

ABSTRACT

The thesis "Addictive Substances and their Possible effect on Child Development" deals with the effects of addictive drugs used by pregnant women on their child's development. Firstly, the text focuses on common valid definitions and characteristics of addictive substances. The addictive substances are divided into two categories – illegal and legal drugs. Initially, key groups of addictive substances are described and then their individual representatives are portrayed briefly. Furthermore, the thesis focuses on the period of prenatal development, which will serve as a comprehensive overview on the subject and will logically connect individual chapters.

Another part of the thesis focuses on the characteristics of drug-addicted mothers, describes the specific traits of drug addicted pregnant women. Moreover, in this part pregnant women with dual diagnosis are described. Last but not least, the theoretical part of the thesis will explain complications that arise in infants right after childbirth, especially the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) or infection. There will also be discussed the long-term consequences such as disorders associated with attention, behavior disorders, learning or congenital malformation. This work aims to find out whether children of drug using mothers have greater predisposition to acquire developmental defects and whether the selected scientific resources are relevant enough to answer research questions related to the topic. The result of the work will be a comparison of the prevailing discourse about the influence of substance usage by mothers on their child's development with academic literature and relevant research which will confirm or refute the hypothesis.

Keywords: CHILD DEVELOPMENT – ADDICTED MOTHERS – ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES – PRENATAL DEVELOPMENT – COMPLICATIONS IN CHILDBIRTH