

ABSTRACT

The diploma thesis is focused on experience with self-reflection of social workers who supporting foster families. It is divided into two parts – theoretical and empiric. Aim of the thesis was to find out what kind of experience with self-reflection has social workers of organizations supporting foster families.

The theoretical part has five chapters. The first chapter shows to readers what profession of a social worker is about – at first it looks at social work in context of helping professions, then it defines expert studies, abilities, and personality of social worker, and it also mentions possible motivation for working in this field. The second chapter brings topic of foster care and a definition of supporting; it describes supporting organizations for foster families and role of social worker in it. In the third chapter there can be found definition of self-reflection (in narrow meaning it brings nearer parts of self-reflection such as self-approach, self-knowledge, or self-regulation); further there can be found consideration of what importance self-reflection has for social workers and which tools to reach it they can use. The fourth chapter is aimed at view of influence which can affect self-reflection, such as emotion of worker, projection, topic of power and powerlessness, work with barriers, syndrome of helper, and syndrome of burning out. The fifth chapter of the theoretical part tries to define term of experience.

The empiric part is dedicated to methodology frame of the research. It describes qualitative method which was used – interpretative phenomenology analysis, and a select group – eight accompanying workers for foster parents; it advises how data of respondents were gained and compiled, and it brings results of research survey. The results are summarized in discussion and conclusion chapters; in the same chapters the author also addresses whether the aim of the thesis was fulfilled.

Key words

Self-reflection, social worker, foster family supporting organization, foster care, experience