

## **ABSTRACT**

**BACKGROUND** - This thesis works on the assumption that one's own experience with smoking cessation along with the habit-breaking patterns that one gains from this experience, might have a positive influence on addiction treatment. It is assumed that these patterns help client with the overall treatment, the relapse prevention, motivation issues and continued abstinence.

**AIMS** - The aim of this thesis is to investigate the effect of smoking cessation experience and the role it plays in the therapeutic community. I also focused my research on the clients' perception of the tobacco using in relation to their health, life and complete abstinence concept.

**METHODS** - Both current smokers and ex-smokers as well as clients of two therapeutic communities were subjected to qualitative analysis. Purposive sampling method was used to select the respondents for semi-structured interview. Content analysis and partly interpretative phenomenological analysis were used to process the collected data.

**RESULTS** - Based on the research, respondents perceive smoking negatively in relation to their health. They are aware of the tobacco dependence potential, however they do not include the issue into complete abstinence. The assumption that respondents utilize their smoking cessation experience in addiction treatment was in general not affirmed.

**CONCLUSION** - Utilizing smoking cessation experience is apparently marginal phenomenon occurring only when the client involves smoking into complete abstinence concept. Quantitative research would be needed to verify this conclusion. At the same time, it would be advised to investigate the approach of drug treatment agencies to tobacco using and including tobacco treatment programme into the treatment continuum.

## **KEY WORDS**

addiction treatment, smoking cessation, relaps prevention, therapeutic community, client