

The thesis deals with a problem of drug abuse by children and adolescents and monitors the factors which can play a role in the origin of their addiction. It especially focuses on the role of family background which is observed as a part of the broad environment that influences the whole family system. Besides this the personality factors which affect the occurrence of addictive behaviour are also monitored; particularly the ones which are specific for the drug addiction of young people and which distinguishes it from the drug addiction of adults. It points out such changes in character and behaviour of the youngsters that can be signals for the others that something is wrong. It mentions the influence of their peers and searches for the reasons why the young people tend to simulate the actions in a socially deviant community.

Analysing the family background we can understand how the different lifestyles of families can influence a tendency of the adolescents to hunt for drugs. The interest is aimed at a socially psychological organization of the family, a family typology and the qualities of family systems, especially their problematical functioning.

The family is regarded as one of the main sources for meeting the needs of the young. Therefore it is necessary to indicate the danger and protective family factors that influence the behaviour of family members, interaction between them and functioning of the family as a whole.