

ABSTRACT

The topic of this diploma thesis is communication in adult clients with autism and its systematic support. The text itself consists of two main parts: theoretical and empirical.

The theoretical part is further divided into four chapters which deal with the basic concepts of autism spectrum disorders and communication. In these chapters, autism spectrum disorders are analysed from the viewpoint of historical development, etiology, classification and symptomatology with regard to the manifestation of ASD in adulthood. The chapters which deal with the topic of communication first define communication as such and the important terms associated with it, and then describe the specific abnormalities that may occur in the communication of people with autism spectrum disorder. They also provide support options that can be used to communicate with people with ASD.

The practical part is then conceived as a qualitative research whose main aim is to describe the communication of people with autism spectrum disorder, to show its specifics and to describe the intervention that was introduced in five individual subjects. In accordance with the main objective, partial objectives and research questions were set. The research part describes the environment in which the research took place and provides five case studies of adults with ASD diagnosis. The conclusion summarizes the results of the research and offers recommendations for further development of communication.

KEY WORDS

autism spectrum disorders, communication, impaired communication ability, verbal communication, non-verbal communication, speech therapy, adulthood, supported housing