**Abatract for English exam**

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**THE ISSUE OF SPATIAL ORIENTATION AND INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT OF SENIORS WITH AN ACQUIRED VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

Today´s consumer society is focused on the promotion of the cult of youth and beauty. Hardly anybody realizes that human potential of an individual declines with age. If, in addition, a visual impairment joins the natural process of aging, these people end up at the edge of the society with feelings of guilt, frustration and unfulfilled life aspiration.

The mobility of a visual handicapped person plays an important role in his/her integration into the society. It enables a greater degree of independence and self-relience to visually impaired people, which is an important component for a harmonious development of a person, the feeling of self-satisfaction and self-concept.

**Target of the project**

This project should bring another dimension to the problem of teaching spatial orientation and an independent mobility, based on the individuality of each person(client), human atitude,bearing in mind the specificities of the senior age.

There is an interconnection of several issues. The life stage, the particular age and all processes related to aging as well as restrictions based on visual disability should be taken into account and respected.

**Methods of the project**

The most appropriate method of the research would be a controlled personal anamnestic dialogue in this case, mapping the individual problems of each person.

We will record the respondents´ utterance via a semistructured dialogue in a natural form for better understanding and comprehension of the situation of seniors with an acquired visual impairment.

The questions were aimed at getting introductory information about the respondent (sex, age), which should induce a close relationship and spontaneous narration of the participant. The principal questions should have a descriptive function about the acquired handicap (origin, cause), other information (social and family background, economic situation etc., factors which affect the handicapped person (personal particularities, coping with the current situation, help of the vicinage) and general attitude of the individual in a complicated life phase.

**Characteristics of the research sample**

The research wiil be done among people at the age of 50 to 60 years with an acquired visual impairment, thus at the boundary between ending late adulthood and starting old age, people who are still at working even though advanced age according to age classifications. The limiting handicap for being chosen into the examined sample is the level of the practical blindness and lower.

To get the needed sample we want to contact organisations for the visually impaired, typhlocentres, typhloservices and old people´s homes all around the Czech Republic, further the retraining and rehabilitation centre “Dědina” in Prague and other organisations with clients of senior age.

**Realisation of the project**

The cause of particular interview would be challenging as for empathy and a human aproach. The analysis of the results must have a practical applicability. It is neccessery to bear in mind the subjective view of each respondent and the sensitivity of the issue.

According to the results of the interview we will create a model of methodology with recommendation of how to cope with the technology of teaching spatial orientation and its application in the reeducation of mobility and independence of older people. Such action should be appropriate and respect individual and group specificities of the elderly people such as physiological and mental problems caused by age.

The outputs should help instructors of spatial orientation and all those who work with seniors to know how to aproach to the client in the senior age. The Results will bring instructors of spatial orientation some changes to the methodology regard to the different needs of seniors. They are also focused to analyze and deal with problematic situations that the age period brings to make their efforts stimulating for the disabled and respect their wishes and needs.

We hope that the results of our project will be useful for seniorpeople with visual impairment, instructors of spatial orientation as well as for their families and friends.

Olomouc, 28th December 2010

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