INTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY

The Chilean Experience



Why is it necessary to speak about integration into society?

Treatment Center client profile

- 75 % Men
- •25 % Women
- Age Range: 26 34 yrs.
- Schooling: 10.4 yrs.

Primary School Completed: 86.2%

Secondary School Completed: 51.2%

- Regular Job: 20%
- Moderate bio-psycho-social complications: 54%
- Principal Substance: Coca Paste, Cocaine, Marijuana

Needs of treatment center clients:

- Job training
- Finding a job
- "Make-up" classes
- Use of free time and recreational alternatives
- Housing (of one's own/safe)

Regarding women, priorities are:

- Housing (of one's own/safe)
- Continuity of health care
- Job training
- Finding a job
- Recovering ties in the social network
- Use of free time use and recreational alternatives

Treatment of problematic substance abuse would not achieve its main objective unless all factors related to full integration into society are addressed at the same time

Treatment and integration into society are two complementary processes that are the two faces of the same reality.

4 PILLARS

FOR AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY FOR THE INTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY OF PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE USERS

1st PILLAR...

Agreed Conceptual Framework

What are we talking about?

Integration into society, finding a job?

reinsertion? insertion?

The Concept of Integration into Society:

Process at differing levels of intensity that seeks full development of the individual who is accepted and considered as a citizen with rights and duties.

Is the contrary of EXCLUSION. (Covers the causes and effects of poverty, and identifies processes, situations and mechanisms that leave part of the population, group or territory left out of participation in social and economical life).

Social integration is an interactive concept that implies:

Changes by both the individual and society.

Presupposes that both those affected and the community will contribute to achieving equivalent opportunities that allow full and equal participation by drug-dependent people in life and social development.

Equal opportunity is understood as the process by which the various systems of society are put at the service of all, but especially socially disadvantaged

Principles of the equal opportunity:

- 1. Principle of integration as a recognition of the needs and specific potentialities of every individual and social groups.
- 2. Principle of accessibility as a necessary condition for vulnerable people to enjoy opportunities in society equal to those of their fellow citizens.
- 3. Principle of participation and autonomy as a recognition of the right of all people to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of their community.

Three points that are key to considering a person as socially integrated:

- His basic needs are covered: i.e., he has dignified living conditions, in terms of housing, health, education and economic means.
- He has a system of relationships that allows him to develop affective ties and thus feel part of the community,
- 3. He can engage in activities that give him social recognition: take part in public life, enjoy free time and have productive work.

In sum, speaking of social integration is to speak of:

- a) A bilateral process (drug user society) of mutual accommodation.
- b) Participation in social life.
- c) Equal opportunities, rights and obligations.

2nd PILLAR...

A Solid Structure

A SOCIAL INTEGRATION PROGRAM must be in place:

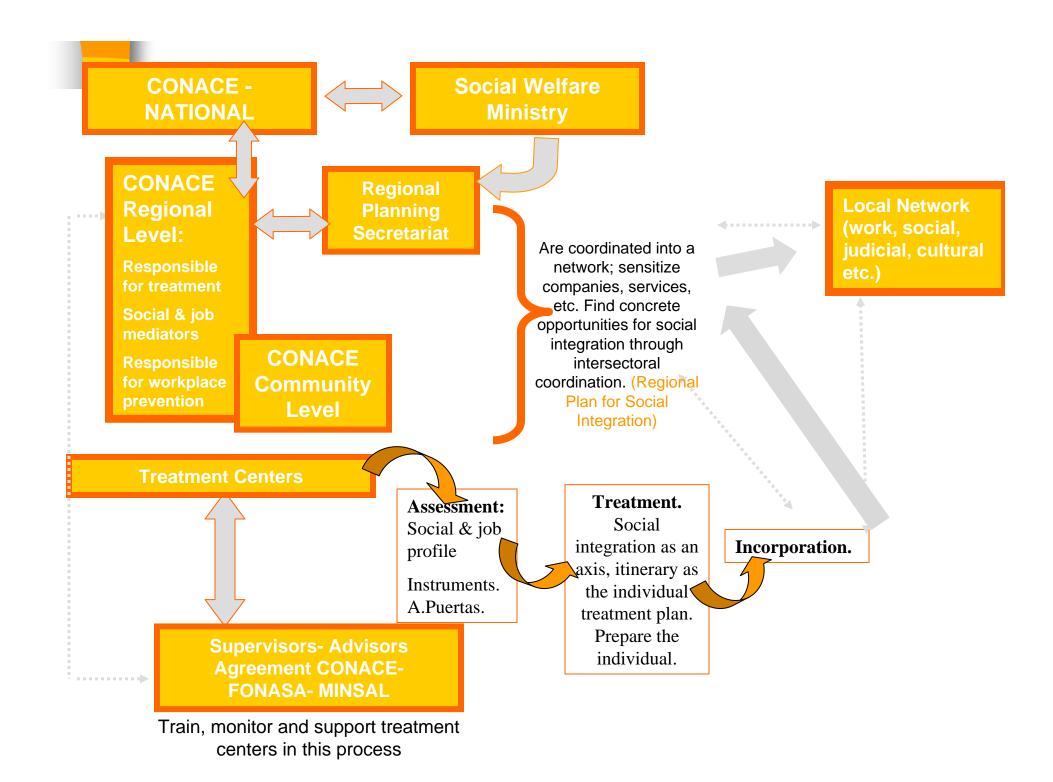
Drug agencies should create structured programs for social integration.

This structure should include:

Treatment centers

Local/community network

National Level



3rd PILLAR...
Intersectoral Work

THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION PROGRAM SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS THAT GIVE SOCIAL BENEFITS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES.

To achieve this, it is proposed that agencies work in a network, at both local and national levels.

Make agreements that provide:

Priority/preferential access to social benefits related to the needs of our clients (subsidies, work, training, housing, etc.)

Specific arrangements that offer opportunities equal to those available to the general population. For example, job and guidance offices; half way housing; protected homes, etc.

4th PILLAR...

Develop and Install Work Methodologies in Treatment Centers

Treatment centers should act throughout the therapeutic process to ready the clients for integration back into society.

This means:

- 1. Developing technical standards specifying what should be done during treatment and how.
- 2. Providing the teams with practical methodologies and strategies
 - 3. Supporting the teams at all times by having them supervised and counselled by trained, specialized professionals

How can International Cooperation Support this Subject?





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