

## **Abstract**

**Title:** The importance of risk for the empowerment of individuals with mental disabilities and the possibility of taking in DZR Terezin

**Objectives:** The aim of this paper is to examine the phenomenon of risk-taking and its importance in the process of empowerment of persons with mental disabilities in social services.

**Methods:** In empirical research we were surveyed employee attitudes DZR Terezin to the issue of risk in social services. In the first part of the research was to look at the views and attitudes of social workers employed form questionnaire (Lepešková, 2013) in a group of 22 employees - women with a mean age of 46 years. The second part of the research were semi-structured interviews with staff enabling deeper qualitative analysis of the problem. Talks with 7 employees participated. 6 women and 1 man. The recording was used edited form an interview.

**Results:** The survey both methods show that the respondents as one of the most important tasks when working with the risks and support to people deemed to support their independence. The aim is to get clients to the extent possible, make their own decisions about their own lives. An essential element in this process is considered self-management. The client does not passively wait to social service workers determine what to do and what will follow, but rather has to decide the extent possible, to actively participate. Workers must be able to evaluate whether the risk of the activity with the client reasonable. Interviewees agreed that the process of empowerment is important to allow independent decision regarding freedom of movement, employment and contacts with persons of the opposite sex. On the other hand, most preferred restrictions of drinking. According to the questionnaire and conducted interviews with workers DZR Terezin positive approach resulted in the majority of the respondents to take risks when working with individuals with mental disabilities.

**Keywords:** empowerment, mental disability, work with risk, residential services, documentation work and risk attitudes and dilemmas of social service workers