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Literary works of post - mastectomy women. Between therapy and art. Case study.

SUMMARY

Key words: breast cancer, "Amazons - mastectomy women", literary works, art, therapy

Theoretical assumptions

The issue of breast cancer and the psychosocial functioning of women affected by it (Amazons) has a rich, multidisciplinary literature on the subject.

The issue of the "Amazonki" creative activity and its therapeutic functions occupies a marginal place both in the theoretical dimension and in rehabilitation proceedings.

Therefore, it was justified to make the above - mentioned issue the subject of this dissertation, narrowing the investigations to the literary activities of women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Interdisciplinary considerations were conducted from the perspective of therapeutic pedagogy, cultural pedagogy, social communication and media sciences (formerly: bibliological sciences), aiming to verify the basic assumptions that: creative activity and its products by women with breast cancer, resulting largely from post-traumatic growth, fulfill important social functions, especially therapeutic and integrative ones, for themselves and for readers; the literary work of authors suffering from breast cancer has stimulators and inhibitors of its development - located in the areas of: authors - works - social circulation; The "Amazonki" Association has a special influence on the creative (literary) activity of women after mastectomy; the literary works and creative biographies of Amazons are insufficiently used in the therapeutic process and social campaigns.

In the light of the above assumptions, reference was made to the concept of work by Roman Schultz and the concept of post-traumatic growth by Richard Tedeschi and Lawrence Calhoun.

The work begins with a theoretical reflection, made using the method of descriptive and critical analysis of sources (subject literature), relating, in accordance with the subject of the dissertation, to issues related to: breast cancer, the situation of the psychosocial

functioning of the Am, the support system and the role of the "Amazonki" Association in it, the therapeutic and artistic importance of creativity, participation in culture and the conditions of the creative process of people with somatic disabilities (including oncological patients).

Explained key concepts:

breast cancer, "Amazons - mastectomy women", literary works. piece, therapy

Problems

In accordance with communication theory, research problems were placed in the research fields: authors, works, social reception - complemented by the area of animation, editorial and the promotional role of the "Amazonki" Association.

The main problem is contained in the question: What is the significance of their literary expression for the psychosocial functioning of Amazons?

Detailed problems are listed as follows:

- I.** Concerning the authors: (1) What are the "pre-disease" biographies of the Amazons and their place of participation in culture and creative activity? (2) What are the biographies of Amazons after being diagnosed with breast cancer and their place of participation in culture and creative activity?
- II.** Concerning the work: (1) What are the characteristics of the genus and genre diversity of the Amazons written output? (2) What are the characteristics of the Amazons literary works? (3) What is the publishing form of the Amazons literary work, by whom and where is it published, and at what editorial level?
- III.** Concerning the recipients, i.e., the reception of the Amazons literary works: (1) What are the characteristics of the presence of the Amazons in the library and information system? (2) How is Amazons work assessed by its readers?
- IV.** IV. Concerning the animation, editing and promotion of Amazons literary activity: (1) What role does the "Amazonki" Association play in animating creative activity, in the area of editing and promoting literary work?
- V.** Concerning the biographies of creative Amazons: (1) What are the characteristics of the creative biographies of Amazons? (2) What typological characteristics emerge from the course of their creative biographies?

Method

The research was carried out using a qualitative research strategy, focusing on its phenomenological and hermeneutical foundations.

A detailed description of the adopted research model is included in part II of the dissertation, emphasizing the importance of the following methods: bibliographic, biographical and document analysis, as well as the narrative-expert interview technique and knowledge maps in collecting and analysis of research material.

Results

The key part of the dissertation is the presentation and analysis of research results, including a case study of 13 authors who have at least one independent writing and publishing work (the so-called author's book). Using narratives obtained through narrative-expert interviews, the following are presented: "pre-disease" and "post-disease" (after oncological diagnosis) biographies of the authors; literary output - its diversity in terms of genres and themes, editorial and publishing issues; social circulation - registration in the library and information system and reception by readers; the importance of the "Amazonki" Association for the literary activities of women with cancer. The narratives of the Amazon authors were also used to test the typology of creative biographies. Research results in all research fields indicated the presence of stimulators and inhibitors (according to the concept of Roman Schultz's work) and post-traumatic growth (according to Richard Tedeschi and Lawrence Calhoun).

The research results became an inspiration to outline research postulates and practical. The research postulates refer to the extension and specification of research on the creative activity of Amazons, and the practical recommendations indicate to use the literary works of the Amazons in the rehabilitation process and social campaigns, as well as increasing the interest and support of the "Amazonki" Association for the literary activities of its members.

The dissertation was enriched with bibliographic lists of the literary works of the Amazons covered by the interviews, which unique bibliographic material should be considered a source base for further pedagogical and media studies.