

Abstract

Purpose: While our modern society seems to have learnt how to accept and tolerate drug-addicted men, drug-addicted women on the other hand are even typically confronted with prejudice and contempt from the part of society. We should pay more attention to gender problematics despite the addiction background. We should map the motivation and circumstances that could on one side convince women to addiction treatment and on the other side prevent them from taking treatment and completing it.

Goals: The first goal of this thesis was to map the circumstances and motivation that bring female clients – substance-using mothers with their children – to treatment in the therapeutic community. The second target was to find out which specific motivational determinants keep female clients in treatment. The third aim of this work was to find out which area of CMRS questionnaire is most involved in the motivation of clients.

Research Methodology: Research data collection took place in July and August 2018 in one particular therapeutic community. A semi-structured interview was conducted with clients followed by two short CMRS and DAST questionnaires.

Research Target Group: The target research group consisted of eight clients from the therapeutic community. All clients were mothers in the age of 24 – 35 years.

Findings: The respondents' testimonies clearly proved the child or children was the most frequent motive for treatment. Either the threat of removal or the desire to get him or her back into care. The most common preceding circumstances prior to entering the community were homeless life on the street which client-mothers perceived as very undesirable.

Conclusion and Recommendation: Having studied the professional literature on drug addicted women - mothers, motivation and applying the results of our research, following measures are recommended: Strengthen the competence of clients as mothers. Consider gender specifics also in addictology services. Develop and further improve a sensitive and considerate approach to working with the target group of drug substance using mothers. A relapse is a big challenge and a potential risk for such clients. It is hard to completely disturb the contact with fathers of children who are usually users of addictive substances as well.

Key words: Substance using mothers, motivation, cyclic model of change, addiction treatment, therapeutic community