

Research – Part III

Interviews were conducted among professionals in the field of drug abuse to gather opinions and suggestions about critical points that emerged from the first two parts of the research study. Proposals for good practice were identified

Target groups identified as most suitable for carrying out studies regarding relationship between drug abuse and female sexual abuse

(maximum two answers; primary: most important)

	Primary	Secondary
➤ Female addicts	80%	20%
➤ Women abused in childhood	20%	80%
➤ Abused women	0%	0%
➤ Prostitutes	0%	0%

The most significant difficulties in recognising the interrelationship between addiction and abuse

(maximum two answers; primary: most important)

	Prim.	Sec.
➤ Women do not speak easily about it	80%	0%
➤ Some professionals do not explore	0%	80%
➤ Certain abuse is considered 'normal'	20%	0%
➤ Victim might think it is a problem of the past and would be reluctant to acknowledge the association between the drug abuse and the sexual abuse	0%	20%

Requirements for professionals to cope with cases of drug addiction and abuse

(maximum two answers; primary: most important)

	Prim.	Sec.
➤ Awareness of interrelationship between drug abuse and sexual abuse	60%	20%
➤ Training in respect of this topic	40%	60%

Others: Resources, such as adequate ancillary services

The most significant difficulties in building and promoting a network of services

(maximum two answers; primary: most important)

	Prim.	Sec.
➤ The abuse is 'not visible' and is not perceived as a social alarm	20%	60%
➤ Abuse is not perceived or recognised as such	60%	0%
➤ Few professionals are trained on the inter-relationship between addiction and abuse	0%	20%
➤ Services involved are not specialised in this area	20%	0%

Most significant difficulties for monitoring outcomes of interventions

(maximum two answers; primary: most important)

	Prim.	Sec.
➤ We do not have a scientific monitoring practice	100%	0%
➤ We do not have a specialised multi-disciplinary team	0%	60%
➤ We do not have enough human resources	0%	20%

The most significant difficulties for primary and secondary prevention in the field

(maximum two answers; primary: most important)

	Prim.	Sec.
➤ There is lack of awareness about possible interrelationship between sexual abuse and drug abuse	20%	60%
➤ It is difficult to predict in time the risk of drug addiction as a consequence of childhood sexual abuse	20%	0%
➤ A woman acquiring drugs through sex trading is not perceived as an abused woman	60%	0%

Suggestions for training professionals to recognise and cope with these cases

- Clear view of topics requiring training
- A training programme adopted according to needs of the particular country based on research
- Stakeholders should be informed and involved
- Involvement at University level for training and research

More suggestions for training professionals to recognise and cope with these cases

- In-service training on awareness regarding co-relation between drug abuse and sexual abuse; best practices and updated information on the subject
- Training on multi-disciplinary scale and involve all professionals and stakeholders
- A clear plan for optimal networking so that action is effective, immediate and continuous

Proposed recommendations for an awareness and educational campaign targeting the wider population and groups at risk

- **Media:**

Promote discussion and disseminate information through television and radio programmes

Articles in newspapers presenting a realistic view of the problem

- **Educational package:**

a) Sensitise the wider population to the problem of drug abuse / sexual abuse and sexual abuse / drug abuse through public seminars

b) Generate discussion

c) Raise awareness regarding the need of support for these women

- **Schools:**

Outreach for children in personal skills and development classes including the counselling and guidance units