ABSTRACT

Master thesis titled Parents’ reaction to a birth of a child with a disability deals with the process of coping with a birth of a disabled child and strategies that can help the family. In the first chapter, the function of a family and roles of parents in comparison with families with disabled children were defined. Reactions of parents when a disabled child is born in comparison with reactions of other social groups is discussed in second chapter. Third chapter focuses on factors which can help the parents to cope with the aforementioned situation. The last fourth chapter then depicts five families that shared their individual stories. The thesis also describes specific phases of dealing with difficult life situations including children born with disabilities. The thesis aims to analyse how parents reacted to birth of disabled child and which factors helped them to accept this reality. A research method in the form of an interview has been used. A confirmation of the hypothesis and thus achieving the thesis goal has been achieved by means of evaluation of answers from five respondents. The results have shown that such a childbirth is an unexpected situation for the parents, followed by a shock. The parents also have negative experience with doctors when delivering the diagnosis. Specific suggested recommendations are therefore aimed at appropriate ways of delivering the diagnosis to the parents. The theoretical summary of this problematics supplemented by the testimonies of female respondents may be considered a main contribution of the thesis to the whole problematics.

KEYWORDS

Birth of child with disability, reaction of parents, coping with difficult situations, interview, early intervention, resilience, coping strategies.