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**Taking care of children with severe disabilities at home
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Taking care of children with severe disabilities at home – a risk factor and a chance in personal development

Aleksandra Kroll

Abstract

In my paper I would like to elaborate on the subject of family caregivers providing for both mentally and physically disabled children at home. The families carrying for these particular group of patients are in a specially difficult circumstances because from an economical point of view they are doing work which will not have any profitable effects in the future.

The problem of family carers is widely elaborated during recent years mainly because of the phenomenon of so called ageing society. The area of caregiving families of disabled children is less researched. One of the most frequently discussed topic in the context of disabled children caregiving is the caregiver's burden, the risk of burnout or so called third party disability.

Little is known about the possible positive responses and outcomes from the act of caring for other person at home. I would like to show that in the view of current knowledge regarding caregiving many areas of their involvement should be assessed as valued not only for themselves but also for the society as a whole. Most importantly I will try to show that caring for someone can also be a way of human growth's nourishment.

The main goal of my studies is to get a better understanding of the real situation of the families where at least one of the children is permanently mentally and physically disabled and cared at home. The literature review was conducted to assess the current scientific knowledge on the topic of family caregivers' situation. I conducted a research in Poland among members of the families providing care for their disabled children at home. Participants were asked to answer questions from a survey and solve a set of psychological questionnaires. They also took part in individual interviews.

I would like to present conclusions from the literature review as well as the research results. The family members' answers will be presented as well as some insights on the factors and circumstances which turned out to be helpful and enabled the carers to provide the best care for their children in their own homes.

I will also show how to handle the caregivers' burden and potential risk factors as well as chances and opportunities of their non-typical life circumstances.

Full Paper

See Book: "People, Care and Work in the Home"

<https://homerenaissancefoundation.org/resource/people-care-and-work-in-the-home/>