

RESUME (ABSTRACT)

Sheltered living is quite recent service. It occurred as an alternative to services of institutional care that was being the most common service until early 90's. Nowadays this service is suitable complement to the range of other existing services for mentally disabled people. It helps to improve their situation in the society. This thesis is reflecting experience resulting from the practise in DUHA (a nonprofit organization) providing sheltered living care.

The thesis is divided into five main parts. Each of them is trying to outline some important aspects of a mental disability problematic.

The first part is applying to general aspects of the topic (mental disability) as well as to its socially conditioned specifics. Social status of mentally disabled people is influenced by stereotypes. The actual trend of caring for handicapped people is very closely connected with a problematic of their personal rights.

The second part of this thesis is summing up the most important documents and rules of law which are being applied within both, national and international law.

Presentation of several concrete institutions in the Prague region and the introduction of services they provide is a main topic of the third part of my thesis.

Since the consecutive services (its variety and quality) are playing very important role in social integration process of mentally disabled, information regarding this are also included as an integral component of the theoretical part.

My thesis is closed by a presentation of information obtained from employees of Lata, mentally disabled people visiting this organization and their parents. They were interviewed and attitudes and opinions of all those respondents were interpreted.

The empiric part of this thesis is data evaluation acquired from all respondents answering questions regarding methodics, complaints solving, consecutive services, working conditions of employees, justice innovations, financial aspects, rights-abidingness, satisfaction with a services provided and its flexibility. The interpretations point out that there are some needs for changes such as (for example) better contingency between the theoretical base and practical aspects in every day live of mentally disabled people.

Sheltered living is a kind of service that is playing irreplaceable role along the services destined for mentally disabled people. It is an alternative most suitably following the integration principle.