

UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY TÎRGU-MUREŞ

ABSTRACT OF THE PhD THESIS

DRUG CONSUMPTION AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A PERSPECTIVE OF PERSONALITY

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The thesis is constructed in two main parts:

Part I – The state of knowledge

Part II – Personal contributions

The thesis ends with the conclusions and includes the list of references and annexes.

Chapter I.1: In this chapter the nosologic entities are described in connection with the mental disorders provoked by substance consumption. Over the years various systems have been proposed for diagnosis and classification for substance use disorders. There are two internationally recognized textbooks: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM IV TR) and International Classification of Diseases (ICD 10).

Chapter I.2: Here the term "addiction" is defined and the assumptions of addiction are enumerated.

In Chapter I.3 the classification of psychoactive substances is presented: euphoric and narcotic substances of abuse with central stimulating action, natural hallucinogens of plant origin, pill addictions, inhalants, anabolic steroids.

Chapter I.4: The presentation of daily addictions (alcohol, nicotine, caffeine) and terms used for drugs (street drugs, recreational drugs, drugs produced in clandestine laboratories, impure drugs, hard drugs, soft drugs, illicit drugs, synthetic drugs, club drugs).

Chapter I.5: This chapter contains the followings: drug epidemiological data, epidemiological studies about drug abuse among adolescents is based on adolescent reports because parents often do not know about use, dosage and types of drugs their children is involved in.

Chapter I.6: Etiopathogenesis of drug abuse are described, especially how personality interacts with health is complex.

The second part of the thesis consists of: personal research related to the prevalence of substance consumption, sociodemographic factors related to drug use and dimensional personality profile analysis in the case of drug users.

Chapter II.1: the scientific basis for the research problem is presented here.

Chapter II.2: General methodology of the research is described. The purpose of this study is to understand the factors that initiate and sustain drug use among teenagers. The sampling method used in this study is a systematic stratified one(criteria: school and year of study). There was a sample of 1012 people (28 classes) with a 95% of confidence level of results and with 3% of error of representativeness of the sample.

Chapter II.3: Study 1. Prevalence of psychoactive substance use among adolescents from the county of Mures. The prevalence of experimental drugs consumption without medical prescription (anxiolytics, sedatives), cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy showed a significant increase compared to previous years, the prevalence of experimental drugs consumption without medical prescription combined with alcohol, inhalants, cocaine and LSD manifested as a slight increase, compared to previous years. The prevalence of experimental use of new psychoactive substances - SNPP (ethnobotanical) was over 10%.

Chapter II.4: Study 2. Analysis of sociodemographic factors associated with drug use. The prevalence of illicit drug use among young adults (age > 18 years) was not statistically significantly higher than among adolescents, prevalence of drug use among young people from disharmonious families was higher (but not statistically significant) than in the case of young people coming from biparental families. Prevalence of drug use among the group of young people from families going through divorce or from families with parents working abroad was statistically significantly higher. A drug consumer friend, drug or alcohol use problems in the family (parents) statistically significantly increased the prevalence of drug use.

Chapter II.5: Study 3. Dimensional profile of the drug consumer's personality. The dimensional profiles: seeking new (increased values), avoid suffering (increased values), and self-transcendence (lowered values) we identified significant differences between those who used drugs in the past 12 months compared with those who didn't take drugs. For the following dimensional profiles: reward dependence, persistence, Self-direction and cooperativity we have found no significant differences between those who used drugs in the past 12 months compared with those who didn't take any drugs.

Chapter II.6: General conclusions

- improving family support, increased school integration
- strengthen the child's ability to meet the challenges posed by social integration, focusing on: increased self-esteem, communication skills and expression of emotions
- emergency professional services of counseling and psychotherapy
- providing recreational facilities and leisure for young people
- national media campaign for information and risk awareness of the risks in the short, medium and long-term use, abuse and addiction