

SOCIAL WORKERS' SKILLS IN WORKING WITH DRUG-ADDICTED PATIENTS

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Abstract

Different societies throughout the history in various shapes faced with the problem of drug addiction. Since the early 1970s prevention of drug addiction has become a priority. What seems to be very important is how to deal with and solve the complex problem. The problem is complex, because drug addiction not only affects the addict but also to his/her family. A social worker may help in drug-related problems. Since an addiction to drugs can affect several aspects of people's lives, social workers can play many roles when assisting these individuals. The present study intends to review the role social workers and their skills set in solving this complex problem of drug addiction.

Keywords: Addiction, prevention, social costs, social disorders, drugs

INTRODUCTION

Drug addicts think drugs of as mental disorders fixer or stress reliever. They do not have social ties and they do not have self-confidence and feeling of a value. Drug addiction is defined as the continued compulsive use of drugs despite adverse health or social consequences. Drug addicted people have lost control of their drug use. Individuals who are addicted to drugs often become isolated from family or friends, have difficulty at work/ school, may commit crimes. For a person addicted to drugs, continuing to take them becomes the primary focus in life. Drugs of addiction do not merely cause short-term changes in an individual's cognitive skill and behavior. A drug' s effect lasts a short time, ranging from less than an hour to 12 hours, depending on the drug, dose, and route of administration. The changes in the brain that result from continued drug use, however, can last a long time. Scientists believe that some of these changes disappear when drug use stops; some disappear within a short time after drug use stops and other changes are potentially permanent. One of the first changes in the brain that may occur in response to repeated drug abuse is tolerance. Tolerance develops when a person needs increasing doses of a drug to achieve the same high or "rush" that previously resulted from a lower dose of the drug. Addiction the social position degrades a person and disappoints entire

family. The addicted person is disinterestedness to religious orders and social laws (Sedighsarvestani, 2008). In areas prone to crime and living in crowded and dirty city and their environment is more immoral, addiction is plenty. One very important point that addiction's causes are numerous and it therefore cannot be used to get a way on all these factors influenced by the ways of prevention and should be used for various groups of people helping the issue (Raufi, 2000).

Since the early 1970s prevention of drug addiction has become a priority. New preventive approaches in juvenile drug use, cause cognitive factors and prevention of drug addiction at any individual, but not on the relationship they have with each other and emphasizing the diagnosis has a comprehensive theoretical model. Studying addiction problems and ways to deal with addiction or addict persons as social pathology led to motivate many researchers to investigate and identify the roots of drug abuse or addiction. Some researchers studied social factors, while the others counted on individual or family causes; all tried to find basic solutions to deal with the issue. In spite of all attempts to end up this social deuce; unfortunately addiction extends rapidly through whole societies and pervasively and overwhelmingly leading to dire social and economical effects (Sotoudeh, 1996; Raufi, 2000). Subsequently, any attempts to overcome to this difficulty which had performed and accomplished by researchers and planners in all over the world, unfortunately those attempts led to failure. Every day, we observe that countless human beings have been conversed as captives in the hands of this dire and dreadful addiction all around the world. Ones who finally seek as refugee a shelter at the corner of the street and house, desolated area ,and some hiding place at dead-end streets with contemptibly manners, until they loss theirs valuable lives. Regarding to these terrible destiny of such persons, this is not only addicted persons ended up to the dreadful death and destroying themselves and their life; but also dragged families to the predicaments situation which raised more difficulties for them, such as social, mental and economical harms which lead all society to the danger of spoiling and degenerated ending and termination.

THEORETICAL MODELS EXPLAINING ADDICTION

Behavior Therapy

This process occurs by making it depending on the unintended consequences. Binding in aversion conditioning, stimulus reinforcement of undesirable behavior in the vicinity of a stimulus loses the ability to invoke the undesirable behavior (Serajkhorrani, 2004).

Reality Therapy

Essential component of the identity of all people in all cultures indicates that lasts from birth to death. Although identity can be examined from different perspectives, but in fact are considered medical treatment from the perspective of identity and the identity component failure into success and identity (Shafiabadi et al., 1997).

Biological Theory

Biological approaches' scholars believe that deviate positively associated with factors such as disability and genetic patterns. Psychological theories of deviant and deviation from this perspective as a behavioral disorder and is due to individual characteristics. Many psychologists explain personality flaws are offset by the sense that certain personality types are more inclined to diversion and addiction. Freud's explanation of how the formation of personality and deviant and criminal cases that is related to their personal circumstances and mental state.

Group Therapy

Traditional therapies in the treatment of major medical groups such as many cases is themselves a series of developments and events happening in these groups include: socialization, learning from others, universality, emotions such as spreading anger.

Sociological Theory

The main objective of the study of sociology and social aspects of the sad and uncomfortable situation is not subject to show objective causes of these problems. Sociologists understand the reasons for the deviations are due to social and cultural factors that shape human behavior and sociological explanations of their social structure and the interaction patterns and rely on other members of society.

THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL WORKER

A social worker may specialize in helping in drug-related problems. Since an addiction to drugs can affect several aspect of people's lives, social workers often must play many roles when assisting these individuals. For instance, they may provide support to their families, help them find stable housing and ensure that they are getting proper medical attention for their addiction. Further, a social worker may specialize in helping a group to change the culture of the group (Schulman, 2001). When people turn to drugs, they often hurt their families in the process. For this reason, some social workers concentrate on helping and supporting families when one of their members becomes plagued by a drug addiction.

Social workers' skills in dealing with drug addicted patients

Social workers are trained to work with people as individuals but also to look beyond the individual and the individual's presenting problem. Perhaps the key advantage our profession has over others is its emphasis on the individual within a particular environment and context (Social work, Alcohol & Drug, 2013). A social work must possess some basic skills to effectively deal with drug-addicted patients. S/he must....

- confidently ask about substance use and its effects on our clients and families
- know what the response means and doesn't mean (or if we don't understand ask them to explain further)
- discuss with them the positive and negative aspects of their substance use (with more exploration around the negatives)
- assess the risk it poses to them and their family or partner relationships
- offer brief interventions (advice and information) around alcohol and drug use as appropriate
- know what specialist resources are available locally in order to refer people on as necessary.

Drug addiction is a disease and leads to severe physical and psychological dependency. The most important and most fundamental treatment of addiction therapy is group therapy, where skilled social workers may play a very important role. Social work should attempt to increase the awareness of families in this area and the parents should know that children in any age are competent and being caused by inexperienced curiosity that are drawn to diversion. What is important here is that the amount of trust can help people addicted and families. Social worker can have an effective role in the confidence of members of the family to work. Social worker (the therapist) should be in between the patients and use normal functions and the principles of consistency and conformity mechanism of the addict's defense to hit central trait.

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