

Abstract

The main subject of my bachelor thesis is spiritual experience after drug intoxication, that implies altered state of consciousness when using psychedelic drugs, experience which is far beyond human understanding where spirituality is perceived as a deciding power of human personality and behavior. Concretely, I focus on the spiritual experience of the users-experimenters in relation to drug use.

This thesis intends to achieve and to describe the spiritual experience after drug intoxication comparing different characteristics, mainly related to motivation for consumption, profile, career and actual psychopathology of the user-experimenter.

The theoretical part deals with the history of use of psychotropic substances, psychonautics, psychoactive substances and intoxication experience; I also mention there the epidemiology, as well as the spiritual aspect of the drug use, therapy and motivation to use psychoactive substances.

In the practical part I use qualitative approach and its design has a character of a multipath case study. The research project was realized with the participation of four respondents who were chosen by the method of deliberate choice. The chosen method for data collecting was a semi-structured interview when all the collected data were analysed by the method of interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA).

The respondents went through spiritual experiences beyond normal consciousness. Apart from a pleasant experiences connected with a visual and optic hallucinations they also describe some out of control feelings and unpleasant states of being. Most of them focus on a preparatory phase before the intoxication itself, on set, on setting and they also mention the importance of drug category and its quantity. Although the respondents consider their spiritual experience as very significant one, the significance differs from one another.

The most often mentioned motivational factors are exploring new experiences of experimentation with psychedelic substances, desire for adventure and spiritual development, self-knowledge, self-development. According to the respondents, a consequences of the spiritual experiences of drug intoxication were new avenues of cognition and consciousness about their possibilities, changes in personal values and postures and also fulfillment of their life in general. They mainly see the negative impacts at the social level. Majority of the respondents handled integration of their spiritual experience, some negative impacts occurred in one respondent.

Key words: spirituality – psychonautics – drug use – motivation – drug career –
psychopathology – case study