

TITLE:

Changes in life quality of persons with mental disability on the back-ground of Vincentinum

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ABSTRACT:

Quality of life is a positive value for persons with mental disability. Their limited intellectual abilities change their understanding of life quality comparing with other people. Although they have capability of certain rationale overview, it involves stronger emphasis on emotional aspects of everyday experienced events.

The meaningful work is of specific importance for their experiencing. It was shown that working activities can be realized in two ways: i) by working education focused on evaluable results of purpose-focused work and ii) by working “therapy”. The latter has obtained specific forms in Vincentinum: We developed working “therapy” either as real working rehabilitation or as a moto-pedagogic form of working education.

In general, three different lines (medical, pedagogical and social-charitable) can be distinguished in working education with validity wider than for Vincentinum.

Working education, or more precisely, therapy, is a principal element of each educative support of people with mental disabilities. This can be demonstrated by developmental changes of special institutes, e.g. Ernestinum and Vincentinum, before 1st World War, during scientizing of the care between two world wars and in full-of-contradiction development after 1948.

Orientation on working activities of “charges” – “clients” led to development of sophisticated system of gardening and arranging works in Vincentinum.

This orientation of care was compared with principles of Kiphard’s moto-pedagogy and was verified in practice.

KEYWORDS:

Quality of life, mental disability, Vincentinum, working “therapy”