

## **ABSTRACT**

In this bachelor's thesis, I deal with the experiences of parents whose descendants were diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia.

At the beginning of the theoretical part, I first describe several points of view which can be used when referring to psychotic states: a diagnostic perspective, non-diagnostic perspectives, and an anti-diagnostic perspective. Subsequently, I cover the diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia both from the medical point of view, through its diagnostic manifestations, progressive forms and possibilities of treatment, and as a factor significantly affecting the quality of life. Furthermore, I focus on attitudes, emotions, behavioral patterns and needs of the parents of the diagnosed descendants. The theoretical part of the thesis is concluded with a chapter concerning with various options of psychosocial support for a family system one of whose members has got an experience with a psychotic episode.

The empirical part is focused on the experiences of parents whose descendants were given the diagnosis in the age of fifteen or later. I conducted eight in-depth semi-structured interviews and for analyzing the obtained data I used the open coding method. As instances of the topics that the parents from my research sample reflected repeatedly, I would mention the disrespectful psychiatrists' behaviour towards parents of the diagnosed ones; the parental subjectively perceived lack of information, provided by the medical staff, on the specifics of the diagnosis of their offspring; and the unavailability of field care services and respite care services. Given the ongoing reform, which aims to improve the quality of the Czech psychiatric care, it would be convenient to explore the situation of parents of the diagnosed offspring across the whole republic, so the system is able to flexibly respond to the parental needs.

## **KEYWORDS**

diagnosis, paranoid schizophrenia, parents, experiences