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**An institution of emergency care and education as an environment conditioning the quality of its wards' lives**

**SUMMARY**

The dissertation *An institution of emergency care and education as an environment conditioning the quality of its wards' lives* aims to analyse some of the factors of the foster environment life which, in the context of researching the quality of wards' lives, an institution of emergency care and education is. The analyse of problems needed a wide and interdisciplinary theoretically base. Some of the issues apply to the way the institutions of emergency care and education work, they are also a part of a complicated system of supporting a family and foster care. For children and teenagers from families experiencing a crisis, an institution of emergency care and education forms a living environment, an organized space to live in. Its functioning determines some legal documents however, it is differentiated in many aspects of individual factors. In this way, it is assumed that the sense of quality of wards could be varied.

The analyse of an institution of emergency care and education as an environment of life which, factors condition the quality of wards' lives, has an interdisciplinary character and it is placed on the edge of social education – mainly it takes into account the elements of care education, education as an institution, social work, social policy as well as psychology of life quality.

The dissertation consists of six chapters. The first three chapters form a theoretical introduction. The issues analysed refer to orphanhood as a social and educational problem. Moreover, the theory of John Bowlby characterizing some disorders in orphans' behaviour were presented. One of the most important issues for searching ways of organizing care activities for orphans was included in the work, some characterizing rules of forming safe educational basis in the area of institutional care presented in Gillian Acheson and Mary Beek's studies were used. In the theoretical parts of the analyse some issues of quality of life and implication between the environment of children and teenagers' functioning and their quality of lives were described. What is more, the determinants of quality of orphans'

lives were portrayed. In the fourth chapter, concerning methodological basis research, a method of quantitative research was described to get to know the quality of lives of wards living in institutions of emergency care and education to analyse the factors of the environment of such institutions influencing the quality of lives. The aim and subject of the research was presented in this chapter too, together with problems and ways of organizing such research. The last two chapters include the presentation of reached results.

The material was gathered thanks to some tools, such as a questionnaire KIDSCREEN-52 for children and teenagers at the age of 8 – 18 and an authorial questionnaire for researching institutions of emergency care and education for workers of such institutions. The analyse of some of the factors of institutions of emergency care and education was made on the base of some documents, real talks with wards and workers of the institutions, after inspection documents from inspection conducted in institutions by relevant voivodship offices and on the basis of participated observation. The conclusion includes conclusions and recommendations together with annexes.

The conducted research can contribute to the way of extending the knowledge of lives' conditions and judging the quality of ward's lives in the institutions of emergency care and education during an important period of transforming the system of foster care. The most elementary phenomena and facts connected with the quality of wards' lives were recognized and described. The formal and legal analysis of organizing an institutional care environment of compensatory character was performed. The process of conducting the research in the area has an influence to work out some practical conclusions in the subject of improving the quality of wards' lives in the part of institutional foster care. The research lead to getting the knowledge about how and in what way the institutions of emergency care and education influence the quality of children and teenagers' lives through creating and transforming the educating environment. One should pay attention to the fact that the category of the quality of life in foster care is significant too. The obtained results helped to define in detail the conditions determining the quality of wards' lives in institutions of emergency care and education. On the basis of the analysis some proportions of the quality of life in which wards achieved higher and lower scores could be distinguished. The highest indexes of the quality of lives the wards achieved in the area of perceiving oneself and one own physical and psychological condition. The lowest scores the wards achieved in the areas connected with social functioning, interpersonal relations, motivation to take

actions. The most alarming scores are of those children and teenagers whose mental condition is very low and whose quality of life is low as well. However, on the basis on the carried out research it could be declared that wards achieved definitely higher scores that the indexes of the quality of life assumed.

**The key words:** the quality of life, an institution of emergency care and education, the factors of a life environment, a safe care and education base.