

## **Abstract**

**Background:** The Internet has become a regular part of our everyday life. Its use carries not only many indisputable advantages, but also certain risks – addictive behavior being one of them. Therefore, it is not surprising that many studies deal with this issue. Although several foreign studies have examined the connection between this phenomenon and selected factors of the family environment, I have not observed any such specific study in the Czech Republic.

**Aims:** The aim of the theoretical part of this thesis is to provide information about an addictive behavior on the Internet, the family and its role in the life of an individual, in order to introduce the studies that have already been carried out. These were concerned with selected factors of the family environment in connection with addictive behavior on the Internet.

The practical part of this thesis consists of my own research aimed at finding the prevalence of addictive behavior on the Internet and examining the connection between this phenomenon and the respondents' gender, divorce of parents, parents' education and types of family.

**Methods:** The aims of the theoretical part of this bachelor thesis were achieved with the study of selected literature. Furthermore, the questions of the practical part were answered on the basis of evaluation of compiled questionnaires. Questionnaires included questions about socio-demographic characteristics, family environment (Family Environment Scale), addictive behavior on the Internet (10 questions from Šmahel and Blinka) and experiences with addictive drugs (selected questions from the European School Study on Alcohol and Other Drugs). The research group consisted of 254 pupils from 7-9 grades from 4 selected primary schools in the city of Píbram.

**Results:** The results showed that the prevalence of addictive behavior on the Internet is 11,0 % (5,1 % potentially addicted and 5,9 % threatened individuals), male comprised 82,1 % of all potentially addicted / threatened. In addition, 3 most frequently occurred types of families were classified among the potentially addicted / threatened respondents: families oriented towards independence, mutual support and conflict. Along with this, it was found that these families showed a low level of control, cohesiveness and expressiveness.

**Conclusion:** Family environment plays an important role in prevalence of addictive behavior on the Internet. Thus, prevention and treatment programs need to take into account the importance of family.

**Keywords:** addictive behavior, Internet, addictive behavior on the Internet, family, family environment