

## EFFICIENT EARLY DIAGNOSTICS OF RISK BEHAVIOUR IN ADOLESCENTS

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DOLEJŠ, M. *Efficient Early Diagnostics of Risk Behaviour in Adolescents*. Olomouc: UP Olomouc, 2010. 189 pp. ISBN 978-80-244-2642-6.

The monograph *Efficient Early Diagnostics of Risk Behaviour in Adolescents* by Martin Dolejš is focused on risk behaviour, the issue of adolescent personality and presents the results of a research dealing with diagnostics of risk behaviour in adolescents in the Czech Republic.

The first chapter is focused on the concept of the norm and normality from various points of view. Further, it presents features of norms, classification of norms, classification criteria etc., framing it with the cultural and historical contexts. It also deals with the definitions of the risk, problem, deviant, delinquent, asocial, antisocial and other types of behaviour, showing that these terms define similar, often overlapping, areas of interest. Despite certain links within these terms, the author considered the term risk behaviour to be superior over the others, being an umbrella expression for all the Terms.

The following chapter titled is focused on the theoretical background of the risk behaviour phenomenon, on the biology- (theory of the born criminal, influence of heredity) and psychology-oriented (personality features, intellect) theories, further on the theories conditioned by social factors (labelling theory, theory of anomy, theory of delinquent environment) and the eclectically-oriented theories (syndrome of problem behaviour), "directing attention to the entire developing personality of an adolescent, not separately to distinct problems" (p. 33).

The third chapter deals with various forms of risk behaviour, divided into seven basic categories for purposes of this book: use and abuse of legal and illegal substances; criminality; bullying, hostility and aggressive behaviour; problem sexual activities; school problems and offences, extremist, hazardous and sectarian activities; other forms of risk behaviour. Distinction of these categories is based on documents of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic but can be also found in several other publications referred in the text.

In fourth chapter the author endeavours to define terms adolescence, pubescence, puberty on both the content and temporal levels, proceeding from various conceptions. The author paid attention to biological, psychological and social changes in adolescents, search for and forming of a new identity. The author also mentioned the influence of three linked subjects – the family, the school and peer group, having an important role in the life of adolescents. Also he discussed risk factors – i.e. variables increasing the probability of the occurrence of a form of risk behaviour, and protective factors – i.e. variables having a positive influence on the occurrence of forms of risk behaviour and decreasing the frequency of their occurrence.

The fifth chapter is considered highly beneficial, especially for the fields of psychology and prevention of risk behaviour; the author introduces the readers into foreign psychodiagnostic tools he and his colleagues tried to transform into the Czech environment and which became a part of his research survey. These are the “Substance Use Risk Profile Scale” (SURPS) questionnaire by means of which four risk factors of personality – namely despair, oversensitivity, impulsivity and search for excitement – that can be one of the motives for abuse of legal and illegal substances and addiction to them; and the “High School Personality Questionnaire” (HSPQ). Further the theoretical constructs of these questionnaires, their contents, characteristics of personality features are described in detail.

The following chapter describes the content of this chapter. Not only information of the state of the Czech society, development of population in the last 20 years, unemployment rate is presented here but also information of the number of committed crimes, especially by the minors and juveniles, and information related to use of legal and illegal substances in adolescents.

Also the next chapter offers a number of statistical information related to the population of pupils of primary and general upper secondary schools in the Czech Republic and each administrative unit. Further the author deals with the description of the research sample consisting of nearly five thousand and a half respondents of pupils of the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades of primary schools, primary art schools, basic practical schools and pupils of the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grades of general upper secondary schools from the entire territory of the Czech Republic.

The eighth chapter presents the outcomes of the research project on the basis of which statistical analyses were carried out and population norms of

each category were formulated. These outcomes contributed to the formulation of a standardization of an efficient psychodiagnostic tool of prevention focused on adolescents displaying risk behaviour or tendencies to it, namely by means of early screening and early intervention.

The following chapter is conceived in a similar manner where the research outcomes used for the updating of the sten norms of each factor for pubescent of 11–16 years of age what was the primary and only objective of the use of this method, are presented.

An analysis of interrelations between the SURPS factors and the HSPQ factors was carried out within the research and these outcomes are presented. The author mentions the similarly focused researches abroad and compares his outcomes and the outcomes of the foreign researches. He formulates a hypothesis that the factors named differently in three different diagnostic methods can measure the same personality features.

This book and its concept endeavours to contribute to deeper and more complex understanding of the issue of risk behaviour and adolescent personality, especially thanks to interconnecting knowledge of several scientific fields, based on the latest information grounded on scientific researches. However it is not possible to reach the absolute core of some phenomena and problems with regard to the extent of the text and the broad scope of this issue. The author is aware of this fact, and often refers the readers to both Czech and foreign specialized literature on which the text is based and which is quoted here. An indispensable function in this area is fulfilled by the footnote apparatus enabling the author to present more knowledge from the given area.

Supplementing the explanatory text with charts and diagrams with processed statistical information, survey outcomes related to the selected forms of risk behaviour, demographical data and outcomes of the realized research, enables the readers to get a better insight into the given issue.

Appreciated is the use of name and subject indexes helping the readers be better orientated in the text. The good overall arrangement is supported also by the text composition, structuring of the texts into chapters, subchapters and units as well as the graphical form of the chapter, subchapter, chart and diagram titles in blue.

The benefit of the reviewed book is seen especially in the fact that it offers a complex and comprehensive view of the area of risk behaviour in

adolescents and presents psychodiagnostic tools that have not been used in the Czech Republic and can be beneficial for efficient prevention of risk behaviour in adolescents. This publication can be recommended to students and graduates from Psychology as well as other majors dealing with risk behaviour and prevention because detailed and valuable information can be found here.

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