

Experiences in a therapeutic community

Abstract

This article aims to describe the context of a therapeutic community, its practices, limitations and the experiences of users of alcohol and drugs within that internment space, we also discuss the existing approach of abstinence at the institution, and harm reduction policy. The problematizations are made in the Social Psychology practices field, which took place in a therapeutic community located in a small countryside city in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. We conclude that the moral speeches, from the structure and routine of that place as also the zero-tolerance policies, produce effects in subjects confined. Moreover, the characterization of therapeutic communities concerns interventions that seek a kind of healing by faith, and not a project engaged with a health professional treatment for addicted people.

Key-words: Drugs; Therapeutic community; Abstinence; Harm reduction.