

ABSTRACT OF THE DIPLOMA THESIS

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Title: The role of occupational therapy in the care system for people with dementia in the Czech Republic

Abstract of the diploma thesis:

The topic of the thesis is the role of occupational therapy in the care system for people with dementia in the Czech Republic. The aim of the thesis is to identify and map the role of occupational therapists in the care system for people with dementia in the Czech Republic. Another aim is to create a detailed and comprehensive depiction and evaluation of the role that occupational therapists play in the care of people with dementia, focusing on their significance within multidisciplinary teams. The final aim is to determine how to adapt the care system for people with dementia in the Czech Republic, given that the number of people with dementia continues to rise.

The thesis is divided into theoretical and practical parts. The theoretical part describes ageing, including the demographics of ageing in the Czech Republic, Europe, and worldwide. Furthermore, the thesis introduces dementia, its diagnosis, symptoms, types, stages of the disease, treatment, and the impact of the disease on daily activities and participation. The third subsection focuses on occupational therapy for people with dementia. In the fourth part, the multidisciplinary team and the importance of the role of the occupational therapist within it are introduced. The last subchapter of the theoretical part analyses the care system for people with dementia in the Czech Republic, including the family system, services for people with dementia, the role of informal caregivers, and strategies and concepts of dementia care ratified by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic.

The practical part focuses on the role of occupational therapy in the care system for people with dementia in the Czech Republic and is conducted in the form of a questionnaire survey. The research took place from October 6th 2023 to February 10th 2024. A total of 352 questionnaires were analysed as part of this research. The author assumes that more than 50 % of respondents will indicate that occupational therapy is an important part of caring for people with dementia. Furthermore, it is assumed that occupational therapy can significantly contribute to improving care for people with dementia when an occupational therapist is part of a multidisciplinary team. The final assumption is that respondents will cite legislative

reasons as the most common reason for the absence of an occupational therapist. The gathered data in this thesis suggest the validity of all hypotheses.

Key words:

occupational therapy, dementia, ageing, limitations, care system, multidisciplinary team