

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis focuses on mothering and caring for a child with severe combined disabilities. It deals with the topic of normative discourses surrounding mothering and disability and analyzes their impact on mother-caregiver. The thesis focuses on how (or whether) mothers-caregivers perceive normative expectations regarding mothering and how those expectations influence their practices. It also focuses on mothers' perception of disability in the context of normative expectations regarding development, appearance and behavior of an individual. Lastly, it also addresses the specifics of mothering and caring for a child with combined disabilities. The aim of the thesis is to describe the influence and impact that normative expectations have on mothering practices, perception of disability and life as such of women. Findings are based on thematic analyses of segmented coded data obtained from six in-depth semi-structured interviews with mothers caring for a child with severe combined disabilities. The analytical part is divided into three segments, each investigating the topic of one research question. The first segment is devoted to the manifestation of normative expectations in the practices of caring mothers. The second part is focused on the perception of disability by mothers-caregivers and lastly the third segment explores the specifics of mothering and caring for a child with severe combined disabilities. All three segments are explored in relation to the implications for mothers' lives.

Keywords

disability, disability studies, societal normative expectations, social norms, division of roles, motherhood, intensive mothering, childcare, the specifics of caring for a child with disabilities

Title

The specifics of mothering and caring for a child with severe combined disabilities with a focus on the perception of the normative discourse of motherhood and child development by the mother-caregiver.