

A Study of the Contribution of the Mel-Madura Rehabilitation center in Rebuilding the Lives of Drug Addicts

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Drug addiction is a common phenomenon throughout. At present it has become a significant problem that cripples entire societies all over the world. Wide spread usage of dangerous drugs identified as Narcotics, Depressants, Stimulants, Hallucinogens and Cannabis (Darmapriya, 2001), is common to Sri Lanka since 1977.

The purpose of this study is to find out the contribution of the "Mel-Madura" rehabilitation center which was established to rehabilitate the victims of drugs with abnormal physical and mental behavior. Moreover the paper specifies the strategies the institute applies and how far they have succeeded in rehabilitating victims. Random sampling method was used to select thirty people (age group between 18-30) who were treated in the Mel-Madura rehabilitation center. Structured interviews were taken (from officials) in order to collect the necessary primary data. In addition literature reviews and online data were used as a means of collecting secondary data.

The major finding is that this rehabilitation center contributes to enhancing personal development persuading the addicts to give up drugs. The research indicates that the main reasons for addiction (a) depression created by the society (b) curiosity. The success of the programme is achieved through initiatives such as changing of attitudes, persuading the victims to follow educational and entertainment activities and providing opportunities for them to involve with society. Most of the victims are pleased with the role of the center in bringing their lives to normalcy. However, there are some weaknesses in this programme. The present research concludes that the programme could be further developed through an established structure of ongoing courses and means of treatments.

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