needs of the contemporary society which tends toward health issues in education and cultural priorities. The inspirational health concept is that by WHO: "the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (1947) or more briefly "ability to lead socially and economically productive lifestyle" (1977), with the concept of health crossing the somatic boundary and being determined also psychologically and socially. In this concept of health significant roles are played by school and other social and cultural institutions.

The collective monograph *CONTEMPORARY SCHOOL PRACTICE AND HEALTH EDUCATION* comprises a varied set of contributions that demonstrate contemporary school activities focused on health education. The publication is continuously related with the previous research parts (see School and Health 21/1, Brno 2006, School and Health 21/2, Brno 2007 and other studies) and can be used in other phases of our future research.

Problems studied in this part are not limited locally. It is manifested in the international study prepared by the authors *B.Bajd*, *L. Praprotnik*, *J. Matyášek* who compared knowledge of future teachers from our country and from Slovenia. Understanding of health in relation with life quality was investigated by J.Šimíčková-Čížková, *B. Vašina* and *P. Šišák*; it proved to be very important because young students take health often pragmatically and closely specified. From the psychology position the education aim is "healthy personality" which can be formed also by means of motivation to learn. It is discussed in the contribution of *Z. Stránská* and *I.Poledňová*. Various aspects of education topics that could bring knowledge on building health education are discussed by *A. Sandanusová* and *J. Pavelková*, *J. Svobodová* and *P. Sládek* and *M. Havelková*, *P. Kachlík*, Š. *Strandová and A. Weisová*. Usual conclusion is here, unfortunately, that in contemporary school environment some handicaps remain in monitored spheres of professional knowledge. In the concept of Framework educational programs the heal-

th education is connected with the physical education; this subject has predominantly recreational character and does not use the projected curriculum oriented also to knowledge and skills of the health education area (*V. Mužík*). That information is completed by research results obtained by *M. Trávníček*. Moving activities of pre-school age children are studied by *A. Ondrejková* and *J. Gubricová*. *J. Vrbas* prepared basic research data on measurement of the health-oriented capability and the proper posture of children at 1st grade of elementary school.

Traffic education is another important subject of health education. Traffic accidents are usually the most frequent cause of serious injuries of young people. This issue is discussed in texts elaborated by *M. Stojan* and *P. Pecina*, from international viewpoint and with respect to teacher's preparation for this education subject.

Prevention of drug addiction is one of the most serious fields of health education. There are many applicable aspects elaborated in details but also a lot of current unsolved problems. J. Liba pointed out the necessity to study addictions in relation to social pathology, predominantly to groups of socially disabled children living in insufficiently stimulating environment; T. Čech discussed questions of the primary drug prevention at elementary schools, P. Kachlík and M. Havelková described research results for the drug scene at Masaryk University. Public often expects significant relationships among specific social groups and tendency to addiction that are not necessarily essential. So E. Marádová and M. Žižka demonstrated that drug- and piercing subcultures are not identical, and "pierced individuals are not implicitly users of addictive substances". Substantial issue of the drug addiction prevention is nicotinism; "smoking cigarettes is considered to be the main cause of untimely deaths of people worldwide". Various questions connected with those issues are solved by J. Schlarmannová, L. Lengyelová and by L. Žáček, D. Hrubá and I. Žaloudíková. The primary preventive program "Nonsmoking is normal" was developed and checked within our project, focused on children at the 1st grade of elementary schools. School drug abuse prevention can be built from different position, also by using literary education as demonstrated by N. Sieglová.

The collective monograph is another publication of the series of studies developed within the project SCHOOL AND HEALTH FOR 21st CENTURY; it shows issues that should be solved in this field, with the prior focusing on problems specific for the research team members. There is a plentiful number of components of the topic School *versus* Health that should be studied. According to our aspiration, this publication should serve as a motive, challenge and contribution to appropriate solution.

Evžen Řehulka Investigator of the Research Intent SCHOOL AND HEALTH FOR THE 21st CENTURY MSM0021622421