

Annotation

The bachelor thesis deals with the problems of family coexistence in families with a handicapped child. It discusses how the disability of the child manifests itself in the life of the family as a whole and in the lives of every single family member. The first part presents actual findings about families with a child with disability, submits both negative and positive impacts of such coexistence on individual family members, namely on parents, siblings and grandparents. Subsequently it introduces a system approach to studying a family, which understands the family as a complex comprised of interacting units. The research reveals that order and organization in the light of time and division of labor or responsibilities are important factors in the life of such families. On that account it is necessary to define individual family roles properly, which helps ensuring stability and functionality of a family system. Further it comes to conclusion that due to the presence of a handicapped child, changes in the organization of the family system occur; the child turns into a sort of a family center to which others adapt. A child with disability occupies a special status of 'member - non member', because it can be situated neither into basic family subsystems nor into subsystems based on gender. The research shows that the identity of disability is superior to that of gender.