

## **Sexual addiction as a factor of cyber sex crime**

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The paper deals with sexual addiction, a phenomenon which has only recently been given more attention in lay and professional circles, in spite of the unimaginable extent and complexity of the problem. After having set the phenomenon of sexuality in contemporary society and presented the general psychology and sociology of addictions, the author focuses on the central theme - compulsive sexual behaviour on the internet. Internet addiction in general and "cyber sex" in particular are discussed in this connection and their links with some psychological aspects of internet sex crime.

The association with criminology and/or criminal law is obvious from the fact that sexual addiction is one of the common reasons for various (moral or social) deviant conducts, and in extreme cases also a cause of sex crimes. These offences can be very varied, ranging from internet child pornography to sexual harassment and violence in "real" life; such conduct can be attributed to the use of the internet as a handy "medium", which due to "physical" and "inexpensive" access, anonymity, isolation and its element of fantasy enables escape from "real" interpersonal relations.

Dependence on internet sexuality can be a part of much larger sexual addiction, but it is not possible to agree with the views of some researchers who reduce internet sexual addiction to internet addiction in general. To make the problem even clearer, it cannot be overlooked that various attempts at (legal) regulation of internet contents obviously represent a "cure" to symptoms, but not to causes. It is necessary to be aware of unsuccessful preventive instruments, although we should not ignore the many positive roles of the internet in contemporary society.

**Key words:** sex, sexual deviations, sexual addiction, internet, internet addiction

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