

THE WAY FORWARD

DEVELOPING GENDER - SENSITIVE ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAMMES TO ERADICATE BARRIERS FOR WOMEN

1 LACK OF GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN TREATMENT

1



Programmes should be designed from a gender perspective, especially in such areas as schedules, regulations, location, therapeutic activities, and infrastructure.

Greater knowledge of the characteristics of addiction in women should be promoted, and protocols and training should be adapted and improved. Lastly, sex-disaggregated data should be gathered.

2 INVISIBILITY OF WOMEN'S PROBLEMATIC DRUG USE

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3 LACK OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN ADDICTION SERVICES AND OTHER SERVICES

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It is necessary to establish effective working linkages with other service providers to provide comprehensive assistance to women who use drugs.

Gender-sensitivity awareness and training are of critical importance for all staff, including sessions to question their own attitudes and beliefs regarding women who use drugs.

4 STEREOTYPED ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ON BEHALF OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

4



5 LACK OF A GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FOCUS DURING ADDICTION TREATMENT

5



Violence is a contributing factor in substance use. It is therefore necessary to address both problems in a comprehensive way in order to work not only on the determinants of addiction, but also on those of violence.

Gender-sensitive prevention campaigns can help to reduce stigma related to women who use drugs, improve their quality of life, and access and adherence to treatment. In addition, adequate training must be provided to health care providers to reduce stigma.

6 WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS FACE A DOUBLE STIGMA

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