Abstract

The question of what leads clients to onset of the WHITE LIGHT I therapeutic community was the main reason for this research. It may seem that the main motive is the drug addiction of clients, but I rather wonder what the last drop is, that they come to make a decision to do something about themselves. In my experience, it is the consequences of drug use rather than addiction itself. I wanted to examine those reasons.

The aim of the research is to find out and explain the reasons for clients entering the Therapeutic community WHITE LIGHT I.

The thesis is based on qualitative research. The methods used to obtain data are clients’ biographies, questions on admission, records of the therapeutic groups and semistructured interview. I conducted the research on eight WHITE LIGHT I community clients who agreed to participate in the research. For data processing, I used the thematic analysis as a method, which is the most appropriate for a given need.

The research revealed eight reasons for getting treatment. It is a loss of housing, a desire for a normal life without drugs, loss of employment, problems with the law, family pressure, health problems, client in the position of victim (crime, violence, etc.) and loss of life expectancy. Findings from my research corresponded to the reasons found by other researchers (Blomqvist, 1996) (Cunningham, Koski-Jännes, & Toneatto, 1999). Never had one reason for the decision but it was usually a combination of these reasons. I see the limitations of research mainly in a small research group. For a closer examination of the hypotheses set by me, it would be good to carry out similar research on a larger sample of clients of the therapeutic communities.

Keywords: therapeutic community, treatment, addiction, reasons of onset, client