

Summary

The thesis explores authority of a contact worker in low-threshold facilities for children and youth. The first part deals with the definition of authority in general and its insertion in today's context. So called relativism of authority is described in the thesis and its impact on contemporary youth. Rejection of formal authorities led to the need to work with authority differently. Formation of low-threshold facilities for children and youth reflected this need.

The second part deals with two basic concepts which are applied in low-threshold facilities. These are Salesian pedagogy and the concept of identity work. By comparing these two concepts we get the form of authority a contact worker should have. The goal of this thesis is to bring impetus to the debate on forms of authority in new centres, such as low-threshold facilities for children and youth.