

ABSTRACT

This doctoral dissertation's topic is mourning in people with intellectual disabilities who have lost a loved one. The research focuses mainly on the loss of parents, but also includes the loss of other people, such as grandparents. By loss we mean death, but the results of the work can also be used for losses of a different nature. The aim of this work is to understand grief in people with intellectual disabilities and to suggest appropriate ways to support their grieving process, with emphasis on grief support groups. As part of the research, we set up and implemented 2 support groups for grieving people with intellectual disabilities, each lasting at least 2 months and meeting once a week. At the very beginning of our research, we carried out one support group of the same length as a pilot study. The pilot study was first evaluated and the proposal of the support group according to the original foreign script was modified to better meet the needs of Czech citizens with intellectual disabilities. After the pilot study, we enriched the research with a questionnaire test of our own design, capturing a possible change in process of mourning in people involved in our support groups. We presented the questionnaire test to the participants before the start of the support groups and immediately after the end, with the intention of capturing the influence of group participation on their mourning process. The second level of research is a questionnaire survey in homes for people with intellectual disabilities and sheltered housing and its problem was the readiness of workers to provide quality support to grieving people with intellectual disabilities (ie we examined their abilities, skills, knowledge and experience) and we also examined their perception of mourning in people with intellectual disabilities (ie what their opinions and attitudes are). At the same time, we described the profile of the involved workers and organizations working with people with intellectual disabilities. We conducted the survey in all regions of the Czech Republic. We developed the research using a mixed research method combining both qualitative and quantitative research strategy. The research was supported for 2018 and 2019 by the Grant Agency of Charles University (project no. 1036218).

Keywords

Intellectual disability, grief, mourning, loss, death, grief support group, supported mourning