

ABSTRACT

The Rehabilitation and Recovery of Drug Addicts: A  
Social Psychological Study

Louise Marcelle

The purpose of this study was two fold 1. to investigate the influence of a number of social, economic and psychological variables on the level of self esteem of recovering drug addicts, 2. to investigate the relationship between personal, religious and other factors and the recovering addict's perception on the possibility of recovery.

Purposive samples were conducted at three of the rehabilitation centres in Trinidad, the Samman House Association, Rebirth House and the Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Centre. The sample consisted of 44 respondents. A pre-coded questionnaire, an interview schedule and the Rosenberg and Osgood Self Esteem Measurement Tests were administered. Indepth interviews were carried out with a smaller cross-section of respondents.

The analysis revealed that educational qualification, employment status, and age (the independent variables) impacted upon and influenced the dependent variables of self esteem, and perception on the

possibility of recovery.

The major findings of the study indicate that there was a high correlation between the recovering addict's religious attendance and his perception on the possibility of recovery. Evidence of this is found in the correlation coefficient of  $-.42$  and the significance level of  $.003$ .

Another major finding revealed a consistent relationship between the recovering addict's perception on the possibility of recovery and his level of self esteem. Over a three week period correlation coefficients of  $.31$ ,  $.34$ , and  $.43$  were produced with corresponding significant levels of  $p = .045$ ,  $.048$ , and  $.049$ .

All the respondents in my study, since without their co-operation this Thesis would not have been completed.

My Supervisor, Dr. S. Deosaran, for his assistance in the restructuring of the Thesis until it was acceptable.

Mr. Eric Headley of the U.W.I.'s Computer Centre and Mr. Martin Bouch for their dedicated efforts while guiding me through the world of computer software and hardware.

The officers of the Police Narcotics and Criminal Investigation Divisions of Police Headquarters, whose names, for obvious reasons, cannot be disclosed, for