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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF THE ADULT PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY IN THE PROCESS OF MUSIC THERAPY: THE METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

In the research an issue of social isolation of people with epilepsy is analyzed. The issue is discussed in a relation to the concept of *social participation*, the theoretical framework of which is relational and cultural orientated theoretical perspective. The assumption is made that the application of music therapy focused on the development of *social participation* of people with epilepsy and on their education will have a positive impact on patients‘ quality of life by reducing their social isolation.

In the study quantitative and qualitative research is combined. The latter is going to be discussed in the presentation. The scope of the qualitative research is as follows: to explore the development of the social participation in the music therapy process with a group of adult people affected by epilepsy and to evaluate the impact of the music therapy with the focus defined on the patients‘ social life. Crystallisation the specificity of the application of music therapy in the complex health care of people with epilepsy is expected to support further initiatives in integrating music therapy services into this area and subsequently in reducing social isolation of people with the disease and in promoting their quality of life in Lithuania.

Few methodological aspects of the qualitative research are going to be discussed in the presentation:

1. Gnoseological content of the study. The discussion turns attention to the theoretical framework of the notion of *social participation* as collaborative activity. Theoretical stances supporting this idea are found in the science of sociology and music therapy, in the music therapy related theories of learning, music, cultural psychology. The notion of *participation* is interpreted on the bases of three perspectives, outlined in the community music therapy literature: a) the participation as self representation, b) the participation as co-creation of social space, c) the participation as ritual negotiation (Stige 2010). The integrative conception of self-hood proposed by the researchers orientated to community music therapy tradition (Wood 2006) is playing a crucial role in the study. As well as the theoretical stances of ecological music therapy proclaiming positive impact of music on health (Ruud 1997).
2. The strategy of the research, the methods of data collection and data analysis. The case study research with qualitative foci serves as a basis for the study. It is a naturalistic inquiry (Aigen 1995), data collection of which lies on semi-structured interviews, on observation and on documents‘ collection. Data analysis aims at discovering regularities defined by discerning patterns (Aigen 1995).
3. The potentiality of triangulation. In the context of the study, the potentiality of triangulation is connected with the application of the research methods of inductive grounded theory. A standardized questionnaire, *The Quality of Life in Epilepsy – 89 (QOLIE-89*), serves as an additional measure of the evaluation of the music therapy outcomes.

The authors of the presentation turn their attention to the factor of flexibility of method in qualitative research. The methodology presented is allowed to evolve by (a) accommodating the overlapping stages of the research, (b) allowing for the evolution and openness of the research focus, and (c) generating research method appropriate to the content rather than reverse (Aigen 1995).

References

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