

## **ERC has terminated so called**

### **“The economic analysis of the expenses and benefits on psychosocial rehabilitation centers of disadvantaged children”**

#### **Research Project**

Economic Research Center (ERC) had concluded the research project on “The economic analysis of the expenses and benefits on psychosocial rehabilitation centers of disadvantaged children” with financial support of Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation. The aim of the research project is creating model due to increase the quality and economic efficiency on psychosocial rehabilitation centers of disadvantaged children in Azerbaijan. The results of the research have been presented for public and relevant entities at the Round Table discussion organized by the Center. The representatives of local and international NGOs, governmental and foreign organizations, including mass media had participated at the event.

Firstly, the coordinator of Call for Health Social Alliance Aytakin Asgarova delivered her remarks and stated that researcher have studied both domestic and foreign experience, investigated the funding process of rehabilitation centers, analyzed the allocated finance in this direction and eventually the research model have been formed based on acquired results. Afterwards, the taped video at the “Rainbow” Disable Children Rehabilitation Center has been demonstrated (this Center has played immense role on preparation of the model).

Furthermore, the chairman of ERC Management Board Gubad Ibadoglu presented the research and its model. The researcher provided comprehensive information regarding research model and outlined that in the current situation oil revenues are soaring. As a consequence of this, one of the basic objectives of Azerbaijan government is to increase the investments for the development of human capital and provide access to the results of social-economic progress. At the same time, it is government’s duty to enlarge the social-medical care based programs for disadvantaged, especially the sensitive groups due to support the acceleration of their integration process to the society: “However, this process should not only facilitated through financial-technical support of government, but the corporative social responsibility programs of business structures must contribute the acceleration of this process as well.”

Gubad Ibadoglu shared his thoughts about current foreign practice and emphasized that among Middle East countries Jordan has leading role in this field: “the volume of services provided for disadvantaged people has been extremely increased in this country. The official, volunteer and private sectors have occupied united role in this process, and the activities among them are being coordinated by special coordination body. As coming to the comparative analysis of Jordan’s experience with USA, European countries and Russia it can be concluded that the Jordan model of service for disadvantaged children can play as a base model for Azerbaijan due to geographical, historical, social-economic,

religious, traditional, and national feature similarities. The main feature of this model is centralization of medical-psychological and education-pedagogical services for disadvantaged children and united involvement of multi-faced systems on its funding. In addition, it would be beneficial having complex and systematic approach to this problem. The provision of complex and variety range of services will promote revealing internal potential of children, disclosing the activeness of rehabilitation process and conducting organizational-awareness campaigns among families”.

The funding of rehabilitation center activities for disadvantaged children has been executed based on numerous versions. Based on these versions, the volume of the funds needed for maintenance of a one center which should correspond with number of children and the destination has been calculated. Moreover, the amount of funds allocated from government for this area has been estimated as well.

The maintenance of model centers are expected to be implemented jointly with state, business, foreign and local humanitarian organizations, including volunteer contributions submitted from ordinary citizens.

The researcher considers that if the proposed model adopted, the parents of disadvantaged children would gain additional time for working; the integration process of this group into society will be accelerated and their rights will be provided fairly; the health care of this disadvantaged children will be normalized; and eventually augmentation in the number of rehabilitation centers in a consequence will trigger the creation new job positions. Within a long term period, the independent activity opportunities of rehabilitated children will be increased; they will gain habits of meeting their needs and as a result acquire much experience. Additionally, their integration into society will be accelerated and in the future the burden of government will be diminished.

As taking into consideration aforementioned proposals the author of the research has suggested numerous proposals and recommendations. These proposals are as follows:

- To prepare the conception embodying itself the state policy on funding the social-medical rehabilitation of children program from state budget
- To provide the rehabilitation centers with buildings, necessary equipment sets and special automobiles based on resources of state organizations
- To impose price cuts and tax discharges on activities related to rehabilitation centers through conduction relevant amendments to tax and custom legislation
- To build certain norms in “ About Entrepreneurship activity” law aiming to expand the social corporative program of entrepreneurs, and to conduct relevant amendments in Tax Code in order to facilitate its stimulation
- To adopt “ About charity activity” law aiming in order stimulate the allocations from society and communities
- To create relevant legal base in order to install 1 % or 2 % of benefits from society and communities to the NGOs dealing with public and social-medical activities aiming to increase the certain allocations from them

- To attract the attention of state, business and communities to the activities of rehabilitation centers, and to increase social advertisements and public discussions dedicated to the debate of centers' problems aiming to enhance charity and solidarity traditions within society
- To improve transparency and accountability in activities of rehabilitation centers, and disclosing the outcomes of program and financial actions for broad public

Expert has responded questions after the presentation. Afterwards discussions have been launched. The director of “Mushfiq” Rehabilitation Center Valida Abbasova stated that these kind of centers have been established last 10 years in Azerbaijan. According to her, 450 (roughly 50-60 children per year) disadvantaged children received care at “Mushfiq” Rehabilitation Center within 10 years: “There is such kind of child that his or her rehabilitation process ends in a year. However, there is a child who needs to rehabilitation service for years.” The director of “Chirag” Child Development Public Union located in Sumgayit Zeyneb Hacıyeva emphasized that 40-50 children has been involved to the Center: “The quality of provided service in our center exceptionally discerns from state based boarding schools. These centers prevent the influx of children into boarding schools. The rehabilitated children in these centers easily can integrate into society.”

The director of Center on Joint Assistance to Azerbaijan Gulnara Pahanova mentioned that the conducted research at Xachmaz and Yasamal rehabilitation centers indicated the state benefits the involvement of children into these centers: “Unfortunately, due to the scarcity in quantity of these centers not all disadvantaged children are able to attend the rehabilitation centers and are obliged to involve in boarding schools.”

The representative of World Health Organization Sevil Asadova outlined that the required period for rehabilitation is differs for each child. The representative of Ministry of Education Habib Karimov mentioned his organization fully supports these kind of projects: “The major thing is determining the solution ways of this issue. There law on state budget and also other legal-normative acts. It needs to make certain amendments to these acts by relevant entities. The NGOs acting in this direction should increase their personnel potential.” H.Karimov noted the centers operating under the Ministry will be increased. The representative of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Jale Hasanova outlined that there are 14 Rehabilitation Centers within the Ministry: “The treatment period of children depends on the level of disease complication”

Director of SOROS Public Health Program Leyla Imanova has highly appreciated the research and stated the proposed model totally meets to the modern demands. According to her, since 2001 the established Rehabilitation Centers are very specific, and currently their license and accreditation process on the agenda: “Let’s conduct activities toward advocacy of this model and submit this model to the government”. According to L.Imanova, it is inevitable to attain transparency in the field of expended voluminous donor funds related to this process and effective control mechanism should be established.

**ERC Public Affairs Department**