

SUMMARY

This dissertation focused on issues related to the life situation of elderly people with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The issues were developed based on the analysis of scientific literature and own research. The aim of the work was to collect detailed information through individual in-depth interviews about the life situation of elderly people during the COVID-19 pandemic from a group of older people from the Silesian Voivodeship, Greater Poland Voivodeship and West Pomeranian Voivodeship. The starting point for this scientific thesis was the definition of a life situation from "Leksykon gerontologii" by Adam A. Zycha, which defines the scope of the author's research and the theoretical framework of the dissertation. In total, 30 people aged 61 to 82 were examined. In the first chapter, the author described, based on the literature, the human aging process, the period of old age, the life situation of older people with disabilities, and its impact on the quality of life of this age group. This chapter also describes the needs of older people, as well as the long-noticeable problem of loneliness and solitude, which has intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. The last point of the first chapter is the demographic picture of Polish senility, which is the result of long-term demographic changes that have taken place in Poland in recent decades. The second chapter covers issues related to the disabilities of elderly people related to both the aging process and old age. Types and models of disability are described, disability in the last stage of life is characterized and selected national and international regulations regarding older people with disabilities are cited. The third chapter presents the methodology of own research. The last chapter of the work analyzes and interprets research results on the situation of elderly people during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work ends with conclusions and recommendations addressed to educators, doctors, gerontologists, psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists. The aim of these recommendations is to show how much work and commitment is required in the area of care, health protection, education and prevention in the context of elderly and aging people. The author would like to encourage specialists and employees in various fields to take a more holistic approach to the needs and problems of elderly people and to take measures to support this social group in difficult situations, such as a pandemic.

Keywords: quality of life, disability, COVID-19 pandemic, old age, aging, life situation.