

Abstract

The diploma thesis “Media Representation of Female Doctors’ Status in the Czech Republic” focuses on how the media reflects the trend of feminization in medicine. It discusses what aspects affecting the female doctors’ status are accentuated by the media and whether the media representation of female doctors’ status in mainstream and professional media differs. Indeed, surveys show that female doctors in the Czech Republic face discrimination due to persistent negative stereotypes about the unsuitability of women particularly in surgical fields. They are disadvantaged due to the assumption of pregnancy and career interruption due to motherhood (Stieranková & Veselská, 2020). Using grounded theory (Strauss & Corbinová, 1999), this study qualitatively analyzes articles dealing comprehensively with female doctors’ status in the Czech Republic. It takes into consideration articles that have appeared in Czech mainstream and professional media in printed or electronic versions approximately over the last eleven years. The time frame is explained and justified in the thesis.

A subsequent analysis of the articles found no significant difference in the media representation of the female doctors’ status in mainstream and professional media. The vast majority of the analyzed articles reflected the female doctors’ status as discriminated against and the media used arguments mainly in favor of female doctors. Using paradigm model procedures, this thesis identifies five main categories and aspects that were emphasized in the media: the disadvantaged female doctors’ status, the feminization of health care, negative stereotypes and prejudices against female doctors, the critical state of Czech health care, and strategies on how to improve the female doctors’ status. However, it became clear that the media paid more attention to the age factor (generally poor working conditions, especially for young doctors) than to the gender factor in the overall volume of articles concerning the conditions of doctors, which corresponds with previous findings that women receive less attention in the media.