

Report on the sexual education of Adults with Learning/Intellectual Disabilities

Lithuania

PART A – History and how things are now

1 Brief history of services for adults with learning/intellectual disabilities

It is hard to find any written information about people with learning disabilities before the Second World War. People lived in their homes with parents and were called as the “the third stupid brother”. They were allowed to live “normal” life and to create families.

Just in the Soviet Union was institutionalization and all disabled people were put in long stay hospitals or were kept in their homes, nobody could see disabled person in the street. It was a big shame to carry out disabled child in the street. After 1990 years after Lithuanian Independent day parents were allowed to take out their children from long stay homes or if they wish they could leave them their until they will be 29 year old, and then take them home or put in long stay homes for older people.

We don't have any statistics how many people were moved out of the long stay hospitals.

As shown by the social care home archive material in 1944. from the orphanage No.31 “Isolator” team was organized Vilijampole disabled children home. It should be noted that in 1952. were separated mentally retarded children and healthy. Mentally retarded children have been accommodated in Kaunas, Radvilenu Highway No.21. Mentally normal children were left in the same Apuole street Vilijampolė. Office of children living near the former attended 24 elementary school. Next wishing to continue their education went to the other schools.

In 1960. May. Vilijampole disabled children home reversed the Žaliakalnis mentally retarded children homes. Now for the disabled named “Zaliakalnio disabled children home.” These wheelchairs at home, according to the teachers who worked in S.Šabliauskienės, M. Veal was mostly children - disabled, war victims. Most of them were orphans. These children attended the next four former elementary school (later it was converted into a seven-year 4).

The guesthouse Chronicle noted that 1966. October 25th. completion of the construction of buildings Vilijampolė, Žaliakalnis disabled children moved into the house Apuole street No.11. There are now establishing Kaunas special school - boarding. School - a boarding settles 215 students. Since then, a constant stationary operation, which has not been individually composed of general education and support classes. Here learners and children undergoing treatment efforts were made to provide the most effective

assistance. Each year, about 30 children were sent to “Daisies sanitarium in Druskininkai. 1983. Floor 3 new cases. Two of the appointed medical service improvement. Special School - a boarding school for the good work of the union has been continuously awarded diplomas. This study was about 240 children. The number of children has increased significantly, if only for the fact that here opened stationary. Year after year, there were about 40-50 children. In social care homes or long stay homes people are taught who to write, read or just social skills, it depends on their abilities. All disabled people lived separately men and women they weren't allowed to meet each other or to have any relationships. Till now we don't any legislation which allows disabled people sterilize against there wishes.

Social integration system for the disabled

The social integration system for the disabled comprises provision of medical, professional and social rehabilitation services, provision for special needs using special assistance tools, support to employment of the disabled, social assistance, award and payment of pensions and benefits of the State Social Insurance Fund, award and payment of benefits of the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund, provision of education services, ensuring equal opportunities to participate in cultural, sports and other areas of public life. The Law on Social Integration of the Disabled, which entered into force on 1 July 2005, defined new terms and definitions, modified the methods of disability assessment used for children and adults, stipulated equal rights and opportunities of the disabled in the society thereby bringing closer the social integration model for the disabled to the model used in EU countries.

To implement the provisions of the new Law and ensure high-quality assessment of the level of capacity for work and disability level as well as settlement of disputes concerning the disability level and capacity for work level, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour reorganised, from 1 July 2005, the State Medical Social Expertise Commission under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour by dividing it into the Disability and Capacity for Work Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the Dispute Commission under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

The Service decides on matters concerning:

- the level, cause, time of appearance and period of disability;
- the level, cause, time of appearance and period of capacity for work;
- the need for professional rehabilitation services for individuals under 18 who are (were) covered by state social insurance and individuals over 18;
- the nature and conditions for work of the disabled;
- general initial determination of special needs of the disabled.

The Law on Social Integration of the Disabled pays particular attention to professional rehabilitation. Professional rehabilitation is defined as rehabilitation or improvement of an individual's capacity for work, professional competence and ability to participate in the labour market by using educational, social, psychological, rehabilitation and other measures. There are the following professional rehabilitation services: professional guidance, consultation, assessment, rehabilitation or development of professional skills, re-qualification. Professional rehabilitation is aimed at developing or rehabilitating the capacity for work and improving the possibilities to find work by the disabled. After completion of the professional rehabilitation programme, the Disability and Capacity for Work Service determines the final level of capacity for work. To ensure better support for the special needs of the disabled, the new Law provides a systemic approach to meeting the special needs by using special assistance measures. Special assistance measures are the measures aimed at meeting the special need and ensure equal opportunities for the disabled for education, vocational training, social and full integration into the society. The municipalities are responsible for establishing the level of special needs of the disabled.

Disabled people receive the following general social services: interpretation into the sign language, provision with compensatory equipment, assistants, guides, housing adaptation, transportation, information and consulting, assistance at home, care homes, assistance benefits, meals, provision with basic necessities, etc. Where the general social services are inefficient, people receive special social services. They are provided at fixed and mobile social care and rehabilitation institutions.

Major privileges available for the disabled

Living area

Individuals (families) who were granted soft loans before 31 December 2002 and after 1 January 2003 individuals who developed disability of group 1 or 2 and families that have a disabled family member with disability group 1 or 2 receive a reimbursement of 20 percent of the remaining amount of the loan. A grant for repayment of some of the housing loan is given to borrowers who have disability group 1 or 2 or to families that have a disabled family member with disability group 1 or 2; they receive a reimbursement of 20 percent of the (remaining) amount of the loan. A disabled person or a family with a disabled family member living in the premises rented by the municipality with the useful area per one family member of less than 10 sq. m or 14 sq. m respectively is entitled to improvement of social housing conditions. The lists of disabled people (families) entitled to social housing are compiled according to the date on which the application was registered in the municipality.

Accommodation

People with disabilities who have relatives mostly live at home with their families. People who live in long stay homes, live there from their childhood or even from the birth if parents refuse to take care of their disabled child, or parents are dead. In Lithuania young people with learning/intellectual disabilities who stay in social care homes for disabled children up to 18 years and young people under the age of 29 years old, who have intellectual disabilities and those with chronic mental illness who need social care, special education, building maintenance. And just few years ago started to appear self-sustainable home for disabled people, who doesn't have where to go after the age of 29 year. If you don't have relatives or people who want to take care of you, you don't have home, because all your life spent in social care homes you have just two choices to find place in self – sustainable home or to move to another social care home for old people.

Education

We have "Special education law" 1998 m. December 15 d. No. VIII-969, which says that all people can get education it wants and needs. Office of children living near the former attended 24 elementary school. Next wishing to continue their education went to the other schools. Mental and educational purpose - to help the child to know yourself, objects, environments, through movements. In order to know the environment, where the children should understand and know your body, and the body they can learn through motion perception through the senses, is running a variety of stimuli. Working in the mental office with significant disabilities children aims to normalize the sensitivity of the body, to understand and know your body, in part, to develop muscle functions, develop hand coordination and varied movements, coordination and general small-scale motility.

The disability in these children's homes, not every student can sit at a traditional bench that absorb and very simple training program. Therefore, each student trained and educated according to his ability. Social care home established artistic expression, education classroom, where the alumni can express themselves in art, music, dance, theater.

Some of children with intellectual or learning disabilities can attend secondary schools, they are integrated in other classes. So they attend biology lessons where they get some information about sex education,

as other children without disabilities. But if children with disabilities attends special schools, so they don't get any information about sex education, just few lessons about human body and biological phenomenon such as menstruation and how to manage with them. And of course, they get some information about the differences between man and woman.

All people from the age 18 are legally adults and disabled people are not separated from that. Unless they are legally certified incapable. So people with learning or intellectual disabilities are legally allowed behave and live as everybody in our country. We don't have any special legislations for sex with adult disable people, but we have Human rights and Equal opportunities law, established in 2003 m. November 18 d. No. IX-1826, Republic of Lithuania Law the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and facultative protocol established in 2010. Some times we can hear in the news or read in the newspapers that was abused women with intellectual disabilities.

In Lithuania we have many organizations for disabled people, some of them are for disabled rights others and mostly of them are for integration into society, rehabilitation and day care centers. But there isn't any organization special for disabled people sex education. We have Aids center which cares about sex education and sexual health, but it isn't orientated for disabled people, it mostly cares about women health. All organizations which work with people with intellectual disabilities don't have special sex educators, but some of organizations has some kind of educators-social workers, psychologists who talks about sex. Or if there are any problems they take their clients to the medicine institutions and doctors who explains more them about their sex, biological feelings and anatomy, how to take care of them selves and what could happened if they will have more serious relationships with other sex person.

PART B – How people would like things to be in the future:

What do people want?

Parents

5 parents of adults with intellectual disabilities were interviewed about what they want to know about sex education. Summarize all information it can be said that 2 parents want more visual example of sex. They think that talks about sex is not effective. They think that psychologist or social worker may give information about sex showing a mini spectacle about sex or maybe play some games with dolls or other things and teach about sex in this way. Also one father wants more information sheets about sex, with pictures and simple sentences about it. Because now there is no any information sheets about that. One mother has a very strict view on sexual education for people with intellectual disabilities. She absolutely doesn't want any information about sex to be shown for her son. She thinks that it isn't good information to her son because then he may want to try it. And then mother will have more problems in this field than now when son nothing knows. And one more mother said that she is shame in talks about sex with her sun. Sometimes when he asks what does it mean sex or why these two people in street or in movie are kissing each other she doesn't know what to answer to him. So all ways to give information about sex to her child is needful (maybe films, spectacles, discussions or something else). All parents accepted that sex education is very needful for all people which intellectual disabilities. Because one way or another way they hears word sex or even see intercourse in movies. And this is interesting for them so they have questions about it. Not everyone parent is ready and know how to provide information about sex in suitable and understandable way for their child with intellectual disabilities.

Staff

6 organizations were interviewed about practice in sex education. Two disabled people care organisation's staff members agreed tell more about sex education. Other organizations answered the questionnaire very poor. So from first organisation questionnaire answered a social worker. She said that sex education is

unavoidable thing in this organization. Because few of their clients are very nosy, they want know everything about everything. And this organization is of the view that people with intellectual disabilities must know about sex too because it is a part of their fledged/valuable life too. Other staff in another organization didn't agree talk about this. They don't talk about sex with their clients (people with intellectual disabilities) so they don't have any practice in this. In our organization (KNJUC) sex education is quite poor and talking about sex and related things are just then social workers or psychologist see a need.

People with intellectual disabilities

I have interviewed 4 people (one women and three men) with intellectual disabilities about what they want to know about sex education. All of them have signed a consent form. Interviews with them were quite short because interviewed people were timid and a little bit shy talk about sex. All of them know word sex but they really don't know what exactly it means. They said that sometimes they watch movies where people is kissing or touching each other nude. Or they see people kissing in street. And then they start to feel weird. But no one really knows what is happening to them. They said that they want know more about sex because they want have experience like other people.