

## PEER REVIEW

Article: **THE SIGNIFICANT DETERMINANTS OF SUBSTANCE USE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL**

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Reviewer: .....

Both in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, the issue of psychoactive substance use by the youth is a relatively frequent research topic. For a few last years, a great number of papers of very different quality have been published in both countries.

I am pleased to state that the presented study indisputably belongs to the category of high-quality papers on this subject. The research of protective and risk factors of psychoactive and addictive substance use is based on the modern approach paradigm oriented towards the causal factors of use and constitutes the basis for the formulation of prevention strategies.

I appreciate the professional quality of the paper, the use of adequate research methods that are commonly used in the internationally renowned studies on this subject, the extent of the research sample and the adequate statistical processing of acquired research data. The conclusions presented by the authors are fully in accordance with the conclusions of renowned studies and the identification of protective and risk factors of addictive substance use constitutes, especially for teachers, educators and social workers, an interesting base for the formulation of strategies in the area of prevention.

Besides the main conclusions presented in the article the findings concerning the higher rate of boredom identified in village children is also worth noticing. The discovered passive ways of spending leisure time and the common lower awareness of the issue of psychoactive substances, especially in relation to the frequent absence of the network of prevention services and activities in smaller towns and villages, is a very dangerous combination. The information gathered may thus be an interesting basis for the aiming of the part of activities in the field of prevention of risk behaviour in relation to the psychoactive (addictive) substances at this very area. In the recent years, the Czech Republic has seen a significant increase in the number of young addicted persons using addictive substances precisely in the small towns and villages.

Therefore, it was necessary to significantly strengthen the absorption capacity of prevention activities at all levels of prevention.

The only questionable element within the presented results is, in my opinion, the inclusion of computer games among protective factors. It should be noted that the computer games themselves are often viewed as a passive and risk way of spending leisure time and in extreme cases may constitute a factor leading to habit (addiction).

In summary, in view of the aforesaid I consider the submitted article to be of high quality and I recommend it for publication in its entirety.

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