

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Addictological clients have often comorbid personality disorder. Each disorder has its specifics and gender also has an impact on substance use. So far, there has not been sufficient research focused on female psychoactive substance users with one of the most frequent personality disorders – borderline personality disorder.

Objectives: The aim of this research was to describe in detail and explore women with BPD in their twenties in connection with their substance use experience – in particular prevalence, patterns of use, reasons for use and substance use impacts on BPD symptoms.

Sample: The sample was collected with the help of self-selection sampling. It consisted of 8 women in the age between 20 and 30, who have been diagnosed with emotionally unstable personality disorder of the borderline type.

Methods: A qualitative and exploratory descriptive research in the form of a collective case study was carried out. The data was retrieved with the help of semi-structured interviews, that were recorded on a dictaphone. The data was mostly analyzed by descriptive and partially theoretical content analysis.

Results: The respondents used alcohol and cannabis mostly. Problem use of any addictive substance was present with more than half of the respondents and persisted around 2 years. Polydrug use is not common. Alcohol is used in company of others and cannabis is preferred to be used alone. The most frequent reasons for substance use are self-medication of negative feelings, self-destruction or pursuit of conformity with their social group. Alcohol worsens BPD symptoms as self-harm and depressive temper and mitigates anxiety and emptiness feelings. Cannabis worsens self identity problems and anxiety.

Conclusion: This thesis aims to open the topic of substance use by a selected sample of women who suffer from stigmatization, both from society and the specialists. It should also contribute to a better understanding of their issues that lead them to substance use.

Key words: personal disorder– dual diagnosis–comorbidity–harmful use–women–addictive substance