

Abstract

My diploma thesis is called *The Palliative Care of Dying People with Intellectual Disabilities in Sheltered Housing*. The purpose of the text is to create an overview study of palliative care about dying people with mental disabilities. The reason why I have decided to focus on such a relevant issue is a wide shortage of information in Czech Republic compared to other countries. People with mental disabilities nowadays tend to live longer and the question of palliative care for them is crucial. My thesis is divided into six main sections. In the first section I talk about the ethics dilemma of palliative care. By ethics dilemma I mean problems that are needed to be dealt with in palliative care. One of them is the decision if it is adequate to die in an institution or in a home environment. In this section for instance it is described if it is necessary to tell the truth the patients about their health conditions. The text is also referring to the medical advances comparing to quality of life of dying people. I also describe what the quality of life means to people and how to reach the highest level of quality of life in palliative care. In the second part of my thesis I describe the social, health and other services which are suitable for dying people and their relatives. Most of the named services are also suitable for people with mental disabilities. The third part of my thesis is dedicated to the sheltered housing. I describe what sheltered houses are and what type of sheltered houses are available. The fourth part of my thesis is dedicated to my exploration in this area. In my thesis I also talk about people with mental disabilities in general. This part is in chapter five. The sixth part of my thesis is paying attention to palliative care of people with mental disabilities. I talk about the crucial role of the mourning process and the role of grieving with people with mental disabilities. Afterwards I cover with writing a specific reactions of people with mental disabilities during the mourning process. I describe what is important to do when the people with mental disabilities are confronted with a death loss. In the text there is also a part about the role of meaningful rituals after a death loss. In the main chapter I am talking about appropriate and inappropriate behavior to grieving people with mental disabilities as well. For instance I suggest what is necessary to say to grieving people or what is inappropriate to say in situations like this. Last but not least I pay attention to the caring staff in sheltered houses. The aim of the whole text is to help the caring staff in sheltered houses to provide as much support to grieving people with mental disabilities as possible.