# **Synopsis**

This study aims to explore shared decision making between parents, children and social workers in planning, intervention, and evaluation committees (as follows – PIEC). PIECs are placed in social services departments. According to Israeli social work regulations, their role is to determine treatment plans to children at risk that raises concerns of damage to their normal development. The committees discuss the concerns about the children’s condition, evaluate level of risk, family's difficulties, needs and strengths, and examines possible interventions. finally, PIECs supposed to build an optimal treatment plan with maximum parentship with family members, and strive to reach agreements (Ministry of welfare and social services, 2017).
In Israel, 18,000-22,000 committees take place every year, discussing 30,000-35,000 children.

This study presents two successive researches aimed to answer the questions in what degree, what form and which conditions, shared decision making occur? The 1st research is based on content analysis of 73 PIEC protocols and the 2nd research is based on measurement of shared decision making, using survey questionnaires filled by parents and social workers participated in PIEC.

**Background:** client participation in decision making is a well-known (principle?) in social work theory and practice. In the past 20 years it gained popularity in additional areas, such as health, education, and urban planning. The reinforcing trend is driven by the perception that people have the right to be involved in decision making about their lives and by the proven benefits of client participation: contribute to client’s sense of empowerment, increase client’s willingness to cooperate with the determined plan and their ability to implement social rights, and carry out better outcomes. In addition, client participation is a central value in the social work code of ethics and has significant presence in ministry of welfare’s declarations, regulations and instructions concerning most of social services these days.
client participation is based on balancing the power between professionals, who have power, and clients/families, who have less power. This Sharing of power is a crucial act to implement client participation.

A definition for clients' participation, agreed upon by researchers, does not exist. Literature describes a variety of behaviors ranging from a paternalistic approach to a varied degree of power sharing. Professionals and researchers agree that some actions can contribute to efficient participation of social work clients, such as trust and respect-based relationship, good communication, reporting clear detailed information to the client, and good preparation before the decision-making process. Social workers Practices of participation are usually based on a long term, trusting social worker-client relationship, and common discourse used are "hearing the clients' voice", "cooperation", "standing by the client" and "empowerment".