

**A Retrospective Study &
A Prospective Study of
Psychoactive Substance Abusers of P S 33**

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A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF OUTCOME OF CLIENTS OF P S 33

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SUMMARY

Forty nine psychoactive substance abusers who have received treatment at PS 33 are followed up at a mean interval of about 16 months from their initial intake. They are in general young adults with more male and single persons. Majority have education of Form Three or less and they have employment problem. The majority are living with their family but less than half of the family are involved in their treatment. They have in general abused psychoactive substance for six years before they approach PS 33 for treatment. Only 7% have received previous treatment at other treatment agencies. Cough mixture, tranquilliser, cannabis are the major primary drugs abused. Peer influence and sensory satisfaction form the major initial reasons for abuse, while problem solving, sensory satisfaction and withdrawal symptoms form the reasons for maintaining the drug. About 43% and 88% have psychiatric and social problems respectively.

At follow up 67.3% of the subjects are free from psychoactive substance abuse. They have received treatment by social workers for about 52 sessions. Seventy percents have received medical outpatient treatment and 39% inpatient treatment. Three quarters of the subjects appropriately disagree that they can control the abuse of non-opioid psychoactive substance and that they will not be dependent. In the 26 subjects consented to more comprehensive assessment, they have relatively low scoring in their attitude towards purpose in life and their self esteem. The whole group also has a high mean scores on General Health Questionnaire indicating the presence of psychiatric disturbances. They have higher belief in control of health by oneself and by a powerful other and less belief in control of health by chance.

The number of nights dining with family in a month, the relationship with father, high General Health Questionnaire score, and low belief in chance in the control of health are the significant differences between the non-abusers and abusers at the time of follow up assessment.

INTRODUCTION

In the annex II of Paper 9/94 presented to the Research Subcommittee, ACAN, a research on evaluation of the services provided by PS 33 was raised. The objectives of the research mentioned included the following,

1. to evaluate the effectiveness of P S 33 in the treatment of psychotropic substances abusers,
2. to design a monitoring system so that the services are provided to the most cost-effective manner, and
3. to analyse the characteristics of its clients with a view to channelling them into different forms of treatment.