

Use of mind-altering substances may result in an array of adverse - especially health and social - consequences not only for drug users but also for their close persons. Help to solve drug use-related problems is provided by various drug services. These however primarily focus on drug users and in the best case perceive their relatives as a significant source of support in order to achieve a change in dependent behaviour of drug consumers. The vast majority of drug services in past didn't take into account the fact that relatives might suffer due to drug use of their family member too, and thus that they might also need specific professional help.

The aim of dissertation is 1) to answer the question of whether an involvement of relatives in the process of drug users treatment in therapeutic community might be of benefit not only for residents but also for their close persons, and 2) to introduce a comprehensive model of work with relatives in therapeutic community which has been verified within the inquiry. This has been carried out with the use of predominantly qualitative grounded theory approach. The main data sources were drug users, their relatives, professionals, literature and participative observation of author.

Findings suggest that involvement of relatives into the process of treatment of drug users in therapeutic community may significantly contribute not only to the change of drug user's dependent behaviour but also to an improvement of well-being of their relatives. As the most beneficial interventions have been identified i) family counseling; ii) joint groups of relatives with residents, and iii) separated peer groups. Main limits of assessed programme seem to be a) limited time; b) limited capacity of therapeutic team, and c) possible nonrealistic expectations of close persons with regard to the process of behavioural change by residents.