

SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES IN GERMANY

An Abstract of the Thesis by
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The aim of this thesis is to determine the factors of self-determination of people with intellectual disabilities, and how self-determination can be realized in the framework of assisted living facilities in Germany. Theoretical research regarding the models of disability, disability in Germany, the development of disability rights, assisted living facilities, and self-determination is followed by qualitative empirical research, which uses the method of guideline-oriented interviews. The interviews were used to question five residents of assisted living facilities in regards to their experiences of self-determination. The interview transcriptions were then analysed using a category report. The findings show that the factors of self-determination include independence, self-confidence, assistance, and family support, which generally increase self-determination, as well as health impairments, assistants' time constraints, and paternalism, which generally limit self-determination. The findings can assist the realisation of self-determination in assisted living facilities in Germany by, for example, giving recommendations to assistants working with people with disabilities.