

Abstract

The bachelor work „Ashrams in the Czech Republic: expansion or fighting for survival?“ is about ashrams in the Czech Republic which are defined as spiritual centers with origin in Hinduism religion- social system. The article is based on qualitative research based on qualitative interviews. The first part of the article includes some sociological views on religion and surveys a position of religion in west and Czech society. The second part describes the phenomena of ashrams, which act as places for physical and mental rest and offer suitable conditions for personal spiritual progress. Ashrams work under non- profit- organizations. The personality of guru played an important role when founding ashrams. Guru represents hinduistic, yogic or buddhistic style of life. The article is finding common characterizations to all ashrams and inspects reasons for their existence in the Czech Republic. That is to offer an alternative way of life to the modern one in our society. The article is making an effort to find an evolution curve common to all ashrams. The work tries to find out whether ashrams intend to expand and spread their ideology or they just exist with no such purpose.