

## Abstract

**Background:** The main source of the thesis is John Bowlby's Attachment Theory and Erik Erikson's theory The Eight Ages of a Man. The thesis works with the assumption that the separation or loss of the mother figure, in this case by transition to institutional care, affects the personality development.

**Aim:** The aim of this work is to find out whether separation from the parent figure or its complete loss is the main reason for their dependence on addictive substances, eventually which other factors were present in their lives. The partial goal is to find out how the respondents are doing in relationships.

**File and methods:** The thesis analyzes the life story of respondents through the application of selected theories. The sample consists of four clients of the SANANIM drop in center. A case report was elaborated through consulting sessions. Special attention is paid to institutional care, family environment and client's relationships.

**Results:** Respondents perceive their stay in an institution care facilities as one of the factors that led to the substance abuse and their current lifestyle. It has been found that they find it more difficult to establish healthy relationships and deal with negative emotions, which may be one of the reasons of substance abuse.

**Key words:** addictive substance, addiction, attachment theory, Eight Ages of a Man theory, institutional care facility