

Abstract

Main interest of my thesis is to describe the hikikomori phenomenon within its complex contexts which will reflect the development, course and experience of voluntary social isolation in its extreme. According to the needs of an isolated individual, I will describe the relationship of the phenomenon to social work. With regard to its specifics, My aim is to evaluate social services and methods which could be suitable for cooperation with hikikomori.

My bachelor's thesis is divided into several chapters that are gradually describing aspects related to the subjective need to isolate oneself from society. First part of my work will be focused on a general description of the phenomenon and its expansion nowadays. In the second part of the thesis, I will deal with the interpretation of Japanese cultural identity and the functioning of Japanese society. Next chapter will be focused on the knowledge of modern developmental psychology, describing utmost differences, specific features and the hikikomori lifestyle in general. My focus will also tend to describe possible connection to education and the accent on personal performance, that is typical for modern era. I will bestow upon the influences causing a long-term isolation and describe its most significant effects to life quality. Final chapter is dedicated to proposing suitable cooperation procedures and social services that might help with process of reintegration into society and improve average life standards of an isolated person.