**Palacky University in Olomouc**

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

Department of Primary Education

**THE INFLUENCE OF FACEBOOK**

**ON PRIMARY-STAGE PUPILS**

**AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

(The summary of my dissertation thesis – an integral

part of my postgraduate study programme)

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Olomouc 2013

My thesis deals with the problem of how Facebook can influence children under the age of twelve (with respect to the fact that the minimum age requirement to open a Facebook account is thirteen years of age). The theoretical and empirical parts of the thesis focus on cyberbullying. In the Czech Republic cyberbullying is a pressing problem which is **yet to be researched.**

**The theoretical part** covers the following areas: pre-school and school age, a child’s family, school, their surroundings, and the way these factors influence them. Furthermore, the thesis concentrates on social networks. Facebook and cyberbullying can seriously affect children or even expose them to danger.

**In the empirical part** the thesis considers the following variables: boys versus girls and Facebook users in cities versus Facebook users in villages. Perhaps the most interesting question is whether the users who spend the most time on Facebook are predominantly introverts or extroverts.

**The aim of this thesis** is to show how **Facebook affects users up to twelve** years of age, particularly socially. Facebook does not only influence the individual child and their relationship with a group of children, but it can also influence the relationships between individuals within a group or relationships between different groups of people.

**The main contribution of this thesis for pedagogy** is that although this problem is really acute, it has so far been insufficiently explored. The question of the impact of Facebook on children is closely related to the area of education and upbringing.

**The research** will primarily be quantitative and it will also be complemented by qualitative research, using an uncontrolled interview with children up to the age of twelve. The research will show the influence of Facebook on young pupils. The representative sample of children will consist of primary-stage pupils from seven to twelve years of age. The findings of the quantitative research will try to prove that Facebook seriously affects young pupils.

The quantitative research is divided into two parts:

• identification of the type of personality by using the Eysenck questionnaire JEPI;

• a questionnaire to establish the validity of the hypotheses of this thesis.

For the quantitative research, a questionnaire method has been used. The questionnaire has been based on the generally applicable rules (Chráska, M. Methodology of Educational Research, 2007). By using the method of simple random choice, two elementary schools – one in a city and the other one in a village – have been chosen for our research.

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