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New approaches to social protection of the persons with the limited possibilities in Russia: problems and perspectives

The problem of social protection of invalids now is one of the key directions of social policy in Russia. The main focus is on the creation of infrastructure for people with limited opportunities, so call “available environment”, that is a big issue in Russia. But the research data* demonstrates that an infrastructure is a very important, but only one basic aspect of the problem of social integration and social inclusion of invalids that should be the aim of social protection. (1) On the one hand society does not ready to accept the people with limited opportunities in many ways; on the other hand the invalids themselves prefer to keep rather closed community. Among people with limited opportunities the problems of identity connect with not satisfaction of living conditions, with reappraisal of values and lack of motivation for changing life. (2) There are problems of professional and social competence of social workers and others professionals working with invalids. (3) The social welfare policy mainly deals with paying allowance but not with creating the conditions for job placement. At the same time the existing educational system and labor market are not “sensitive” to problems of invalids.

The new approaches to social protection of the persons with the limited possibilities connect with new public image of disable people, the ideology of empowerment in social work, and the interdepartmental interaction in welfare system and social competence of professionals.

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