

DIFFICULTIES AND EXPERIENCES OF HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

Irida Agolli (Nasufi)

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania,
E mail: iagolli@yahoo.com

Abstract

This article analyzes parents and children experiences were they are hospitalized during their stay in hospital. The parents become more protective when a child becomes ill; the child, at the same time, becomes more dependent on his parents and more demanding of their presence and attention. When a child is hospitalized we have to take in consideration not only the curative function of the hospital, but also the psycho-social aspects and the development dynamics during the period that he/she will stay in hospital. In such cases, for a normal development of children, they need a permanent care. Many of the fears and misunderstandings can be resolved and addressed once the family can communicate to staff common coping behaviors of their child. The qualitative research was used in order to understand the topic from the perspectives of the population involved since they are able to talk about their personal feelings, opinions and experiences. Data were collected via semi-structured interviews with 18 parents and 5 children age 12- 16 years old from pediatric units in Tirana. The parents identified a range of fears and concern such us; sickness, psycho-social support, less information about the disease, luck of adequate services, economic difficulties, family difficulties as result of hospitalization. The effort for returning to health is a continuing process that should involved children, parents and the multidisciplinary team of the hospital. Social worker can help parents and children by showing the importance of experience and feelings of individuals at the time of hospitalization. Parents and children need adequate information tailored to their needs, to help them to minimize the stress and to better manage the future experiences. Stimulating laughing and games are an important factor for children's healthy growth and development and stimulates positive behaviors.

Keywords: *child hospitalization, experiences, social support*