

SUMMARY

The aim of the submitted diploma thesis was to assess the attitudes of the secondary school students to the use of medicaments and the abuse of legal and illegal drugs and, at the same time, to assess a possible connexion with the psychical problems occurring in Opava region. The study forms a part of an international project monitoring young people's lifestyle in Europe. It was performed with the help of anonymous questionnaires, which were taken over from the Italian university degli Studi Camerino.

In total 135 students of the third and fourth years of the grammar schools in Vítkov and Opava participated in this study during the school year 2006/2007. Out of them, there were 70.4 % of girls and 29.6 % of boys. Their average age was 17.6 years.

Students consider the recreation use of illegal drugs the most dangerous way of behaviour, whereas the smoking and the drinking of alcohol were considered the least dangerous activities.

In total 91.1 % of students used some medicaments during the last year, mostly analgesics and medicaments against infection. Almost 15 % select medicaments on their own. Most of pupils (88 %) believes that the use of medicaments may be beneficial on one hand, but that it can become also harmful. About 20 % of respondents used alcohol in combination with some medicaments, e.g. with ibuprofen or paracetamol. Almost 90% know that psychofarmacological medicaments cause addiction after a longer use.

There are 77.8 % of students who have had an experience with smoking. The most often, they got to contact with their first tobacco product at the age of 13, 14 and 15. Nowadays, there are 40 % of smokers and almost 40 % among them are everyday smokers. Among the most frequent reasons for smoking, they mentioned that smoking is tasteful and calming down. Respondents from 70 % consider smoking as harmful, potentially leading to lung diseases, mainly lung cancer.

In total 96.3 % of respondents have tried alcohol. Out of them, 20 % have never got drunk. Spirits represent the most favourite drink, closely followed by beer. Almost all of them (97 %) believe that excessive drinking alcohol can cause health problems, the most often hepatic diseases. As far as the alcohol use before driving a car is concerned, the respondents are mostly responsible, 95.6 % would prefer only soft drinks.

Smaller half of students (42.2 %) has had an experience with illegal drugs. Marijuana occupies unambiguously the first position (93.0 %), hashish follow on the second position (19.6 %). The most frequent reasons of using a drug included relaxation (44.4 %) and new

feelings (37.0 %). Drugs were mostly offered to the students by their friends. In this point, there was a proved statistical significance between the use of beer and illegal drugs.

A psychical disorder occurs in 18.5 % of all the respondents. However, the drug experienced persons represent smaller portion of them. They manifested mostly obsession-compulsion, grudge and paranoid ideas. No statistical dependence of an occurrence of psychical problems and using analgesics, psychopharmacological medicaments or experience with illegal drug was confirmed. But there was found out a statistical importance between drinking beer and an occurrence of psychical problems.