Abstract

The thesis explores the benefits and risks of host care for children growing up in institutional care, specifically in children's homes, from the perspective of social workers from child protection services (OSPOD). The aim of the thesis is to map their experiences with this form of care, evaluate its perceived impact on children, and identify key factors influencing its success or failure.

The theoretical part defines key concepts related to alternative family care, institutional care, and host care, and outlines relevant psychological and legal aspects. The practical part is based on qualitative research carried out through semi-structured interviews with four social workers employed in departments of child protection services.

The findings suggest that host care can have a positive impact on children, particularly in the areas of emotional bonding, self-confidence, and social skills. At the same time, the research highlights risks associated with insufficient preparation of hosts, the lack of a clearly defined system, and the potential disruption of a child's relational stability. The thesis emphasizes the need for a stronger legislative and methodological framework for host care, along with better support and preparation for all parties involved.