

**Abstract:**

The diploma thesis focuses on the role of school assistants in selected kindergarten and elementary school. Unlike teaching assistants, school assistants are not the pedagogical staff at the school. The main aim of the diploma thesis was to find out whether school assistants perform the required job position stated by the project program. Furthermore, I wanted to find out whether school assistants have the same job description and same working conditions as teaching assistants. The last research question helped me to find solutions for improving current role of school assistants in kindergarten and elementary schools and thus making their role more effective.

In the theoretical part, I consider other job positions of an assistant besides the job position of a school assistant, and address terms related to today's inclusive education. I discussed special educational needs, support measures, advisory services, as well as methodical guidance of assistants and the classroom climate.

In the practical part, I examine the true role of school assistants in comparison with the job descriptions set by the operation programme. I also compared their role with the role of teaching assistants at selected kindergarten and elementary school. In the discussion, I propose solutions how to improve the job position of school assistants, so that they can truly support children and pupils endangered with failure at school. I chose qualitative research for the empirical part of the thesis. I've conducted semi-structured interviews with school assistants and teaching assistants and used open coding for the interviews in order to analyse the collected data. The qualitative research enabled me to capture the subjective feelings from school assistants and teaching assistants about their roles.

The findings from the research show that the true job description of school assistants at the selected schools is different compared to the required job description stated by the operated programme. I've assessed the roles of school assistants and teaching assistants through sub-objectives. I wanted to find out in which ways were their roles different. I found that the biggest difference between school assistants and teaching assistants is that school assistants have more flexibility and variability in their work than teaching assistants. In the conclusion, I summarize the findings and propose solutions that could improve current roles of school assistants.