

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis deals with the role of exusers (former habit-forming substances abusers) in the treatment of addicted clients and in the management processes utilised within the communities of the Betel organisation. Extensive attention is paid to the description of the methods of work in the Betel organisation, which uses in the majority, the self- help therapeutic potential of the exusers in its long-term residential programme. Throughout this thesis, the alternative approach in treatment used in Betel is compared to the more frequently used concept of professionally managed therapeutic communities.

The theoretical part of this thesis is divided into five main chapters. The first chapter deals with the description of the workings of professionally managed therapeutic communities, their place in the system of help to the addicted in the Czech Republic, and their effectiveness in the treatment. The second chapter describes in detail the methods and specifics of the help that is used in Betel and especially points out the role of exusers in this concept. The third chapter focuses on the history of community lifestyle with an emphasis on the self-help therapeutic impact. In the fourth chapter there is a description of the specifics of the management processes utilised in both the therapeutic and Betel communities, and the fifth chapter concentrates on the advantages and disadvantages of the therapeutic potential of the exusers.

The research part of this thesis focuses on the position and role of the exusers in the Betel community in Kralupy nad Vltavou and for comparison in the Betel communities in Great Britain also. Using interview, observation and secondary literature analysis, this thesis explores the particular concept of the exusers role in the Betel communities in the context of their relationships with professionals and clients. This thesis discovers a number of interesting facts about the exusers who work in the Betel communities and on the basis of those facts there have been useful suggestions formulated for practice. The purpose of this thesis is to contribute to the open professional discussion about exusers, through a precise description of the approach taken in the Betel communities and findings about the particular role of exusers within them.

Key words: exuser, therapeutic community, management, treatment of addiction, therapy, alternative way of help, concept Betel