

ABSTRACT

This bachelor's thesis examines motherhood in women with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The aim of the thesis is to explore how mothers with autism spectrum disorder experience motherhood.

The theoretical part of the thesis is divided into three main chapters. The first chapter introduces autism spectrum disorder, its definition, manifestations, and autism spectrum disorder in women. The second chapter focuses on the topic of motherhood, its basic definition, and selected psychological and interpersonal aspects. The last chapter deals with motherhood in women with ASD and presents the results of previous research on this topic.

The empirical part of the thesis describes the conducted qualitative research. The research goal, main research question, and five sub-research questions were determined. The research was conducted through semi-structured interviews with five mothers with autism spectrum disorder. The collected data were analysed using the method of thematic analysis. Four main themes emerged from the interviews with the participants: me as a mother, relationship with the child, challenges of motherhood, and support in motherhood. Each theme included several sub-themes. The research findings indicate that motherhood is challenging for women with ASD, but also brings positive aspects to their lives. It appears that significant factor influencing the experience of motherhood in mothers with ASD is the support they receive. Mothers feel the need for support, but often feel the lack of it.

KEYWORDS

motherhood, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), women with ASD, mother