

Abstract

Background: At the beginning of the 20th century, first expert institutes for the treatment of addiction started to appear in what is now Czechia and Slovakia. Apart from treating male patients, demand in society for similar institutes devoted to women also increased, as a result of rising public awareness of addictive substance use – especially alcohol – even among women, including during pregnancy and motherhood. As women reached a new stature in society during the 20th century thanks to continuing emancipation, their relationship to addictive substances also changed – a shift especially apparent after World War 2.

Aims: The aim of this bachelor's thesis is to describe the process of establishment of specialized institutes focusing on women struggling with addiction, the shifting attitudes and approaches towards treating female addiction, and to map the history of addiction treatment with a special emphasis on the female gender from the beginning of the 20th century until the year 1989.

Methods: This work utilised the method of collection of data from available sources, including monographies, scientific articles, and annual studies. Unfortunately, the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in the Czech Republic caused libraries to be either closed or operating in a highly restricted mode for much of the years 2020 and 2021, which made archival library work impossible. For this reason, I worked mostly with electronic sources available from the portals of the National Medical Library (MEDVIK) and the National Library (NDK).

Results: Careful analysis of the available documents revealed a difference between the positions of addicted males and females during the 20th century, both from the point of view of laic and expert society. A pivotal moment was the founding of the first independent female department in Lojovice by Jaroslav Skála in the year 1971. From this moment forward, it becomes apparent that the society accepted the responsibility for the increasing number of addicted women, which jumped significantly after World War 2. The work of Heller and Pecinová was especially essential in this regard, particularly their modification of the Apolinar Addiction Treatment Model for the needs of female patients. Clear shifts in the problematic of female addiction are visible thanks to various periodical and expert articles being released over time, until the year 1989.

Key words – drugs, addiction, alcoholism, addiction treatment of women, development, Czech republic