

Abstract

The main focus of this diploma thesis is the quality of mentally challenged people's life in the Czech Republic. The quality of their life is being analyzed from various perspectives. The thesis begins with legislation which includes individual spheres from where it's clear that this issue isn't in any law nor regulation comprehensive, but it's included only partly. The explanation and classification of retardation is included for better understanding. The main spheres of focus are following: enrollment of mentally challenged people into education including special schools followed by an assertion on the work market, housing options (especially the positive trend of transition from institutional to individual approach), leisure activities. The thesis includes sensitive topics such as sexual life, motherhood (parenthood) or violence against mentally challenged people as well. Special social work-related methods haven been developed for better cooperation between workers and mentally challenged clients. The thesis also aims on the role of non-governmental non-profit corporations which play a significant role in the work with mentally challenged people. The practical part is included as questionnaires aiming on finding the level of satisfaction of specific mentally challenged clients (as well as the level of satisfaction of the workers) in protected facility called Lemniskáta. From the answers to the questionnaires, it is clear that a mentally challenged person who feels good, gets the point of the work, is part of the collective and also seeks the support from the staff, can feel comfortable, live a "normal" life and have dreams just like other ordinary people.