

The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the Social Rehabilitation of Recovering Addicts in Tehran

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) generally refer to institutions that are not directly part of the government structure but play an important role as intermediaries between the individual, the government, and society. A large number of these NGOs are active in the field of drug addiction prevention, treatment, and deterrence. One of the best and most effective ways to prevent addiction is to use the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These organizations have serious plans in this field due to their effective communication with the public, and their programs have always been more effective than other programs in combating drugs. Returning a person with an addiction to society requires the cooperation and efforts of family, friends, government and non-government institutions, as well as the person with an addiction himself. They need to be assured that everyone in society will accept them. In addition, They must be given appropriate job opportunities and the necessary training to function as a healthy and valuable member of society. On the other hand, in examining approaches to preventing relapse in people with an addiction, some models focus on post-discharge care. In this regard, one of the most critical measures is to create a deep awareness of the internal and external triggers that may lead individuals to risky situations. Many family members help people with an addiction in ways that are detrimental to them and themselves. In this context, it should be noted that addiction is a disease and requires adequate social support. While rehabilitation centers play a positive role in the social rehabilitation of people with an addiction, they face challenges such as financial constraints, lack of adequate staff training, and social barriers. These challenges prevent many people with addiction from receiving appropriate services after quitting drugs and hinder their reintegration into society. As a result, there is a need for more government and social support to improve the performance of these organizations. One of the most critical issues in the social rehabilitation of people with an addiction is providing conditions in which people with an addiction have a strong motivation to return to society. Non-governmental organizations can help increase the individual and social motivation of recovered addicts by providing job opportunities, skill training, and creating supportive environments. Research has shown that increasing motivation in the rehabilitation process facilitates a return to a healthy and sustainable life. One of the critical obstacles in social rehabilitation is the negative and stereotypical attitude of society towards recovered addicts. These attitudes can hinder social acceptance and a healthy return to society. Semans can play an essential role in changing these attitudes; considering these points, this study explains the role of non-governmental organizations in the social rehabilitation of recovered addicts in Tehran and seeks to answer the question of how Semans can play a role in this process.

Methods

This study aimed to answer the question, "What role do NGOs play in the social rehabilitation of recovering addicts in Tehran?" This research utilized a quantitative survey method. The statistical population included all recovering addicts who benefit from NGO services in Tehran. A simple random sampling technique was used, with a sample size of 300 individuals. Data were collected using a standardized questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS version 26. The ethical considerations of the study were as follows: All participants participated in the study voluntarily. They were informed of the principles of confidentiality and privacy of the participants' information and were assured that all information would remain completely confidential. Finally, all participants were thanked. Correlation test results revealed a significant direct relationship between social support, need satisfaction, social participation, and social supervision in enhancing the social rehabilitation of people with an addiction.

Results

Results showed a positive and significant correlation (0.532) between NGOs and social rehabilitation, indicating that social rehabilitation also improves as the level of services and support these organizations provide increases. Additionally, the positive and significant correlations between social support (0.432), social control (0.421), need satisfaction (0.296), and social participation (0.354) with social rehabilitation suggest that an increase in each of these variables can contribute to improved social rehabilitation. The beta coefficient of 0.453 for NGOs indicates a positive impact on social rehabilitation, suggesting that creating support networks, providing essential services for recovering people with addiction and enhancing opportunities for social participation create a suitable foundation for social rehabilitation.

Conclusion

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NGOs play an essential role in solving social problems by creating a community life space in society and its progress. As independent eyes of society, these diverse and numerous associations facilitate participation in broader dimensions of society by focusing on daily activities and not just political events. They help to awaken and alert society by addressing minor issues. In network theory, attention to social relations and social bonds of the network, instead of focusing on society and its structures as an abstract whole, is directed to the multiple social arenas in which individuals are involved. By participating in these arenas, individuals are connected to society. According to this view, the existence of associations in society helps to create and expand social networks and thereby provides the basis for increased social participation, especially among recovered addicts. The services and activities of NGOs have an impact on the satisfaction of the needs of recovered addicts, such that only one percent of the needs of these people in Tehran are satisfied by these organizations. This impact is very low, but nevertheless, one of the positive effects of the rehabilitation centers in Tehran is the satisfaction or satisfaction of the needs of recovered addicts. The satisfaction of needs, whether carried out by the government or NGOs, is based on the social participation of the people and flows through the network of social relations within the society. Therefore, the broader the scope of this social network, the more social relations will be created and, thus, the greater the social participation within the society. Since people refer to the relevant institutions to meet their needs, the services and activities of NGOs play a significant role in satisfying the needs of recovered addicts.

Keywords: NGOs, social rehabilitation, recovering addicts, social support, social participation