

Abstract of the doctoral thesis titled: "Creative activity of persons with disabilities and its determinants" Dorota Wyrzykowska-Koda, MA.

It is widely held that an important role in the process of integrating people with disabilities into society, and in finding their own place among the non-disabled, is played by the psychosocial adaptation of those with disabilities, including their feelings of coherence, self-esteem, social support, social adaptation, etc. (Kirenko, Byra, 2008).

That being said, people with disabilities have not lost their ability to feel and experience. In this respect, they are no different from healthy people: they have the same needs and problems, the fulfilment of which is hindered by the objective fact of disability, whose undesirable effects in the psychological, physical, and social spheres can be mitigated in the process of rehabilitation. Considering the rehabilitative values of participation in culture and aligning it with a positive impact on psychological and other capacities, rehabilitation through creative activity – a therapy whose tool is art – is becoming an increasingly used form. Its high popularity as well as interest in artistic activities raises a question as to the value of such activity in shaping the personality and physical capability of people with disabilities.

The numerous popularisation initiatives and the rich activity of organisations supporting and promoting the art of people with disabilities, are accompanied by the yet non-exhaustive interest of researchers concerned with the area. The perspectives presented frame the cultural participation of people with disabilities in quantitative terms; there are usually theoretical solutions focusing on the therapeutic aspect of the process.

This dissertation of a research nature aims to assess selected determinants of psychosocial functioning – to identify interdependencies between the feeling

of coherence, self-esteem, and social support of those people with disabilities engaged in various creative activities.

The principal research problem of this thesis was formulated in the following question: *Whether there exists, and if so, what is the relationship between the creative behaviour of people with disabilities involved in such activities on their psychosocial functioning within the dimensions of: feelings of coherence, self-esteem, and social support?* To answer this question and broaden the knowledge concerning creative behaviour and the above-mentioned personal resources, the method of diagnostic survey was applied. The following research tools were used in the survey process: Questionnaire of Creative Behaviour KANH, S. Popek; the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (SES); the Norbeck Social Support Questionnaire (NSSQ); The Orientation to Life Questionnaire (SOC-29) by A. Antonowski; and the author's Interview Questionnaire.

They all meet the criteria of relevance, reliability, and objectivity. The survey subjects were categorised into four groups: 55 visually impaired persons (blind and visually impaired), 33 hearing impaired persons (hearing impaired and deaf), 50 mobility impaired persons, and 38 persons with mental disorders. The division allowed for a more thorough examination of particular creative behaviours as well as personal resources.

In the course of the research the types of creative behaviours in persons with different types of disability are analysed, as well as their feeling of coherence, self-esteem, and social support. In order to check the meaning of intermediary variables (sex, type of disability) in determining the character of interdependence between particular resources and types of creative attitudes, the single-factor ANOVA analysis of variance was applied.

The arrangement of content in this work emerges from its subject matter, as well as from the attempt made to answer the main research question of the work. The thesis consists of seven chapters.

The three first chapters concern the theoretical aspect of the work; they discuss themes related to the psychosocial functioning of people with disabilities (visual, hearing, motor, mental disorders), the role of selected psychosocial determinants (self-esteem, feeling of coherence, social support) affecting the character of creative activity of people with disabilities, and issues concerning creative activities.

In the fourth chapter, constituting the methodological part of the work, the precise aim is formulated, as well as problems and hypotheses with reasons. Also, the characteristics of the sample surveyed are described in this chapter, comprising the socio-demographic characteristics of the persons surveyed and those issues pertaining to their psychosocial functioning. The research tools and the organisation and conduct of the research process are discussed as well.

In the empirical part of the work (chapters five, six, seven), an analysis of the creative process of the surveyed people was performed. A diagnosis of the types of creative activity of people with disabilities was also conducted and a diagnosis of the personal resources that determine a specific type of creative attitude, i.e. a feeling of coherence, self-esteem, and social support, is presented.

The work concludes with a summary of the research and a discussion of the results.

The answers obtained to the research problem posed may contribute to the broadening of knowledge on the creative activity of adults with disabilities, as well as the impact of personal resources on their general functioning. In practical terms the dissertation may provide guidance to therapeutic and rehabilitation work with adults with visual or hearing disabilities, impaired mobility, or mental disorders.