

XI. STRESZCZENIE W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM

SELECTED ASPECTS OF FUNCTIONING OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH DAMAGED HEARING

It is estimated that as many as 250 million people worldwide have serious hearing problems. In developed countries, there are approximately 10-13 per cent of people affected by severe hearing, and in Poland, according to various sources, there are approximately 50 thousand deaf people (severe and deep hearing damage), approximately 800-900,000 hearing impaired people (moderate hearing impairment) and around 3 million people with mild hearing impairment.

The main objective of the study was to assess selected problems in the functioning of a family with a child with a damaged hearing organ. The specific objectives included assessment of the parents' everyday problems, their quality of life, life satisfaction, strength of the general conviction in the effectiveness of coping with difficult situations and obstacles, the expected type and strength of support from specific social groups, the quality of marriage and any differences between the spouses.

The following research hypotheses were also put forward: 1. Parents have huge problems with raising a child with hearing impairment and finding ways to solve these difficulties, with fathers perceiving these problems as bigger ones than mothers. 2. At the news of a child's hearing impairment, parents felt mainly shock, anxiety and fear, mothers more often than fathers. 3. Both parents are of the opinion that the birth of a child with a hearing impairment has changed the behavior and organization of family life. 4. Parents of children with hearing impairment know sign language. 5. Mothers and fathers of children with hearing impairment similarly assessed their life quality. 6. Mothers and fathers of children with hearing impairment similarly assessed their satisfaction with life. 7. Mothers' level of basic hope was higher than that of fathers'. 8. Mothers demonstrate a higher level of self-efficacy. 9. Both parents were of the same opinion that the co-spouse provided them with the greatest support. 10. Satisfaction with the marriage was rated higher by mothers than fathers.

The study was conducted in a group of 106 families (mother and father) in which one or more children had a hearing impairment after having obtained the permission of the Bioethical Committee R-I-002/335/2015 of the Medical University of Białystok and 17 establishments which maintain contact with the child with a damaged hearing organ.

The study used the diagnostic survey method, namely author's own survey questionnaire, Family Affluence Scale (FAS), the standardized abbreviated World Health Organization Quality of Life questionnaire (WHOQOL-BREF), standardized Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) by Diener, Emmons, Larson, Griffin, in the Polish adaptation by Juczyński, standardized General Self-Efficiency Scale (GSES) by Schwarzer, Jerusalem, Juczyński, standardized Social Support Scale by Kmiecik-Baran, standardized Good Marriage Questionnaire (KDM-2) by Plopa, Rostkowski and standardized Basic Hope Questionnaire (BHI-12) by Trzebiński and Zięba.

The following conclusions were made based on the conducted research:

1. Problems of raising a child with hearing impairment, maintaining contact with him and organizing family life were perceived more frequently by mothers rather than fathers; the perception was statistically significant.
2. No statistically significant differences were found in the opinions of the surveyed mothers and fathers as regards assessment of access of deaf people to social life, however, mothers had a better perception of activity in professional life.
3. Mothers of children associated happiness with family values, whereas fathers related it to permanent work and high earnings.
4. Only in the psychological sphere differences (approaching the level of statistical significance) in the assessment of life quality were found between mother and father.
5. No statistically significant differences were found in the level of life satisfaction of mothers and fathers.
6. Mothers showed a higher sense of basic hope, and fathers had a higher sense of self-efficacy.
7. There were no statistically significant differences between the mother's and father's assessment of spousal support or of support of an immediate family and a social worker; differences were shown in the perception of friends' emotional support, psychologist's information, emotional and general support, support in all categories except for value-based support provided by medical staff, teachers' information support and surdopedagogue's information, instrumental and emotional support.
8. It was shown that there is an impact of the spousal support and relatives on the assessment of life quality in all spheres as well as friends' support in the psychological and social sphere and in the somatic and environmental spheres to a lesser extent; information support was found on the part of medical staff in the social and psychological spheres, teacher's information support in the social, psychological and

environmental spheres and teacher's emotional and general support in the emotional sphere as well as the teacher of the deaf's information support in the psychological and social spheres and the teacher of the deaf's instrumental support in the somatic sphere.

9. The quality of life of the parents surveyed was not differentiated by the level of support from a psychologist and social worker.

The higher the quality of parents' life was, the higher they rated their life satisfaction, their self-efficacy and marriage quality (except for the somatic domain), but the correlations were rather weak.

The obtained results allowed the development of guidelines to facilitate the preparation of parents for national care of the child with hearing impediment.