

The dissertation analyses the system of social assistance in the Czech Republic in the period between 1990 and today. The topic focuses on the social benefit system of help for socially weak citizens. The dissertation is anchored on the concept of inequality and poverty, theory of social segregation, the homophily principle and the principle of solidarity.

The main objective is to evaluate the current social benefit system and formulate suggestions for eliminating its weaknesses and limitations. For obtaining the empiric information mainly qualitative methods were used, analysis of documents and half-structured interviews with both clients and experts of the social need system. The analysed variables are provided social benefits, their structure, amount, the importance of social work and institution of the system.

Since 1990 the number of the social benefits as well as the amount paid have diminished. In the system the social work was professionalised, and that not only in case of the institutions responsible for realisation of payment of the social benefits, but also in case of non-profit organizations. Despite the fact the system is capable of and does react to the changes in society, the clients remain in its care on a long-term basis. The solution of their unfavourable social situation requires interdepartmental collaboration.