

Abstract

Background

Extensive issues of homelessness is a phenomenon with centuries of progressing solution. Specific category is female homelessness, having sometimes different perils, often maybe more rigorous than male homelessness. This thesis addresses current situation in social protection of homeless women with dual diagnosis, as this is creating more complications of homelessness itself. Number of homeless women with dual diagnosis is increasing in time. Practice in shelters for women shows, that system is failing these women, as they are not thriving or getting better in these facilities.

Aim

Thesis is focused on homeless woman with dual diagnosis and character of their needs stemming of background of their issues. Needs of women in this target group are matched with supply of services provided in the territory of Prague city, to survey if services being provided are corresponding with their needs, or if there are other options, more appropriate for them,

Methods

This thesis includes qualitative research focused on need assessment of homeless women with dual diagnosis in the context of shelter living in the territory of capital city. Need assessment is conducted via interviews with women of the target group, and with providers of various services, cooperating with these clients. Interviews with clients are basis for creating case studies focused on investigative questions of the thesis. Interviews with providers are evaluated on the basis of summarizing protocol. In the conclusion, institutional analysis makes up summary of offered shelter services. This summary is created by collecting text information about supply of services, that are readily available on the internet and also by conducting short interviews with shelter living workers, which provided supplementary information if it was not available otherwise.

The ensemble selection method is a deliberate purposive selection through the institution. Interviews with providers and clients of shelter living are conducted in the form of semistructured interview.

The ensemble consists of 10 women of the target group, 5 social service providers and 6 shelter house workers.

Results

The need assessment of homeless women with dual diagnosis shows, that needs of these women in the territory of Prague are not being met in general. Cause is insufficient support and assistance for these shelter houses, because they are not ready by medical or social side. Current personnel of shelter houses is not sufficiently trained for individual work with these women, and they don't have sufficient competence, as most needed competences means specialized assistance, that are missing in these facilities. And last but not least there is also a problem in technical conveniences of the shelters, because women often have almost nonexistent privacy due to living in rooms with number of other women. Insufficient support and assistance

together with inconvenient living conditions often cause their condition to deteriorate, and they sometimes fail the stay for different reasons, without accomplishing goals they set to work on.

Conclusion and recommendation

The needs of homeless women with dual diagnosis are not being fulfilled and they don't prosper in shelter houses. Current personnel of shelter houses needs to be trained better for individual work with homeless women with dual diagnosis. These institutions lack other needed personnel, for example therapeutic, addictologic and other professionals. Recommendation might be also a discussion about founding specialized shelter living facilities for this target group in the future.

Key words:

Shelter living, dual diagnosis, need assessment, homeless women, addiction.