

Summary

Normalisation of the social environment of mothers with moderate intellectual disabilities

This dissertation deals with the normalisation of the social environment of mothers with moderate intellectual disability.

The theoretical part of the thesis presents normalisation as a socio-political concept from the historical point of view as well as in a contemporary perspective. Reflections on the social and cultural dimensions of theoretical models of disability were used to present their implications for the social normalisation of people with moderate intellectual disability. The analysis of scientific discourse as well as references to pedagogical practice in selected aspects of adulthood of above mentioned people with disabilities revealed its discriminatory and stigmatising context. The characteristics of people with moderate intellectual disability were discussed in order to highlight the heterogeneity of this group of people; moreover, they aimed to draw attention to their individual capacities to fulfil social roles.

The empirical part of the dissertation presents research that illustrates social normalisation of mothers with moderate intellectual disability. A qualitative study of functioning in different social spheres of the eight interviewed women helped to answer the main research problem: In the opinion of mothers with moderate intellectual disability, what is the level of social normalisation in their everyday life and how do these mothers assess its importance for their functioning? The answers to this question made it possible to perceive the cultural aspect of normalisation in the discourses shaping the social environment of the mothers participating in the study and contributed to unmasking gaps in fulfilling the normalisation concept. The study revealed that despite the importance of environmental normalisation processes for the subjective sense of social functioning of mothers with moderate intellectual disability, there are areas in which the assumptions of the social normalisation concept have not yet been fully fulfilled.

In the face of the identified problems resulting from the shortcomings in fulfilling the postulates of the social normalisation concept of the social environment in which the interviewees live, these women "stay afloat" despite adversities. This situation reinforced the proposal formulated in this dissertation to reactivate the normalisation concept.

Keywords:

normalisation, social environment, moderate intellectual disability, mothers with moderate intellectual disability, adulthood