

ABSTRACT

The aim of the diploma thesis is to understand the experience of psychotherapeutic work with suicidal clients and to identify key themes related to this phenomenon. The sub-objectives are to map the impact on the personal life of psychotherapists and to evaluate the current system of care provided to suicidal clients in the Czech Republic. The qualitative approach was chosen for the research, and the interpretive phenomenological analysis was used to analyse the data collected through semi-structured interviews. The research sample consists of a total of 6 informants who have completed comprehensive postgraduate psychotherapy training and have worked with at least 5 suicidal clients during their career. The theoretical part discusses the epidemiology of suicidality, protective and risk factors of suicidal behaviour, or existing research and defines terminology together with current legislation. In the empirical part, the results are presented from two perspectives. While the first depicts the experiences of individual research participants, the second presents themes relevant to the experience of psychotherapeutic care with suicidal clients that are common to all research subjects. For the purpose of clarity and readability, the identified phenomena of complex experience were divided into 4 basic clusters (Psychotherapeutic Work; Experiencing; Personal Life; System of Care), with 2 phenomena excluded because, as „filters,“ they significantly influence and internally differentiate lived experience (Healthcare X Private Practice; Client Diversity). The main findings are confronted with the results of existing research and theoretical psychological concepts.

Keywords: suicide; suicidal clients; psychotherapist;
interpretative phenomenological analysis