

## **Images of future and family planning among the university students**

### **Background**

For the stabilization of the population of Hungary the birth of 2.4 children per family would be desirable. However, this volume at the moment does not exceed 1.3 (Kopp, 2008). Young couples tend to have their first child at a later time moreover the single way of living also spreading within the society.

We examined the correlation between family and carrier planning in the university students. We searched the number of children the students were about to have and the possible date of their first childbearing. We had a closer look at the effects of examples set by parents and finally compared our results regarding the different ideas of childbearing of male and female students at different faculties.

### **Material and method**

A total of 417 students took part in the study representing three faculties of the University of Miskolc (Health Care, Mechanical Engineering and Informatics, Arts) in 2011. The questionnaires were completed by 232 female and 185 male students.

### **Results:**

A scale was set up to prioritize marriage, children, material well-being, diploma, secure job, balanced partnership. Diploma and the balanced partnership considered to be the most relevant in the majority of students. The marriage and the child bearing were the least importance by both sexes with the difference that the marriage was more important for girls and child bearing for boys. Students plan to have 2.1 children in average that is less than the desired 2.4. Students' mothers gave birth to their first child at the average age of 22.9, but girls intended to have the first child at age of 27, the boys at 29. The family pattern was dominant as the students were willing to have the same number of children as in their own families. We detected deviation in the families with three children (7.1% of the total) where only 1.8% of the students wanted to follow the family tradition. Rank correlation statistical calculations were performed, the results of which showed that the plans of girls and boys were the farthest from each other; the coefficient had the lowest value here ( $Rho=0.935$ ). The closest future plan had the students of arts and mechanical engineering; the rank correlation was close ( $Rho=0.988$ ). The results of our research supported the tendency that the importance of career planning is greater than one of family planning.

### **Conclusion:**

On the bases of our results, we jointed the movement „Three Princes – Three Princesses” founded by Maria Kopp, whose objective was to provide help for youths getting higher education in order to have their first child at biological and psychological ideal age. The flexible lecture, examination schedule, tuition-free education, establishment of „martin houses”, „mini nurseries and kindergartens” as well as mom-baby rooms at the universities premises are with vital importance. Establishment of a family-friendly university environment might increase the childbearing spirit of the university students.

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