

TITLE: “*The worst thing about it is that it is a must...*” Roma and the Education System in the Czech Republic

AUTHOR: Mgr. Markéta Levínská, Ph.D.

DEPARTMENT: Psychology

SUPERVISOR: doc. PhDr. Miloš Kučera, Ph.D.

ABSTRACT:

The dissertation thesis presents the results of ethnographic research conducted between 2005 and 2012. The theoretical part provides an analysis of the cognitive process and looks for causes of prejudiced thinking. The practical part presents a number of topical articles with the intention to present the issues relating to the education of Roma in the Czech Republic from different perspectives. The first article deals with the Czech legislation and with the position of the Czech government. The rest of the practical part is divided into two sections – the first section presents two sets of outputs from researches conducted in an urban Roma community. The first article titled *Eliška* analyses the identity of a representative of the local community; the other, titled *Romanka*, describes the transfer of a Roma girl from elementary school to practical school. The second section contains chapters presenting field research in excluded rural areas. The chapter *A weekday in Alfa* addresses the issues of emergence of socially excluded locations and relationship between the majority and the minority. The chapter titled *Function of Cultural Models in Education* presents emic perspective on education. As far as methodological concept is concerned, the thesis uses qualitative-type of research inspired mainly by ethnography; the data is collected during participant observation and during semi-structured and unstructured interviews. The data analysis is inspired by cognitive approach.

KEY WORDS: Roma, education, excluded locations, prejudices, qualitative approach.