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MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



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## INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Název školy	Gymnázium, Šternberk, Horní nám. 5
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Téma hodiny	Social problems
Druh materiálu	Pracovní list
Anotace	Žáci porozumí cizojazyčnému textu složitějšího obsahu na aktuální témata týkající se sociálních problémů. Rozšíří si slovní zásobu a osvojí si užití větných spojovacích výrazů úrovně B2. Žáci vystihnou hlavní myšlenky textu a vysloví vlastní názor k problematice řešení sociálních problémů ve světě, respektive v České republice.



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### 1. Read the text carefully and look up all the new vocabulary in your dictionary.

#### Social Problems

The society of today's world has been affected not only by the environmental problems, but also the social ones. Social problem is always connected with people and society in general. Such problems usually reveal human disability to solve certain situation, disrespect in various spheres, and misuse of someone's power or weakness in assimilating to people living in our surrounding.



Obr.. 1

Let's start with less serious troubles that influence our lives. These cross our daily routine quite often, for instance lack of time, lack of money, stress, commuting, unemployment, health problems, unsatisfying medical care, smoking, alcohol, drugs, relationships, housing shortage, intolerance, homelessness and many others.

However, there are much more serious issues worth mentioning. For example poverty is typical especially for developing countries in Asia and Africa. In this case, poverty may be a result of unsuccessful economy of a state, or for example of agricultural conditions of the country. If the conditions are bad, people cannot afford to buy food and other necessary things. They as well as their children suffer from malnutrition or even famine (hunger) and starvation. Things that accompany our lives and we consider them unnecessary for living might represent something that these people will never come across in their whole life – no car, bike, comfortable equipment of the house (some of them do not even have where to live), water tubs or water itself, flushing toilet or a shampoo and a child's toy might be luxury for them.

It is extremely difficult to survive in such conditions. Consequently, people in some areas try to get money and other necessary things by committing crimes to support their families. Their struggling for survival is so serious that stealing, robbing or even killing becomes their only option to live.

Moreover, with no money people do not have much education or what is even worse, they have none; they are illiterate because being educated means luxury for them. At some parts of the world, there are even no schools to go to. Children have to help their parents in the fields; some go to work in factories from their early age. Sometimes the family situation becomes so cruel that the family decides to sell the child to some rich foreigner who promises to take care of it. Although, international organizations try to prevent it, majority of these children consequently end as child prostitutes on a black market. Going back to illiteracy,



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it does not always have to be connected with developing countries. There is a big percentage of illiteracy even in the most powerful country in the world – the USA.

Next huge problems present in Africa but also on the other continents are contagious and incurable diseases. One of the most dangerous ones is HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), Tuberculosis, Malaria or the Ebola. All over the world, viruses are transmitted among humans thanks to a host such as rat or flea and other kinds of insect. Some countries do not have sufficient equipment and treatment for the patients who die after being infected. The Ebola, for instance, is accompanied by diarrhoea, temperature, sickness and internal bleeding. Although the illness of AIDS is well-known, there are still areas where people have no idea about its prevention or are polygamists. What is more, some people keep ignoring the necessity of being inoculated against some serious diseases, which may lead to their death if infected.

The other problem of the contemporary modern and well-educated world is war. In Africa, tribal conflicts keep to be a part of everyday life. In addition, there are wars among different ethnic and religious groups. Recently, the most problematic conflict of the African continent takes place in Libya, where a war has broken out. Besides that the Somali pirates deteriorate shipping (sea transport) nearby the African coast. Nevertheless, Africa is not the only place in war. Recently, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran or North Korea have been in the centre of the attention of countries such as Russia, the U.S. and even the EU. There have appeared many speculations about the reasons of starting the war in Iraq and Afghanistan because sometimes it is hard to get the true information from the government and media. Some of the countries mentioned above are said to have nuclear weapons in their army arsenal, which means a potential threat for the rest of the world.

Mentioning weapons, it is quite easy to get a weapon. Primarily in the unstable developing countries but also in the USA, you can get a gun without troubles. Child soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq could have been seen on TV news on regular basis. Black market works everywhere – guns, prostitutes, human organs, babies for adoption or illegal labourers still persist.

Sometimes people do not have any other chance than starting a war if they want to keep their rights. Human rights are not a matter-of course in all places. Religion, race, gender and living free are the most commons areas of discrimination. Especially in Muslim countries, men tend to discriminate women in many ways – education, self-realization, emancipation, family life and others. On the other side, there is racial discrimination still present in recent world. People do not respect those with different colour of their complexion. Primarily indigenous inhabitants of Australia or the U.S. have undergone racial prejudices. What is more, people may get discriminated for their religion and habits accompanying it. For example, in France, Muslim female students and pupils are not allowed to wear burqua to school. There have been racial and religious prejudices even in the Czech Republic. Can you think of concrete examples?



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Of course, the term “social problems” also covers serious issues such as child abuse, sexual harassment, domestic violence, kidnapping, paedophilia, murders, hooligans; crime in general. Many people end up in jail because of (violating) some law but in connection to that there are also questions concerning the death penalty, juvenile imprisonment, euthanasia, abortion, etc. to be discussed. Is it right or wrong? Give examples.

It is not only discrimination mentioned above that the Czech people have to face. Schools try to fight bullying and cyber bullying very often; Czech teenagers occupy first places in taking drugs and smoking in the world, which is alarming; people get easily corrupted; blackmailing is quite common. Moreover, bulimia, anorexia, or obesity on the other side form a group of quite spread problems people have to solve. Especially, the last mentioned, obesity, has been a nightmare nowadays. Addiction to food is not the only one that should be mentioned. People get addicted to various modern things, such as computer games, mobile phone, the Internet etc. This can be very dangerous and it can lead different health problems – physical as well as psychical. Have you been addicted to something? Do you know anyone who had to undergo any therapy because of any kind of addiction?

Can you name any other social problems? Which of them is the most serious according to you? Which of the mentioned problems can be solved and how?

**2. Write down your answers to the questions in the text.**

**3. Name at least 3 kinds of discrimination and provide examples:**

**4. Name at least 5 other social problems:**

**5. Which social problems are the most common for people at your age? Why is that so?**



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6. Choose 3 of the problems mentioned in the text and try to think about a possible solution to each of them.



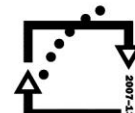
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