ABSTRACT:

Background: Facebook is the most popular social network nowadays. Concerns about possible negative consequences and possible addiction rise with its growing popularity. It is a very current topic not only for experts in the field, but also for parents. Results of studies bring various conclusions and the view on the Facebook addiction remains patchy.

Aim: The aim of this work is to describe and evaluate the current state of Facebook addiction research on chosen studies. This work is focused on the criteria for diagnosis, methodology and identified risk features, the profile of a problematic user.

Methods: This theoretical work uses qualitative approach and compares information from chosen studies. First, a summary was created from each study. Then extracted information were compared in categories according to research question of this work.

Results: Evaluation of the studies showed that there is no clear way of diagnosing Facebook addiction and the phenomena itself is not clearly defined. The studies were very different in their prevalence estimates. A methodological issue of most of the chosen studies was using a self-reported questionnaire and a choice of non-representative participants.

Conclusion: It is necessary to continue the research in the field of Facebook Addiction. This works has identified the following topics as major ones for further research: description of usage patterns, clear definition of Facebook addiction and creation of United diagnostical tool and inclusion of other than student population.

Key words: Facebook, social networks, non-substance addictions, methodology, addiction, critical review