An International Substance Abuse and Addiction Counselors Training: The Global Impact and Challenges

ISAACS: An International Training out of Egypt

- 9 Courses are run as we speak, Egypt (360 hrs)
- 2 Courses in Saudi Arabia (360 hrs)
- Two course in French
- 8900 students
- 46 nations from the 6 continents
- Started Rehabs, Counselling or prevention Programs
The start in the year 2000

- An airflight from UK to Spain
- A space midway between Cairo and Alex
- 3 qualified Egyptians 7 International Experts
- ISAAC 1997
- WFTC Venice 1992
- Two third countries Trainees
The First Course September 2000: English

- One Nigerian working in Tajikistan
- One Australian
- One Russian PhD
- One Romanian
- One American
- One from Pakistan
- One USA
- One Lesotho
- 5 Egyptians

ISAACS in Arabic

- 2002 The success of the English course led to a growing demand in Egypt
- The first course had Dr Jean LaCour and other Experts
- NET Institute in Florida Certification
- A paradigm shift in Egypt
The Sites: Wady to Egypt from North to South
Peer education to addicts why does it work?

- Trust
- Empathy
- Knowing the tricks
- Knowing the language
- A shared stigma
- A shared hope
- Communicating self worth

Outreach: HIV Prevention among Key Populations

- Your abstinence is important but you are more important

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Dealing with Special Challenges to Peer Education

- Can 12-Steppers do outreach for HIV prevention?
  - 12-Step groups were extremely suspicious about the work
  - We called upon the 12th Step tradition of carrying the message
  - We called upon the tradition of admitting powerlessness over hurrying the addict into abstinence

Dealing with Special Challenges to Peer Education

- Did Freedom compromise its strong abstinence history?
  - Colleagues said after 14 years of pioneering abstinence work, Freedom compromised to a harm reduction model
  - Again we need to keep them alive if we want to have anyone abstaining
  - We matured into knowing that abstinence does not come immediately many times
  - We had more people abstaining this way and never written off the abstinence goal
A Partnership with the UNDP HIV Program

- 3 Courses in Egypt: 20 Arab nations
- Modules delivered in Sudan, Palestine, Kuwait and Libya

Drug Treatment & Prevention is Development

- Every Dollar spent on Effective Drug Treatment/Rehabilitation spares 7 USD
- Every Dollar spent on Effective Drug Prevention spares 15 USD (Falco 1996)
- Saving in: lost work/working hours, predatory activities losses, health and Intensive care expenses, criminal justice expenses, family health burdens and others.
- Reportedly one third of Poverty Alleviation efforts in Egypt fail because of the presence of a person who uses drugs in the family.
Freedom Rehab Prgrm Documented 28 individual cases out of an estimated 15,000

• D.A. was a driver in a tourist company. This was a high risk situation for him. He lost his job because of his drug use. After graduating the 6 months Freedom rehab program his counselors and peers suggested he doesn’t return to his old job. He applied for a job as a driver in a caretaker company. Worked for years got a loan and bought his own cab. He is 9 years in recovery.

• F.L. was broke although he managed to graduate as a pharmacist after 9 years in college. The program helped him find a job in a pharmacy for 5 years, then a job in a gulf country. He managed to open his own pharmacy there and soon became an owner of a large chain of pharmacies. He donates generously to help in the treatment of underprivileged addicts. 34 years in recovery.

Freedom Rehab Prgrm Documented 28 individual cases out of an estimated 15,000

• M.S. 55 yrs used to be an air conditioning technician. Lost everything to his habit. After graduating the program, he was employed as the handy man of the center. Later he found a partner and they opened their own shop. 4 years in recovery.

• A.S. never held a job for 6 months. Gained the trust of his brother-in-law, who trained him to be an assistant technician in a dentistry lab.

• The list goes on to include a barber, a plumber, a body car technician, a baker, a former executive who lost everything and a number of those who have never had jobs.
14 times more than Sponsor a Child

- If the program is as effective as the SCP it is an effective one. If it is two or three times as effective it is an extremely effective program.

GGI thoroughly studied the ISAACS training program, in the year 2005.
ISAACS scored 14 times more effective than the SCP.

ISAACS Curriculum: 18 X 20 hrs modules

- Definitions & Classifications
- Aetiology
- Substances (Pharmacology)
- Non-Substance Addictions
- Medical Complications
- Dual Diagnosis
- 12 Core Functions
- 12-Step Facilitation
ISAACS Curriculum: 18 X 20 hrs modules

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Motivational Interviewing
- Therapeutic Groups
- Therapeutic Community
- Basic Ethics
- Advanced Ethics
- Family Systems
- Prevention
- Conflict Resolution
- Counselling Supervision

Groups, hard work and Fun
Concise 120 hrs course in French

- Interest rose in Ivory Coast
- A concise course delivered to two groups of students

The French course was delivered to students from France, Belgium and French speaking Caribbean Islands.
Training and Job Performance

- Valid in every job
- Particularly valid in SUD counselling
- Impact in Egypt
  Freedom grew to 54 Rehabs, 8 detoxes and an Outreach Program
  8000 Drug Rehabilitation Centers/Halfway Houses in Egypt

UN Women: Safe Cities Project

Violence against girls and women
Violence in the context of addiction
Training women and addicts
Fostering Resiliency and life skills
Recovered addicts and Psychiatrist, Psychologists and social workers
Training in SAUDI ARABIA

• Trainees going on to establish large work in Saudi prisons, halfway houses and awareness
• Training 700 people
• 8 courses in Jedda and Riad. Online and in person

High Profile Recognition in Saudi
Training in Kuwait

- Large conference organized by our graduates
- Cynthia Moreno main speaker
- 1050 attendees
- A nation waking up to the addiction challenge
- Repercussions going on

Certification and Licensing

- NET
- NAADAC
- 157 took the tests
- Internationally recognised
Challenges: Certification and Licensure

- Historical mistrust: Mutual
- Some abuses
- Legislators take action
- Oman and Saudi leading the way
- Prospects and threats

References


• Sherman, S., Hua, W., Latkin, A. (2004) Individual And Environmental Factors Related To Quitting Heroin Injection, Substance Abuse & Misuse, 38:8, 1199-1214,