

Welcome to the latest edition of "Social Pathology and Prevention", where we continue our commitment to uncovering and understanding the multifaceted challenges posed by contemporary societal issues. This edition offers a rich tapestry of topics woven meticulously by our esteemed contributors, drawing from diverse research domains. As we navigate through these pages, three primary themes emerge at the forefront: the digital age's hidden pitfalls, the evolving concept of family and its challenges in contemporary society, and the complexities inherent in content analysis.

The first thematic area can be called Internet and Smartphone Use: A Double-Edged Sword. The digital age, with its plethora of conveniences, has stealthily ushered in a set of challenges that ripple across our personal and societal fabrics. In this edition, two pivotal papers are a stark reminder of the nuanced dangers lurking beneath the screens. Helena Pospíšilová and Pavla Macháčková navigate the often-murky waters of smartphone dependence in their Smartphone Addiction and its Consequence on the Perceived Threat in Health, Family, Social, and Economic Areas. Their research unravels a startling correlation between our increasing discomfort from missing our phones and a cascade of negative implications affecting our health, social relationships, and economic stability. The emergence of 'nomophobia' – the fear of being without one's mobile device – takes center stage. Their findings delineate a spectrum, ranging from the relatively harmless FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) to the deeply concerning inability of individuals to assess their phone usage critically.

Meanwhile, in an interesting research piece from Slovakia – The Risk of Addictive Internet Use Among Secondary School Pupils in Slovakia – Soňa Kollárová unravels the extent of internet addiction among secondary school students. Utilizing the Internet Addiction Questionnaire (IAT), the study paints a distressing picture of a generation trapped by the digital web. The patterns identified, such as mood modification and deceit about internet usage, reveal a populace wrestling with the internet's seductive grasp. These investigations compel us, as a society, to introspect and devise ways to harness technology's positives while staving off its darker undercurrents.

The second thematic area has the most robust representation in this issue – five contributions are devoted to it. They all deal with the challenges facing families as institutions in their own right and with other institutions such as health care. The concept of 'family', once seemingly set in stone, is now in flux. This edition dedicates significant space to elucidate this evolution and the intertwined challenges.

Libuša Gužíková's comprehensive exploration – A New Perspective on the Definition of Family – delves into the morphing of familial relations and structures in our modern context. As traditional models undergo scrutiny and, in many cases, reconstruction, a postmodern family identity emerges, embodying both archaic and contemporary attributes. Such a synthesis accentuates the complexities in defining "family" today. Gužíková's examination pivots on socio-cultural shifts like rising secularism and evolving moral values, emphasizing the need for an adaptive conceptual framework to encapsulate these changes.

In their article, *The Family in the 20th Century*, Kamil Janiš and Hana Římovská follow up with a complex portrait of the changing nature of the family and social norms across generations. Delineating the characteristics of each generation, from the “lost generation” to the “alpha generation”, provides a comprehensive view of how families have evolved in the context of social events and technological advances. These positive and negative changes shed light on the ever-changing dynamics of family structures. A critical insight is the increasing fluidity of the definition of ‘family’, which highlights the importance of inclusivity and understanding in our modern world.

The general conceptualization of the family is followed by three articles focusing on specific social situations that contemporary families may face.

Article by Kateřina Ivanová and Adela Lemrová *Family Autonomy versus the Mother’s Benefit: Is the Father a Support or a Burden During Childbirth?* presents a case that touches on a deeply personal and ethically complex situation many may encounter in a medical setting. It opens the debate about who should have authority during childbirth – the mother or her partner? The paper deftly captures the myriad of emotions, beliefs, and values that can come into play during such intense moments. It challenges the reader to consider balancing respecting past wishes and addressing present needs, especially in the emotionally stressful childbirth environment. The case shows that although planning and preparedness are essential, flexibility and communication remain paramount to ensure the well-being of all involved.

Anna Banasiak’s study, *The Sense of Empowerment and the Level of Parenting Stress Experienced by Mothers of Children with Autism*, offers invaluable insights into the challenges faced by mothers of children with developmental disorders, especially autism. By comparing and contrasting mothers’ experiences of children with autism, Down syndrome, and those developing typically, Banasiak uncovers the intrinsic link between a mother’s sense of empowerment and her stress level. This research underscores the importance of a support system, knowledge, competencies, and self-efficacy in improving the lives of these mothers. It is an urgent call to action for communities, healthcare systems, and policymakers to empower these mothers, emphasizing the positive ripple effects such support can have on families dealing with developmental disorders.

On the other hand, Anna Hudecová’s *Contemporary Family and Its Current Problems* paints a penetrating picture of the problems of the contemporary family and offers a view of gender dynamics, role reversal, and problems specific to families with disabled members. Particularly illuminating is her discussion of gender stereotypes, which reveals the deep-seated beliefs that shape family roles. Her examination of families with disabled children offers a poignant perspective highlighting the nuances of shared responsibility and the emotional complexities involved.

The last section you can call *Content Analysis: A Dance of Subjectivity and Precision*. Qualitative research is often on a tightrope, balancing subjectivity with pursuing methodological precision. This edition spotlights the art and science of content analysis through a compelling study.

Irena Loudova, Kateřina Strnadova, and Silvie Urbanova’s research, an offshoot of the broader DAQUAo project, delves deep into the therapy diaries analysis, highlighting the stark disparities in coding between two analysts. This study underscores the challenges in content analysis, where personal biases and interpretive differences can drastically alter outcomes. The contrasting approaches of Analyst K and Analyst L, focusing on broader versus detailed categorizations, respectively, bring the pressing need for standardization and clarity to the fore.

However, the research also emphasizes that subjectivity might pose challenges, but it holds value when wielded effectively. By advocating for a collaborative approach and reflective practices, the study illuminates a path where qualitative research can retain its depth yet achieve much-coveted consistency. This call for an intersection of multiple perspectives and insights is a clarion call for qualitative researchers, highlighting the potential of collective wisdom.

In closing, this edition of “Social Pathology and Prevention” encapsulates the dynamic tapestry of our ever-evolving societal landscape. The research presented serves as a mirror, reflecting our contemporary challenges, and as a beacon, guiding us toward more profound understanding and proactive solutions. We hope that, as readers, you find inspiration, insights, and, most importantly, the impetus to engage in dialogues and actions that reshape our collective future. We are honored to be part of this journey with you and look forward to continued exploration in future editions.

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