

Review of: "A Philosophical Analysis of the Foundational Suppositions in Harm Reduction Theory and Practice"

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The author raises an urgent problem related to the understanding of human addiction. He chooses a special case in the study and focuses on drug addiction. In my opinion, the philosophical representation of the problem of harm reduction is very important. The author chooses three philosophical concepts for his analysis, through the prism of which he analyzes the theory and practice of harm reduction (relativism, collectivism and determinism). However, this narrowed the author's philosophical approach. Several other approaches, for example, Gadamer's hermeneutics, did not fit into this analysis and seem superfluous. It is necessary either to deepen this part of the study, or you can remove it from the article. I recommend continuing the theoretical analysis based on more modern postmodern approaches. Many of the sources in the article are outdated. Today, the International Health Organization has recognized gadget addiction (cyberaddiction) as a disease-level addiction. Therefore, the author correctly states that it is necessary to develop the practice of reducing the harm from addictions. However, in the context of philosophical theory alone, it is impossible to draw practical conclusions. I recommend the author to work out the problem at the interface with psychology, for example, to strengthen the theoretical part of the article with the theory of the psychology of influence of the American author Robert B. Cialdini.

The very idea of a negative social influence on a person who becomes dependent by "running away from himself" is important. The author of the article emphasizes this and talks about "heroic identity". On the one hand, it justifies drug addiction, on the other, it speaks of the falsity of such a path (cognitive dissonance). It is possible to extend the philosophical analysis with a psychological cognitive approach, in which mental dependence on drugs is analyzed in connection with specific mechanisms of the locus of control and disorders in the structure of cognitive processes. From the point of view of philosophy, the author defines the difference between the concepts of "drug use" and "drug addiction" and proves that this is so, referring to the theory of Hume, Pickard and others. Also in the article, the author emphasized the ontological difference between these concepts. However, in our opinion, in order to strengthen one's philosophical position, one can turn to humanistic, analytical, behavioral and other modern approaches, where dependencies are determined from the point of view of a person's mental properties, individual and social influences on the processes of the psyche. In my opinion, the article needs to be finalized, the extra theoretical material overloads the article, and there are not enough critical conclusions.