

Mental disability in pedagogical, psychological and social-legally context

VALENTA, M., MICHALÍK, J., LEČBYCH, M. a kol. *Mentální postižení v pedagogickém, psychologickém a sociálně-právním kontextu*. Praha: Grada Publishing, 2012. ISBN 978-80-247-3829-1.

Reviewed by Lenka Czereová

This year there was published a very interesting publication with the title *Mental disability in pedagogical, psychological and social-legally context*. This publication was produced by a team of authors. The main work was managed by Milan Valenta, Jan Michalík and Martin Lečbych. These three experts have been interested in the issues of mental disability for a long time, but each of them has his own look on this branch. Milan Valenta is an expert in the area of special education for people with mental disability, Jan Michalík focuses on legislation of healthy disabled people's position and their discrimination and Martin Lečbych deals with psychological diagnostics, clinical counseling and psychotherapy, especially family therapy. Thanks for their specializations, there come into existence the complete publication. There were other authors, who contributed to this publication: Pavla Baslerová, Božena Doleželová, Jitka Jarmarová, Olga Kulíšková, Oldřich Müller, Magda Navrátilová, Petr Petráš, Jana Petrášová, Alena Petrová, Miroslav Procházka, Eva Stupňáková and Pavel Svoboda.

The book is logically classified from general to specific information. The introduction specializes in conception of mental disability according to commonly used classification systems in the areas of health care, social services and special education and counseling in the Czech Republic.

The publication is divided into two parts. The first part contains four big chapters:

1. *The term of intelligence*
2. *The concept of mental disability and terminology*
3. *The legislation of healthy disabled people's position*
4. *The education, social services and intervention strategy for people with mental disability*

The second part is called *Domains of personal structure of people with mental disability, their diagnostics and rate of special-educational support assessment*. This part

includes a lot of chapters, which are focused on partial sectors which are concerned with mentally disabled people issues. The chapters pursue sensual perception, motor activity, orientation function – time, place and person orientation, intellectual cognitive function, concentration, memory, emotions, adaptability and sociability, aspiration, self operation, family environment, educational scheme – skills, knowledge, habits, hobbies and methodical chapter to consider rate of special-educational support assessment. Each chapter has the same structure – at the beginning there are general information about the domain, its disorders, specifics of people with mental disability, diagnostic and rate of special-educational support assessment. Only the last chapter is little different. It gives the attention to the complete methodology how to define the rate of special-educational support.

In the evaluation of this publication I must mention that I have never met so comprehensive publication through my whole study. This book informs about mental disability from the look of special education, psychology and legacy. It shows the possibilities to readers to make up their own mind on the mental disability issues in its wholeness. But there is also a little disadvantage in several graphs and charts. They are difficult to understand and the reader needs much information that describes them.

I certainly recommend this publication to everybody who is interested in issues of mental disability – expert or layman – everybody can enrich with something new.

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