

Abstract

Background: Abstinent woman, former alcohol user, who is in marriage with active alcohol user. Concept co-dependency (Kudrle, 2003, Whitfield, 1991). Determination, agreement and the will of the married couple for participation in this case study concerning alcohol use and its effects on their coexistence.

Objectives and research questions: The main objective of this thesis was to investigate the coexistence of an alcohol-dependent husband with abstinent wife. The main research question was: *How is the coexistence of dependent partner with abstinent wife?* Additional research questions were: 1) *Does, the coexistence look as harmonic in the eyes of the couple and does it fulfil the image of the ideal partnership?* 2) *What is the role of the respondents in the partnership – is there a sign of co-dependency?* 3) *Which are the relaps prevention techniques the wife use for maintaining the abstinence?* 4) *What circumstance or situations may motivate the husband to quit alcohol use?*

Methodology: The gathering of data for this case study was done by qualitative approach. The main collection methods were the semi-structures in-depth interviews (Miovský, 2006). As the additional methods the study of the medical records of respondents, Quality of Life questionnaire (WHOQOL-BREF) (WHO, 1996), Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) (Babor et al., 2001), Dependency questionnaire of International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision (Nešpor, 2011), and the timeline method and curve-of-basic sample is the same as the research sample. The semi-structures in-depth interviews were verbatim written down and processed by the thematic analysis. Questionnaires were assessed as they were mean to.

Results: Alcohol dependence has a destructive thus the marriage of the couple is hard yet functional. The desire to avoid the loneliness, self-preservation instinct and the need to help the neighbour are the main motivation, which are standing behind the rise and preservation of their partnership. Both individuals have some experience with alcohol dependence so they have the ability for 24 years with respect and tolerance. This marriage is not by different from other marriages threatened by the co-dependency.

Conclusion: By the basis of the data collected it is now possible to describe the coexistence of abstinent and dependent partner. The results cannot be generalized because this these is based only on one couple interviews. Specifications and subject character of the case study are the main limitations. Relationship of two dependent persons and co-dependency are the phenomena mentioned in this these. This topic, perhaps neglected, is not a common scientific field of research in Czech Republic and therefore we want to point it out.

Keywords: co-dependency – marriage – alcohol – dependence syndrome – abstinence