

## **Abstract**

**Background:** Psychedelic experience is a phenomenon that has become increasingly important in recent years. It is the subject of much research. The therapeutic potential of psychedelic substances and psychedelic experience for mental disorders, but also for addiction disorders, is interesting. This is a phenomenon that goes deep into history. Psychedelic substances were sought for altered states of consciousness during shamanic rituals. In recent history, these are substances that are often associated with the name Albert Hofmann in connection with the discovery of the effects of LSD. These are substances that are relatively safe and do not have the potential to be addictive, and are therefore of great scientific interest.

**Aim:** The aim of this thesis is to understand the psychedelic experience and its influence on attitudes to the use of addictive substances, as well as the importance of the respondents themselves to this experience. The main goal is to describe the influence of psychedelic experience on attitudes to the use of addictive substances. How is the change taking place, whether the respondents themselves are aware of it and how they perceive it.

**Sample:** The research group consists of 5 respondents who were selected by the method of intentional selection and the method of snowball.

**Methods:** Due to the choice of the design of the grounded theory, the method of data creation was chosen mainly the method of semi-structured interviews supplemented by a narrative interview. The obtained data were analyzed by open coding method and supplemented by axial and selective coding methods.

**Results:** Respondents describe rich psychedelic experiences of a spiritual nature, which were of great importance to them. The analysis showed that the perception of psychedelic experience can also be understood as a consequence of the interaction between two different phenomena, namely how psychedelic users were affected by the environment itself and with what expectations and internal settings respondents went to this experience. As for the main research question, it turned out that psychedelic experience is mainly a means to change, especially through other psychological phenomena such as insight, self-knowledge or expanding the meaning of life. The specific characteristics of the interviewed users of psychedelics include, in particular, the relationship to nature, resistance to the system and interest in spiritual overlap or spirituality.

**Resume:** This thesis deals with an interesting phenomenon of psychedelic experience and expands knowledge in this area. The intention of the work and its goals were fulfilled. Psychedelic experience does have the ability to influence attitudes toward substance use, especially through mediating the path to oneself, realizing one's own meaningfulness, or gaining insight. Without further therapeutic work, however, its influence gradually fades.

**Keywords:** psychedelic experience – psychedelics – addiction – transpersonal change