

Abstract

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Title: Live-in Personal Assistance for Individuals with Quadriplegia

Objectives: The aim of the thesis is to find out if the live-in assistance described below would be in demand by quadriplegics in the Czech Republic and if there would be social service workers who would be interested to do the work following the British model. The outcome of this work could help to improve the quality of care for people with quadriplegia and quality of their life.

Methods: In the research section, a quantitative research analysis is conducted using two surveys of their own design, one for individuals with quadriplegia and another for social service workers. This information will help ascertain whether individuals with quadriplegia in the Czech Republic currently avail themselves of personal assistant services and whether they would be receptive to adopting the widely utilized British Live-in system. The results are supplemented with data from social workers in the Czech Republic who provided information about their interest in performing Live-in assistance through a questionnaire survey.

Results: The first survey involved 284 respondents aged 18-65 years. Within this survey, it was found that social service workers liked the mentioned position of Live-in assistant. They positively evaluated the individual approach, working with only one client, and the diversity of work. However, they had negative opinions about the different working hours, the unattractiveness of the work, and its impact on family life. The second survey involved 42 respondents aged 18-90 years. The author of the thesis found that individuals with quadriplegia had no prior knowledge of Live-in assistance, but they expressed a desire to utilize the service, even if it meant providing accommodation for the assistant.

Keywords: Personal assistant, care assistant, quadriplegia, spinal cord injury.