

Abstract

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to identify and explore the adoption needs of same-sex couples. Same-sex partnership and parenthood is not sufficiently legally secured in the Czech Republic. As a result, homoparental families face several disadvantages of which the majority society is unaware. These include, for example, parental rights and obligations that one of the partners does not have in relation to the child they have in common. The area of adoption has been examined many times from the perspective of both parents and children. Research focusing on same-sex couples tends to look at the impact of this parenting on the upbringing of the child. The goal of this thesis was to explore what kind of needs same-sex couples have in the process, because although these couples are already adopting in the country, many social workers do not have experience with them.

The research method was a questionnaire survey. It included three semi-structured interviews with respondents raising an adopted child in a same-sex couple. These were two gay couples and one lesbian couple. I was interested in how each couple perceived the process, what their sources of support were, what they liked and what they would have liked to experience differently. I explored what needs the couples shared and tried to understand the context of the identified needs through the respondents' previous experiences. The method of data analysis was interpretive phenomenological analysis. One of the key findings of the thesis was that lesbian couples are more inclined towards assisted reproduction rather than adoption because having a biological child is easier for them. The need to have a child emerged for all couples and preceded adoption. For two of the three couples, the decision who would be the applicant and subsequently the legal adopter was pragmatic and mainly dependent on income levels. Both gay couples had a fear of the process that seemed to arise from their previous experience of homophobia. All couples agreed that society perceives mothers and fathers differently.