**THE SOURCES OF MEANING IN LIFE AMONG EDUCATORS OF SOCIALLY VULNERABLE ADULTS**

**1ANASTASIA KEFALA, 2MARIA PLATSIDOU, 3 GEORGIA DIAMANTOPOULOU**

Department of Educational and Social Policy,

University of Μacedonia, Greece

 Email: 1a.kefala@uom.edu.gr, 2platsidou@uom.edu.gr, 3gdiam@uom.edu.gr

**Abstract:** Life work is considered as a critical source of meaning in life. This can be particularly true for the educators who choose to work with and teach adults who belong to socially vulnerable groups. To this context, the aim of our study was to investigate the sources of meaning in life of educators of socially vulnerable groups, and the possible relation between the sources they derive meaning from and their decision to work with this specific kind of students. A total of 12 educators were interviewed providing information regarding their experience in working with socially vulnerable groups, their motives considering their professional choice, the way they perceive themselves as teachers of vulnerable adults and the sources of meaning in their lives. Thematic Analysis was used to analyze the data. It was found that the primary sources of meaning in life of the perticipants are (a) interpersonal and social relations, and (b) personal relationships and that there is a positive relation between the participants sources of meaning and their perception about vulnerability.

**Keywords**: sources of meaning in life, adult education, socially vulnerable groups

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This work is part of a project that has received funding from the Research Committee of the University of Macedonia under the Basic Research 2020-21 funding programme.