

This rigorous work was formed as an expansion of diploma work named Silent witnesses – domestic violence viewed through the eyes of children. The main aim of this work is to highlight the situation of children witnessing violence between their parents and the effects of this negative phenomenon on their development. Within this issue the work is focused on different forms of domestic violence, furthermore it points on the legal questions of this problems and it also outlines the crucial aspects of human development.

Devastating impact of witnessing domestic violence is highlighted in the practical part of this work which is focused on group work with children. Particular group sessions and direct quotation of individual children, witnesses of domestic violence, give an evidence of the fact how much the children are endangered by this dismal situation in their family.

Negative effects of witnessing domestic violence on human development can be seen in the results of the study which was accomplished among 100 women – victims of domestic violence of which 50% were witnesses of violence between their parents in childhood. The main conclusion of this study indicates that children who were suffering from violence between their parents regard domestic violence as a normal behavioural pattern and they are not able to recognise it as something negative or wrong in their own future partner relationships.

This rigorous work can be used by all professionals dealing with domestic violence and by those students who would like to pursue to the issue of domestic violence.