

The National Strategy of Addiction Treatment & Rehabilitation in Egypt 2008

Development of the National Strategy in the Field of Addiction Treatment

First: Assess the current status of addiction treatment and rehabilitation in Egypt

- 1 –Addiction therapy is already carried out by several government hospitals
- 2 - Developments in addiction treatment techniques of all kinds.
- 3 –Engagement ofThe National Council and Fund for Control and Treatment of Drug Addiction and Abuse under supervision of the Council of the Ministries since 2000.
- 4 - Despite these efforts, the number of beds available for the treatment of addiction remains less than the growing need.
- 5 - Many provinces are still relatively distant from the governmental therapeutic services
- 6 - Addiction treatment facilities are still sections of the psychiatric hospitals.
- 7 -In asylums, there is still confusion between the cases transferred from the courts and those coming on voluntary basis.
- 8 –It is still not possible to hospitalize addicts if they are less than 18 years of age
- 9 - Although the psychological therapies have become a part of the components of the treatment of addicts, there is no documented information about what is presented in this regard
- 10 - There is still a shortage in trained personnel capable of providing psychological therapies
- 11 –There is a lack of coordination between the relevant bodies and organizations working in the field of treatment.

Second: The aims of developing the national strategy in the field of addiction treatment and rehabilitation:

- 1-Support and consolidation of evidence based treatments in the field of addiction
- 2- Achieve an integrative approach in the treatment of addiction.

- 3- Adoption of scientific methods in treatment, training and follow-up of patients in addiction treatment facilities.
- 4- Explore recommendations of international organizations working in this field
- 5- Review the available treatment for patients with in the field of addiction in Egypt.
- 6 –Acknowledge different psychological therapies as essential components of addiction therapy
- 7 –Incorporate addiction treatment methods as an essential component in the university faculties of medicine, as well as the creations of specialized studies in addiction at the post graduate level.

Third: The orientation of the development of the national strategy in the treatment of addiction and rehabilitation

A –The logistic perspectives include:

- 1 –Evaluating the existing addiction treatment facilities and developing their services.
- 2 - Creating and developing specialized sections of the diseases associated with addiction.
- 3 –Introducing inpatient clinics for addiction therapy and rehabilitation centers which are based on the multi-specialized teams.
- 4 – Establishing institutions that offer training in psychological therapies and rehabilitative addiction therapy.

B –The organizational perspective includes:

- 1 - Linking prevention and treatment to reduce demand
- 2 - Unification of the supervising region for the addiction treatment clinics and rehabilitation.
- 3 - Giving special attention to the treatment and community-based rehabilitation.
- 4 - Developing mechanisms for the development and follow-up treatment & rehabilitation services.
- 5 - Linking treatment services in Egypt with what is happening in the world.
- 6 - The application of quality assurance standards on all the addiction institutions, hospitals and rehabilitation centers.
- 7 - Amending existing laws in the field of psychiatric and addiction therapy.
- 8 – Creating a data bank repository for all the information and the data on the treatment processes.

C –The technical perspective includes:

- 1 - Provision of drugs and medicines for the treatment of addiction.
- 2 - Planning the process of detoxification to be part of a comprehensive rehabilitation treatment program.
- 3 - Adoption of the recent treatment methods and technologies.
- 4 - Involving patients' families and civil society organizations and other institutions.
- 5 - The creation of specialized studies in the field of addiction treatment.
- 6 – Care for the continuous medical and psychological education and training programs.
- 7 - Giving special attention to the processes of evaluating treatment programs.
- 8 – Sending scientific missions abroad to specialize in the treatment of addiction.
- 9 - Giving special attention to developing skills for the prevention and relapse.
- 10 –Coordination with the private sector to provide employment and training opportunities for recovering addicts.

D - Mechanisms for the implementation of the national strategy in the field of addiction treatment and rehabilitation

- 1 - Activating the National Council and Fund for Control and Treatment of Drug Addiction and Abuse
- 2 - Supporting the National Council and Fund for Control and Treatment of Drug Addiction and Abuse with a financial budget to achieve the objectives of the proposed strategy.
- 3 –Establishing a permanent committee to supervise the therapeutic and rehabilitative part of the strategy.
- 4 – Establishing cooperation and partnership between curative and rehabilitative institutions as well as NGOs and civil society institutions.
- 5 - Amending the law concerned with hospitalizing addicted patients at risk.
- 6- Creating channels of contact with international agencies that can supplement & support the establishment of therapeutic communities and transitory care centers and also aiming at exchange experiences in this field.

E –Agencies involved in implementation:

- 1 - The Ministry of Health and Population
- 2 - The Ministry of Social Solidarity

- 3 - Ministry of Justice
- 4 - The Ministry of Manpower
- 5 - The Ministry of Higher Education (Universities and research centers)
- 6 - The Ministry of Awqaf
- 7 - religious institutions
- 8 - youth centers and sports clubs
- 9 - The National Council and Fund for Control and Treatment of Drug Addiction and Abuse
- 10 - The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
- 11 - NGOs working in the field of addiction treatment
- 12 - NGOs
- 13 - business associations and large companies
- 14 the professional associations