The maturing of disabled adolescent

The purpose of the study is to examine maturing of severely disabled adolescents. Maturing is defined in respect to development and creative processes. The processes take place in an environment, which comprises of cultural, social and economic environments.

The study has been conducted with a qualitative research approach. The material of the study consists of interviews with nine adolescents and also experts have been consulted. As a frame for the interviews is a list of themes. The themes are i.a. human relations, family, education, work, leisure time activities, dating, decision making, independence, happiness, self-concept and identity.

As a framework is the concept system of well being and quality of life, which defines the fundamentals of good life according to which existence is considered desirable. The crucial concepts are physical, mental and social well being, control of life and policy of life.

The research method is that of case reports and the participants in the study are treated as a whole while being analysed.

The results of the study show that adolescents are very heterogeneous. With some of the adolescents no maturing processes had been realised but some of them did not differ notably from others of their age. Disability produced disadvantage to all adolescents, they needed assistance and they lacked privacy in their lives. Many of the adolescents did not have much choices in their lives. Most of them had no development in their professional careers. Disabled adolescents did not develop social intercourse and their social activities were very limited. The adolescents created different self-concepts and identities in which disability was involved with varying degrees. The maturing environments did not support maturing in the best possible way and the adolescents had problems in all their activity environments. Participation was varying and the profiles of the adolescents differed significantly.

### Keywords
- Several disability
- Adolescence
- Maturing
- Life control
- Quality of life

### Where deposited
Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information