

Abstract

My diploma thesis deals with issues of gender relations and the construction of identities of lived experiences of parents caring for a child (children) with a chronic illness. For my qualitative research, I have chosen the method of semi-structured interviews with both parents of the child (children). Subsequent analysis of the data in this empirical study examines the way in which care for a child with chronic illness affects, due to its demanding character, gender relations and whether it leads to more balanced gender relations or vice versa. I also deal with the process of identifying both parents in the day care of a child with chronic illness in the context of a combination of paid work and home care and children. In my work, I see how my communication partners are conceptualizing the chronic illness of the child as a differentness and the care of a child with a chronic illness as a burden. I focus on the emotional plane of parenthood and also analyze the processes of negotiation within different institutions (health and education organizations, state authorities).

Key words:

Chronic illness, child, parenthood, differentness, burden, care, gender relations