

Abstract:

Background: Women with substance abuse problems have distinctive features and face many difficulties arising from their gender specificities. Among them, motherhood is significantly represented, which, combined with the abuse of addictive substances, fundamentally changes its profile, from experience, to the way these women relate to their children. These ways are burdened with many experiences, processes and emotions, which subsequently block the establishment of appropriate education.

Aim: The aim of the thesis was to find out whether women with addiction problems feel guilty and shy in relation to their children, or map out where these feelings come from and what forms them. Another key objective was to reveal whether these feelings could create barriers in relation to the child, and especially in education. The last goal of the thesis was to evaluate whether, in addition to these determinants, other variables occur, or which ones are entering into the process of remediation.

Methodology: Data collection took place in spring 2019 in the Therapeutic Community Karlov. A semi-structured interview was conducted with clients and specific observed situations of maternal interactions with the child were described.

Research sample: The sample was created by 5 clients of the Therapeutic Community Karlov, who were treated together with their child.

Results: The respondents' testimonies and the analysis of the observed interactions showed that they have a strong sense of guilt and shame. They experience it mainly on the basis of irresponsible behavior towards the child, whether in pregnancy or in the upbringing under the influence of addictive substances. The primary problem with these mothers is the inability to set boundaries, which is reflected in the complicated coping of education and forms by looking at these difficulties, eg in the impact on the child and the common relationship. With these difficulties, some of them deal with bringing them into therapy, and with less casting, denial.

Recommendation: Based on the study of literature, continuous work with women – mothers with problems of use and research results, we recommend to focus on: sensitivity to the interdependence of one's own family history in relation to education, the fact that raising a child is often a completely unknown aspect of their lives. Developing and strengthening a gentle and patient approach to issues of upbringing and working with fears in relation to the child, including guilt, which significantly affects the process. The big challenge is to support the talk about these experiences and acknowledge their value alongside other topics of psychotherapy.

Key words: women with problems of drug dependence, abuse in pregnancy, theories of relationship formation, educational styles, stressful situations, guilt and shame.