

Abstract

Volunteering is a phenomenon that appeals to researchers, representatives of international institutions and governments in some countries, as a tool of social policy. Current research shows positive benefits of volunteering for the society but also for volunteers themselves. In this context, a new phenomenon, called inclusive volunteering, is emerging, which emphasizes that volunteering is open to all people in the society. At present, however, this phenomenon is not fully elucidated and researches that examine volunteering from the point of view of volunteers themselves, when considering inclusive volunteering, are very rare. The presented work aims to fill in the missing knowledge and thus contribute to the recognition of the phenomenon of volunteering through research of the previously very little known group of volunteers with a disability. The research sample consists of 27 volunteers with a disability who were interviewed. The interviews were analysed by the Strauss and Corbin's theory. The research has revealed that volunteers with a disability are experiencing a lack of social participation due to the absence of a socially valuable social role. The absence of a social role encourages the search for a new socially valuable social role that the volunteers with a disability find in volunteering. The comparison of research results with available literature has confirmed that in this case the volunteer role prevents one's deterioration process. The volunteer activity of people with a disability is thus a significant pro-inclusive tool and the phenomenon of inclusive volunteering itself reflects the current attitudes of the society to a marginalized group of people.

Keywords: Volunteering; Inclusion; Inclusive volunteering; Anchored theory; Social role