Abstract

The diploma thesis examines the changes in intergenerational solidarity and the form of care provided by informal caregivers to elderly individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rapidly changing situation around COVID-19 was captured through a planned but ultimately unrealized longitudinal panel design, which would have allowed capturing its dynamic nature. The method of data collection for the research was a questionnaire survey. In-depth interviews were conducted with a selected sample of participants, including caregivers and elderly recipients of care. These interviews took the form of semi-structured interviews, allowing flexibility in exploring relevant aspects. The collected qualitative data were analysed using content analysis. Despite the unrealized plan, the thesis provides a comprehensive view of the changing intergenerational solidarity during the pandemic. Findings revealed that the pandemic influenced intergenerational solidarity among caregivers and elderly recipients. Shared perceptions and concerns led to higher levels of solidarity. Isolation did not necessarily weaken solidarity, as many families used digital technologies to maintain connections and support. Additionally, intensive care contributed to higher intergenerational solidarity and engagement. Respondents demonstrated altruism by providing care to their loved ones despite the limitations and risks associated with the pandemic.