

Abstract

The presented bachelor thesis focuses on describing the strengths and weaknesses of selected systemic aspects of foster care in the Czech Republic, as identified by child protection social workers specializing in foster care field within their own practice at departments of social and legal protection of children at municipalities with extended competence.

This bachelor thesis can be divided into a conceptual part (chapters 2-4) and an empirical part (chapter 5). The second chapter introduces the reader to general structure of the substitute care system in the Czech Republic. This chapter also highlights some strong and weak points of the current configuration of this system, with the aim of highlighting the importance of role and benefits of substitute family care system, particularly against the background of the interpretation of secondary statistical and research data. The third and fourth chapter of this thesis discuss seven selected aspects of foster care system in the Czech Republic which are further elaborated through qualitative research.

The empirical part of the thesis delves into detailing the methodology of the qualitative research conducted in December 2023 in two departments of social and legal protection of children. Furthermore, this part of the thesis focuses on the analysis of data obtained through semi-structured interviews with individual child protection social workers specialized in the field of foster care.

The overarching aim of the research was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the foster care system in the Czech Republic, based on the mapping how child protection social workers critically evaluate individual systemic parameters.

Keywords: substitute care; substitute family care; foster care; guardianship; fostering; education; social protection; social and legal protection of children; child protection social workers; critical reflection

