

ABSTRACT

The thesis called “The awareness of harmful effects of using tobacco products and experience with their usage among pupils of lower secondary stage of selected elementary schools.” is divided into three parts. The theoretical part is devoted to the origin of tobacco products and their chemical composition. It describes the effect of toxic substances contained in tobacco smoke on the human body, characterizes the diseases that are associated with the use of these products, explains the harm of passive smoking, and lists the legislative measures introduced in this area. It also deals with the emergence and treatment of addiction, the use of tobacco by children of older school age and describes preventive measures that appear in Czech schools. In the practical part, it presents the results of quantitative research with 198 respondents, in two elementary schools in the Karlovy Vary region. The target group consisted of pupils of the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grades. The results of the research showed that the awareness of these pupils is at a very high level, but some awareness needs to be brought closer to the pupils – especially in the section of diseases caused using tobacco products, legislative measures and in the section of chemical composition of products. The survey also shows that 45,9 % of respondents have some experience using tobacco products. Many respondents who have experience using these products are 8th grade elementary school students in a small village and 9th grade elementary school students in a town. These results were considered during the creation of the didactic design in the form of a lecture.

KEYWORDS

smoking, prevention, tobacco products, elementary school, health risks