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¡ ME GUSTA LA FIESTA!

**Implementing a Mexican Theme Day for the Residents of
Kokkolan Hoitokoti**

Thesis

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ABSTRACT

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<p>Everyone should have equal right to enjoy their life in all ways imaginable. To some of the people it is not always self-evident thing. Disabled people and their rights is a subject that is always current and important.</p> <p>This thesis consists of theoretical and practical part. In the theoretical part information of different disabilities and reasons to them are provided. This report gives information about qualitative research and structured interview that was used as a part of this thesis. The practical part consists of event planning and the event itself.</p> <p>Commissioner of this thesis was Kristiina Huhtala who works in Kokkolan Hoitokoti a nursing home that is located in Kokkola. The aim was that as many as possible of the residents could participate in the event and to offer them something that differs from their everyday life. The event can be seen as a success since the feedback received through the research was mainly positive and the aim of this thesis, which was that as many as possible of the residents could take part in it, was reached.</p> <p>The event and this thesis have been produced together with Riia Finnilä and Eveliina Laine.</p>		
Key words Autism, CP, Down syndrome, intellectual disability, event planning		

TIIVISTELMÄ OPINNÄYTETYÖSTÄ

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<p>Jokaisella ihmisellä tulisi olla oikeus nauttia elämästään huolimatta siitä mikä heidän terveyden-ja elämäntilanteensa on. Kaikille ihmisille tämä ei kuitenkaan ole itsestäänselvyys. Kehtysvammaisat sekä heidän tarpeensa ja huomioon ottaminen on aina ajankohtainen ja tärkeä aihe.</p> <p>Tämän työn toimeksiantajana toimi Kristiina Huhtala joka työskentelee johtajana Kokkolan Hoitokodissa. Tämä työ koostui teoriaosuudesta, jossa avattiin kehtysvammaisuutta yleisesti sekä kerrottiin tarkemmin eri kehitysvammoista. Toinen osuus rakentui tapahtuman ympärille. Tämä osuus pitää sisällään tapatusuunnitteluprosessin, esivalmistelut sekä itse tapahtuman kuvaamiseen. Tämän opinnäytetyön tavoitteena oli tarjota Kokkolan Hoitokodille ja sen asukkaille päivä mikä poikkeaa heidän normaalista arjestaan sekä saada mahdollisimman moni osallistumaan itse tapahtumaan.</p> <p>Tapahtuman voi katsoa onnistuneeksi, sillä palaute mitä siitä kerättiin kyselyn kautta oli positiivista ja tavoite oli saada mahdollisimman moni asukkaista osallistumaan tapahtumaan, joka toteutui myös</p> <p>Lisäksi työssä on esitelty laadullinen tutkimus, jota käytettiin myös osana tämän opinnäytetyön toteutuksessa.</p> <p>Tämä opinnäytetyö on toteutettu yhdessä Riia Finnilän sekä Eveliina Laineen kanssa.</p>		
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Asiasanat Autismi, Downin syndooma, CP-vammaisuus, kehitysvammaisuus, tapahtumasuunnittelu		

ABSTRACT

TIIVISTELMÄ

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 THE DEFINITION OF A DISABLED PERSON	2
2.1 The reasons leading to a disability	2
2.2 Different levels of intellectual disability	3
2.3 Down syndrome	3
2.4 Autism	4
2.5 Cerebral palsy-disability	5
2.6 Physically disabled people	5
2.7 People with reduced hearing	6
3 DISABLED PEOPLE AND TRAVELING	7
3.1 Tourism service providers and disability	7
3.2 Suitable program for disabled people during the trip or event	8
4 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH AND STRUCTURED INTERVIEW	9
5 KOKKOLAN HOITOKOTI	10
6 PLANNING THE EVENT	12
6.1 The planning process	12
6.2 The risk management of the event	14
6.3 Marketing the event	15
6.4 Financing the event	16
6.5 Making the questionnaire	16
6.6 Pre arrangements of the event	17
7 ; ME GUSTA LA FIESTA! EVENT	19
6.1 Opening the event	20
6.2 Handicrafts	20
6.3 The piñata	21
6.4 Ending the event with Mexican food	22
6.5 Implementing the qualitative research to the workers of Kokkolan Hoitokoti	23
7 ANALYZING THE RESULTS OF THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	24

8 CONCLUSION	26
REFERENCES	28
APPENDICES	

LIST OF GRAPHS

GRAPH 1. Decoration of the venue	19
GRAPH 2. Resident hitting the piñata	21
GRAPH 3. Table ready set for food	22

1 INTRODUCTION

There are more than 40 000 disabled people in Finland (Huttunen 2012). They all have the same need and want to travel and live their life to the fullest. To disabled people it is not always a self-evident that they can participate in events and happenings like healthy people can. It is important that also their needs and wants are listened to and taken into account.

The aim of this thesis is to get knowledge of disabilities and disabled people's interest to travel and take part in events that are organized to them. The commissioner of this thesis is Kokkolan Hoitokoti, a nursing home in Kokkola. The plan is to organize a Mexican theme day for the residents of Kokkolan Hoitokoti.

This report consists of two parts; theoretical framework that presents different disabilities, their symptoms and the reasons leading to them. Report also has information about the commissioner Kokkolan Hoitokoti. The other part consists of the practical part. The part includes event planning, all the pre-arrangements that needed to be done before the event and also a detailed description of the event day itself. The final chapter includes the analysis of the qualitative research that was conducted after the event. Respondents were the workers of Kokkolan Hoitokoti.

Disabled people were chosen as the target group of this thesis because it is an important and current subject. To travel and to take part in events and enjoy life in every way should be possible to everyone no matter what is your condition.

2 THE DEFINITION OF A DISABLED PERSON

In Finland there are overall 40 000 people who have some kind of intellectual disability. It means that 1% of the Finnish population are intellectually disabled. Intellectual disability means that a child's or an adults' intellectual performance is significantly lower than the average. It is said that a disabled person's IQ is less than 70, with small children this can be difficult to measure but the results are based on the clinical estimation of intellectual performance which is clearly more poorer than the other children in the same age group. Apart from suffering from intellectual problems the disabled person might also have problems in everyday life like in social communication, taking care of him/herself, living alone, at school and in work life. (Huttunen 2012)

2.1 The reasons leading to a disability

Intellectual disability is a result of a disorder in the central nervous system. 5% of disabilities are a result of hereditary reasons, 30 % are result of some sort of disorder during mothers' pregnancy, and 10% are results of the damages to the child during pregnancy and child birth, such as smoking and usage of alcohol. (Huttunen 2012)

Not all of the reasons leading to disabilities happen before the child is born. 5% of the disabilities are resulting from infections suffered as a child, damages to the skull or poisoning. 15-20% of the disabilities are a result of other psychological illnesses, like autism, and also a difficult childhood can cause disabilities. 30-40% of the reasons causing intellectual disability are not recognized. (Huttunen 2012)

2.2 Different levels of intellectual disability

There are different levels of disability that can be measured by the IQ of a person. Disability with an IQ of 50-70 is classified as mild disability, disability with an IQ of 35-55 is called moderate disability, disability with an IQ of 20-40 is called severe disability and profound disability means that the person has an IQ of 20-25 or even less. (Huttunen 2012.)

2.3 Down syndrome

In Finland there are approximately 70 children born every year that have Down syndrome. Down syndrome is the most common chromosome disorder. Down syndrome is a result of that the person has an extra chromosome 21. Down syndrome is the most common form of disability. (Malm, Matero, Repo & Talvela 2004,167-168.)

Children with Down syndrome usually have difficulties in learning to speak and they also have difficulties in learning to walk and move. Many Down syndrome patients also suffer from heart problems and their body system is ageing faster than people who do not have Down syndrome. It is common for Down syndrome patients to have memory problems at an early age (45-50) this results in that usually the Down syndrome develops from being a moderate disability to a severe disability. (Malm et al. 2004, 167-168.)

People who have Down syndrome also have physical features that are typical for them. They can suffer from dwarfism, their teeth grow slowly, they have short fingers and their skull is small and shallow. (Malm et al. 2004,167-168.)

2.4 Autism

Autism is a central nervous system disorder that you can notice in a person's behaviour and in communication. Usually a person who has autism closes him/herself from other people and the world that surrounds him/her. (Malm et al, 2004, 219-221.)

When a child has autism the symptoms start already at an early age, usually before the child reaches the age of 3. The biggest and most visible symptom is the lack of communication skills. The autistic person can have difficulties with speaking and difficulties in understanding what other people are saying. Autistic children are not interested in other children and they do not play with other children. Some autistic people might also have troubles understanding other people's facial expressions. Even later in life making friendships and social connections might cause problems to autistic people. (Malm et al. 2004 219-221.)

Autistic people are often doing their everyday task by repeating things all over again or doing the same things every time in the same way, e.g. wearing first the sock on their left foot and then on the right one. This is important to them and if they are not able to do this it might be a shock for them. (Malm et al. 2004, 219-221.)

In Finland there are approximately 5000 persons who suffer from autism to some degree. 75% of them are men and 75% of them are classified as disabled. Autism can also cause other health problems such as vision and hearing problems. 25% of the autistic children might have epilepsies when they reach their puberty. (Malm et al. 2004, 219-221.)

2.5 Cerebral palsy-disability

There are approximately 2500 children that have a cerebral palsy-disability. The CP-disability usually starts before the child is born, and the biggest reason for CP is a structural disorder in the child's brain or that the baby did not get enough oxygen in the womb. These things damage the central nervous system and results in that the CP patient often has troubles with moving and some of them suffer from abnormal body movements. CP can be very difficult to notice at first. When a child starts to move and speak the CP is usually noticed. (Kaski, Manninen & Pihko 2012, 121-123.)

There are different levels in CP disability; on some levels the person is able to take care of him/herself more easily than in the others. Usually the person's muscles are weak and inflexible. (Kaski et al. 2012, 121-123.)

Some of the CP-patients can be treated at home. But on the other hand, some CP patients need constant hospital care. (Kaski et al. 2012, 121-123.)

2.6 Physically disabled people

40 % of the disabled people living in some kind of rehabilitation institution are also physically disabled. Physical disabilities form a significant amount of the intellectual disabilities symptoms. There are different ways to classify physical disabilities. Some of the disabilities are formed already before the child is even born. Some of the disabilities are formed during childbirth or form during early childhood. Some physical disabilities are result from other illnesses that the person has suffered. Many of the CP-patients suffer from physical disability in some level. (Kaski et al. 2012-132.)

2.7 People with reduced hearing

60-70% of the disabled people have a hearing problem that is possible to measure. 5-10% of them have a severe hearing problem that needs treatment. Approximately 2% of the disabled people are totally deaf since the birth or they will lose their hearing before they develop the skill to speak. Many patients that suffer from Down syndrome suffer also from hearing problems. They often start to lose their hearing already in young age. Even a mild hearing problem can cause many problems e.g. in focusing and understanding other people. (Kaski et al. ,2012.141-142.)

3 DISABLED PEOPLE AND TRAVELING

It is clear that just like all other people also the disabled people want to travel. For them it might not be as easy as it is for the people who do not have any disabilities. When disabled people want to travel it takes lot of organization skills from the people who arranged the trip, from the trip leaders and also the destination needs to be arranged so that people with disabilities would enjoy their stay and so that help is available if needed.

3.1 Tourism service providers and disability

Always when planning a trip or tourism package to any people the planning process should always start from thinking what the customer wants. The tourism service provider should think of the target group and what they need and want. They need to consider if the customers need some special equipment or special services during the trip. This is often the case when organizing a trip for special groups such as disabled people. In some cases the tourism service provider must co-operate with other service providers. Good communication skills and understanding skills are also needed. (Verhelä & Lackman 2003, 9.)

When planning and organizing a trip to disabled people it is important to remember that there are many sorts of disabilities and some disabled people have problems with communicating and even with speaking. That is why the services that they get should be professional, easy to understand and the communication between the service provider and the customer should be simple. An important thing is to be patient and sometimes the service provider needs to be ready to give the information also in written form. Some disabled people might need a special assistant with them when travelling to help them in everyday issues such as

taking care of their personal hygiene, reading and writing and moving from one place to another. (Suomi kaikille 2012)

3.2 Suitable program for disabled people during the trip or event

It is clear that not all disabled people are able to attend into the same kind of activities that people without disabilities take part in. But there are some activities that disabled people can take part in and those activities can be both physically and mentally good and therapeutic for disabled people.

Horse riding is one of the rehabilitation methods that are used for disabled people. Horse riding helps to improve the balance, helps to develop the person's concentration. It also develops social skills and improves the patients' self-esteem. The therapeutic effect is based on the horse's movements. The movements that the rider feels are very similar to humans' movements and this improves the patient's image of him/herself. (Malm et al. 2004)

As simple activity as swimming can be very therapeutic for disabled people. Swimming or water exercise is considered good exercise because also those who are severely disabled can take part in it. Water relaxes tension in the muscles and eases pain. The resistance that the water gives also strengthens muscles in body and also in limbs. (Kaski et al. 2012, 121-123.)

4 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH AND STRUCTURED INTERVIEW

This chapter introduces the qualitative research method and also tells what structured interview is. The research that was implemented as part of this thesis was qualitative research and the method used was structured interview. These methods were the most suitable when considering the possibilities. The amount of answers the research would get would be low and that is why these methods were chosen.

In the qualitative research numbers do not play a big role. It means that information is gathered from a small number of people and the information that is collected through the research is not usually presented and analyzed in numerical form. Qualitative methods are usually used when the researcher wants to get full understanding of behavior and situation of just from a couple individuals and not a limited understanding from large number of participants. (Veal 2006,40.)

Structured interview is one form of qualitative research. It allows the researcher to evaluate the understanding of the respondent compared e.g. to postal questionnaire. It also makes sure that each of the interviewee are asked the exactly the same questions and in the same order. Structured interview requires a questionnaire that the interviewer follows. This also prevents that the respondents do not speak things outside of the subject and answer just to questions that are being asked from them. (History learning sites 2013)

5 KOKKOLAN HOITOKOTI

Kokkolan Hoitokoti was founded in 1988 and at that time Hoitokoti was located in Seinäjoki. During the years 1995-2003 Kokkolan Hoitokoti worked as a part of Central-Ostrobothnia's healthcare system. Kokkolan Hoitokoti became part of Kokkola city in year 2004. Kokkolan Hoitokoti is located 1,5 kilometers from the center of Kokkola and is surrounded by nature. The atmosphere in the nursing home is planned so that residents feel like there is living in a real home instead of an institution. (Kokkolan Hoitokodin perehdytyskansio 2012.)

Hoitokoti has two separated houses; A-house and B-house. In A-house there are two dorms and one dorm in the B-house. Everyone that lives in Kokkolan Hoitokoti has his/her room. Hoitokoti has living area and dining area that is meant to be for everyone's use. Kokkolan Hoitokoti offers permanent housing for 17 disabled persons and temporary housing to others when needed. (Kokkolan Hoitokodin perehdytyskansio 2012.)

Kokkolan Hoitokoti has 14 workers that consist of practical nurses, nurses, psychiatric nurses, nurses that are specialised on disabled persons and a tutor for disabled people. Every resident has his/her own nurse. During day time there are three workers on duty and during night time just one nurse who usually stays in the A-house and visits B-house when needed. (Kokkolan Hoitokodin perehdytyskansio 2012.)

The residents of Kokkolan hoitokoti are very different and they suffer from different disabilities such as Down syndrome and autism. The level of their disabilities is moderate and severe. All residents have their own daily planned programme that is carefully planned taking into consideration their disability.

They take part in work life in the activity center Kompassi and during their free time they take part in different activities such as horseback riding, swimming and outdoor activities. A different method of therapy is also used such as music and physiotherapy. (Kokkolan hoitokodin perehdytyskansio 2012.)

6 PLANNING THE EVENT

This chapter consists of the planning process of the Mexican theme day event, the making of the questionnaire, marketing, financing, risk management and about other arrangements that needed to be done before the actual event day.

6.1 The planning process

In October 2012 disabled people were chosen as a target group for this thesis. The thesis proposal was presented during the same month. In November 2012 the possible commissioners were contacted. When Kokkolan Hoitokoti was contacted they told that they will bring this up in their next meeting. After the meeting was held they were delighted to take part in this thesis. Kokkolan Hoitokoti informed that they do not have a specific budget for events like this so the funding needed to come from the residents of Kokkolan Hoitokoti.

In November 2012 the first meeting with Kristiina Huhtala, the supervisor of Kokkolan Hoitokoti, was held. In the meeting information about Kokkolan Hoitokoti and the residents was collected. Information about the residents and the everyday rhythm helped in the planning process. The residents of Kokkolan Hoitokoti are on very different levels in their disability and this was an important thing to consider in the planning process. The event could not be too long because the residents might get tired, feel bored or lose their interest.

The residents of Kokkolan Hoitokoti have a lot of everyday activities. They have their own free time hobbies and they visit different places in Kokkola. The fact that the residents had already done numerous things brought its own challenge to the planning process.

It became clear that the best thing would be if the event would happen in Kokkolan Hoitokoti. In this way more residents could take part in the event. If the event would be organized outside of Kokkolan Hoitokoti some of the residents could not take part in the event because of their disability.

A Mexican theme day was chosen as the topic of the event. Commissioner Kristiina Huhtala told that the idea sounded good and that they had not had events like this before. The event program would consist of music, piñata, handicrafts and in the end a theme-based food would be served. It was agreed that the event would take place in the beginning of March 2013. Later the date 6th of March was confirmed as the day of the event.

The event needed to be organized so that the rhythm would follow the everyday rhythm of Kokkolan Hoitokoti. A majority of the residents spend their day in Kompassi activity center taking part in work life experiences. They would be coming back at 14 o'clock. It was agreed that the event would start after they had come back so that as many as possible of the residents could take part in the event. The organizers wanted the program in the event to also follow the Mexican theme. In the event there was a traditional piñata and handicrafts that was made during the event also followed the Mexican theme. Kokkolan Hoitokoti usually offers meal after 15 o'clock so the program was planned so that the event would have a nice ending with Mexican food.

6.2 The risk management of the event

This chapter is about some risks that might occur before or during the event. In this chapter there are also listed some risks that might have been a problem when implementing the event that this report is about.

When organizing an event there is always the possibility that the event might face some risks. A good organizer knows how to calculate the possibility of risks and knows how to prevent and manage the possible risks. If the risks are not properly thought and managed the event will most likely face a disaster. Risk management is always a must and one of the most important things when planning an event. (Allen, O'Toole, Harris & McDonnel 2011, 544-545.)

The marketing of an event might be a risk when organizing the event. If marketing and advertisement is not properly made it might have an effect on the amount of participants and the general awareness of the event. (Allen et al. 2011, 545.) In case of organizing the Mexican theme day event the marketing was just internal marketing in Kokkolan Hoitokoti since the event was planned just for the residents. Organizers of the event made posters that were taken to Kokkolan Hoitokoti before the event and also told to the residents about the upcoming event.

When organizing an event in some venue it is important to make sure that all the administrative issues are in order. For some cases a permit to hold an event is needed and also sometimes contracts must be made. (Allen et al. 2011, 545.) In this case no permits were needed since the event took place in Kokkolan Hoitokoti and the organizers did not organize the event in some other venue. Much of the communication between commissioner and the event organizers happened by

phone or by e-mail. Nothing else besides the thesis contract was made between the organizers and the commissioner.

Health and safety issues are always a big risk and it is important that this specific risk is well managed. To these risks usually involves hygiene and food issues as well as sanitation issues. (Allen et al. 2011, 545.). When planning the food to the Mexican event the organizers needed to be aware of the different allergies and other limitations that needed to be taken into consideration such as that some of the residents did not have teeth. The food also needed to be prepared before the event but still it needed to be made sure that it did not turn bad during the event. Some of the residents were using wheelchairs and that also brought some challenges to event like there needed to be enough space for them to take part in the handy crafts and piñata.

Overall the disabilities of the residents were a new thing to the organizers and it was a risk that the organizers would not know how to behave and communicate with them since they did not have any previous experience of disabled people. Thankfully the workers of Kokkolan Hoitokoti were present during the whole event and helped the organizers when it was necessary.

6.3 Marketing the event

The event was planned just for the residents and workers in Kokkolan Hoitokoti. No one from outside took part in the event. During the meetings with the commissioner the organizers also met some of the residents and information about the upcoming event was given to them.

One week before the actual event three posters (APPENDIX 3) were delivered to Kokkolan Hoitokoti. The posters had a short description of the organizers and

why the event was held. It also had some pictures demonstrating the event theme and description of the event program itself. The posters were colorful, clear and they had pictures on them. The posters were delivered to Kokkolan Hoitokoti so that also the families of the residents could see that an event like this was being organized. The posters were also a good reminder to the residents so that they had something to look forward to.

6.4 Financing the event

From the very beginning it was clear that Kokkolan Hoitokoti did not have any own budget for events like this. The financing that was needed was supposed to come from the residents' own money. Different possibilities about the financing were discussed in the meetings with the commissioner. One possibility was that organizers would count the budget including foods and handicraft supplies and that the money needed for financing them would be collected from residents. The organizers could also invest some money on to the event. Later it became clear that Kokkolan Hoitokoti had some supplies for handicrafts and the organizers were given permission to freely use all the supplies that they needed. Kristiina Huhtala told that they have cards for different shops in Kokkola and that those cards could be used to buy the food for the event. In this way the residents did not have to put any money on the event. The handicraft supplies that Kokkolan Hoitokoti did not have the organizers financed themselves.

6.5 Making the questionnaire

The organizers also wanted to conduct a small qualitative research during the event. The organizers interviewed the nurses after the event so the form of the

interview was structured interview. A questionnaire (APPENDIX 2) about the event was made. The questions were about the event, program, food, overall atmosphere and the organizers' ability to behave towards the residents. Most of the questions had a grading scale from 1 to 5 so that 1 was the best and 5 the worst. In every question the workers also had the possibility to give free comments and in the end of the questionnaire there was an open ended question for free comments about the event.

6.6 Pre arrangements of the event

The organizers had the whole event day's morning time to prepare the event but some of the arrangements were started already one week before the actual event. Some of the handy craft material was made ready before the event and the piñata was made before. Taking into consideration the residents' disability the organizers decided to make the handy craft part of the program so easy that everybody could take part in it no matter how severe their disability was. During the event there were two different handicrafts made and the organizers produced the material before event.

Food was also an important part of the event and the planning of it started also in a good time before the event. When planning the food the organizers needed to think that the food would be suitable for the theme and also that all of the residents would be able to enjoy their meal. Residents' allergies and the fact that some of them were missing teeth brought its own challenge to the food section. The organizers decided to offer chicken tortillas and salad as the main course because it followed the Mexican theme. For dessert they offered fruits from a cup with biscuits and crème.

The organizers calculated the amount of food supplies that was needed for the meal and dessert and gave the list to the workers in Kokkolan Hoitokoti so that everything needed for cooking was ready in the morning of the event.

7 ; ME GUSTA LA FIESTA! EVENT

This chapter consists of the happenings of the actual event day. This chapter includes detailed descriptions of the program and how the event was implemented. The chapter also gives more specific information about the program numbers and in the end there is a description of the implementation of the qualitative research.

Preparations for the event started already early in the morning when the organizers came to Kokkolan Hoitokoti and prepared some of the food that was going to be served later. Salad and desserts could be made already in the morning. Preparing the food took quite a long time since there were 25 people who were going to eat later and the organizers had calculated the food so that everyone would get two tortillas.

During the morning of the event day the organizers also took care of the decoration. The venue in Kokkolan Hoitokoti was decorated according to the theme using tablecloths and other fabrics. The decorations really changed the appearance of the venue and brought a nice finishing touch to the event.



GRAPH 1. Decoration of the venue. (Permission given by Kristiina Huhtala 5th of April 2013)

6.1 Opening the event

Me gusta la fiesta is Spanish and mean I like to party. The event started at 14.00 o'clock when the residents and workers started to arrive and the workers were given a welcoming toast. When drinking the welcoming toast the organizers gave sombreros to those who wanted to have one. The residents and toast organizers introduced themselves, and then the organizers told the residents what the event was about and for what purpose they were organizing it and welcomed everyone to the event. During the whole event Mexican music was played in the background.

6.2 Handicrafts

After the welcoming toast the residents were asked to sit at the table where they could start working with the handy crafts. Half of the residents worked with the handicrafts first and after they were done the other half came to do the handy craft works. There were two different small handicrafts that the residents did. First they made Mexico's flag. The organizers had cut the parts ready for them so that it would be easier for everyone to do. The residents glued the parts together with help of instructions given by the organizers. Some of the residents needed more assistance in the work than others. After the flag the residents also made a cactus. The model for the cactus was similar for everyone but the idea was that residents could decorate the cactus with the color of their own choices. The organizers had arranged and gathered some pens and different types of decoration materials for the residents. All the handicraft work made by residents they could keep as a small memory of the event day.

6.3 The piñata

After everyone was done with the handicraft it was time for the piñata. A piñata is usually made from newspapers, glue and later decorated. Inside the piñata there is a possibility to put candy or small toys depending on the occasion. When the piñata is hit with a stick it breaks and the candy or toys fly out. To the event the organizers had prepared two piñatas that had candy inside them. One of the organizers explained the meaning of the piñata to the residents and told them what would happen next. The residents were given a stick and every one of them got the possibility to try and break the piñatas. Some of the residents were physically in better condition than others and those who were sitting in wheelchairs needed assistance from the workers or from the organizers. While the residents were trying to break the piñatas two of the organizers cleaned the table from handicraft supplies and set the table ready for food.



GRAPH 2. Resident hitting the piñata. (Permission by Kristiina Huhtala 5th of April 2013)

6.4 Ending the event with Mexican food

As the commissioner had told before the food was best to be left as the last part of the program since some of the residents might lose their interest in the whole event after eating. The organizers had prepared chicken tortillas and salad for the residents and workers of Kokkolan Hoitokoti. The tortillas were easy for everyone to eat because they are soft and those who had some allergies could leave out the food items that they were not supposed to eat. Also the ingredients in the salad were cut really small so that it would be suitable also for those residents who did not have teeth. The organizers walked around the table and served the food to the residents. Many of the residents told that the food was amazing and that they had never tasted tortillas before. After have finished the tortillas the organizers served dessert and coffee to the residents. After the food the organizers thanked the residents for the day and that they had been given the chance to organize the event for them. The residents seemed very happy and satisfied with the event and its program.



GRAPH 3. Table ready set for food. Permission by Kristiina Huhtala 5th of April 2013

6.5 Implementing the qualitative research to the workers of Kokkolan Hoitokoti

After the residents had finished their food and gone back to their own rooms the organizers still cleaned the venue and organized all the furniture back in its place. The organizers had already before the event asked for permission to interview the workers that were still on duty after the event. The workers told that they would be happy to answer a few questions and give some general feedback on the event. The organizers looked for the workers and one by one they interviewed them. Every organizer had her own interviewee; some interviewed one and other two persons. When interviewing the organizers explained why the interview was made and that the results would be analyzed in their final thesis. The organizers explained all the questions and gave the workers a chance to give also some free comments and feedback. The comments on the event were mostly positive and they seemed very satisfied with the event and the work that the organizers had put on it.

7 ANALYZING THE RESULTS OF THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

This chapter includes the analysis of the qualitative research that was conducted after the event. Every question is analysed separately. The measurement scale that was used in some of the questions was designed so that number one 1 meant 'extremely good', number 2 was 'good', number 3 meant 3 'satisfactory', number 4 meant 'bad' and number 5 was used to describe 'very bad'.

The first question was about the overall success of the event. All the interviewees rated the event success as 'extremely good'. They stated that the event was versatile and functioning, when taking into consideration the residents' capability to function. On their opinion there was not much need for guidance and the event was well planned.

The second question was about how well the organizers had succeeded in different parts of the event. The parts were divided as follows: handicrafts, dining, piñata and decorations. Open comments about these areas were that much had been made with little resources. It was important that the venue was dashing. According to the staff members the residents were enjoying the event. Facial expressions and comments of the residents were observed during the event. Good comments about the food were heard many times. One of the residents said that the food was good, just like pizza. All the four staff members said that the handicrafts and decoration part was extremely good. One said that the piñata part was good and one said that the dining was good. One of the staff members said that the organisers should have had more information about the residents.

The third question was about the duration of the event. The measurement scale used when evaluating this part of the event was 'good', 'too long' or 'too short'. All

of the interviewees thought that the duration of the event was 'good'. They stated that there could have been more programs. The parts were well connected and the parts did not last too long, since the residents do not like waiting.

Then there was a question about the overall atmosphere. Out of the four respondents three said that it was 'extremely good'. One stated that it was 'good'. According to the interviewees the music was good, the colours were nice and the happy feeling was catching to the residents. It felt like a party immediately when entering the room. They also told that the organisers seemed confident.

The fifth question was about how the organisers could communicate and be with the residents. Three out of four told that the communication was working extremely well and one told that it was 'bad'. The residents were treated as anybody. The organisers were communicating well with residents with different communication skills. They were eager to serve but did not know how to act with the residents.

The sixth question was concerning if they got something from the event. All the answers were positive. The event was a nice change to their everyday life. The theme was described as unique. They had had other country theme parties before. They told that they rarely have similar events because they do not have time to organise events like this. Food was a good and new thing compared to the previous parties.

8 CONCLUSION

The aim of this thesis was to organize an event for the residents of Kokkolan Hoitokoti and to get as many of the residents to take part in the event as possible. We also wanted to provide something new and exciting to the residents. I strongly believe that the aim was reached. It was shown from the facial expressions of the residents that they enjoyed the event and the program and those who were able to express themselves in words also told that they enjoyed the event very much.

The event took place on the 6th of March in Kokkolan Hoitokoti. Overall everything including the planning process, pre arrangements and event itself went fluently and according to the project plan (APPENDIX 1) that we made so we also kept the schedule that we made for ourselves.

Challenges to the event brought by the fact that we did not have previous experience of disabled people and their habits. In overall I believe that we knew quite well how to behave with them and no impossible obstacles were faced. Almost all of the workers told that we were behaving well with the residents. The fact is that we did not get to know the residents before the event and we did not get specific information about them.

I found the practice-based thesis interesting to work with and the subject both disabled people and event planning interested me. I was very happy with the results that we got from the small research that we conducted. From that you could see that also the staff members were satisfied with our work. They also knew the residents better and they told that also the residents enjoyed the event. For them the event and its theme were unique and that they had not had

something like that before. Considering these facts I believe that the aim of this thesis was reached.

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TASK	TIME	DIVISION OF WORK
Starting thesis/ thesis proposal	October 2012	Individual
Contacting possible commissioners	November 2012	Together
Preliminary agreement with Kokkolan Hoitokoti	November 2012	Together
Planning the event	12 December 2012	Together
Making project plan	22 January 2013	Together
Meeting with commissioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thesis contract - Planning the event 	30 January 2013	Together
Implementation plan return	January 2013	Individual
Planning the event	16 January 2013	Together
Planning the event	7 February 2013	Together
Meeting with commissioner	11 February 2013	Together
Planning the event	12 February 2013	Together
Making questionnaire	12 February 2013	Together
Checking prices for supply	15 February 2013	Together
Interim report return	21 February 2013	Individual
Preparing the event in Kokkolan Hoitokoti	25 February 2013	Together
Interim report seminar	4 March 2013	All individually
Picking up decorations	5 March 2013	Together
Event day	6 March 2013	Together
Analysing the feedback	13 March 2013	Together

Finishing the theses	March-April 2013	Individual
Review of the theses	11 April 2013	Individual
Theses presentation	May 2013 week 18	Together
Corrections to theses	May 2013- June 2013	Individual
Graduation	18 June 2013	Together

c) Piñata 1 2 3 4 5

d) Koristelu 1 2 3 4 5

3. Oliko tapahtuman kesto

Liian lyhyt?

Liian pitkä?

Sopiva?

4. Millainen oli yleinen tunnelma? (1= erittäin hyvä, 5= erittäin huono)

1 2 3 4 5

Perustelut: _____

5. Kuinka hyvin järjestäjät osasivat toimia ja kommunikoida asukkaiden kanssa? (1= erittäin hyvin, 5=erittäin huonosti)

1 2 3 4 5

Perustelut: _____

6. Voisitko arvioida tapahtuman antia?

7. Vapaat kommentit

Kiitos osallistumisesta!

¡ME GUSTA

LA FIESTA!

Opiskelemme Centria Ammattikorkeakoulussa matkailua ja järjestämme Kokkolan Hoitokodin asukkaille Meksiko teemajuhlat. Toteutamme juhlat osana opinnäytetyötämme. Tapahtuma järjestetään keskiviikkona 6.3.2013 kello 14 alkaen.

Piñata

Askartelua



Tex Mex ruokaa

Musiikkia

