

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the specifics of adolescent identity (18 – 19 years) and growing up in long-term foster care in the Czech Republic. The purpose of this study is to describe how the adolescents in foster care see and think of themselves. The theoretical part focuses on the developmental period of adolescence with its outstanding characteristics. It also discusses the theories of identity and foster care in the Czech Republic. In addition, the newest studies related to the topic are covered. The goal of the practical part is to describe the forms of identity with their significant components. The main method includes semi-structured interviews and questionnaires.

The results of the research show, that there is a strong attachment of the adolescents in foster care to their social environment (mainly to the foster parent, but also to other reference groups), through which these persons see themselves. Foster family plays an important role in the life of adolescents because they feel thankful for the care of their substitute carers. This research also discovered some significant differences in gender, e.g. different forms of attachment, adolescent subcultures, their opinion of friendship etc. In the thesis, these essential results and others are compared with the appropriate theories which contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the above mentioned topic.