



In recent decades, research and investment in finding solutions to the serious problem of the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs that plague mankind have been intensified.

During this period, the School of Nursing of Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, Collaborating Center of PAHO/WHO for the Nursing Research Development, in partnership with the Alberta School of Nursing (CA), with the support from the OAS, PAHO and local government, has invested in research and education, forming an army of professionals in the Americas to confront the phenomenon of drug<sup>(1)</sup>.

The interface between the phenomenon of drug and mental disorders has been observed and earned the attention of scholars in this area. It is also clear that, despite the general spread of use, there are groups of healthy people who are vulnerable or act as a gateway for drugs, and deserves, therefore, the attention of policy makers responsible for the organization of the health services network, as well as other social segments<sup>(2)</sup>.

Housing this multiple approach, the SMAD - *Revista Eletrônica de Saúde Mental, Álcool e Drogas* [Electronic Journal on Mental Health, Alcohol and Drugs] brings together studies on this topic such as those published in this issue, seeking to learn habits of the daily life and the adequacy of food of addicts in a therapeutic community, as well as learn the influences on the consumption in parental relationships, especially among young people. It seeks to learn the attitude of pregnant women, young people and workers in relation to drugs. In these studies, we can see a lot of contradiction between the statements, the attitudes and, especially, the behavior of people involved. At the same time that people show that they know the harm caused by the use of drug, they continue to use it, or believe they can reduce consumption or use them in a controlled manner.

The network of services offered by the Ministry of Health includes CAPSads that serve, especially, the population of users and their families<sup>(3)</sup> and regulate and sustain the creation and maintenance of these services that must be evaluated, both in their structure and the supply of services, to achieve its goals, which depends largely on the quality of care given by health professionals. A recent study, published in the SMAD, highlights attitudes and knowledge of professionals in this area<sup>(4)</sup>.

The nurse, as a member of multidisciplinary teams, fulfilling its role as a caregiver, has been concerned with improving his/her skills to directly take care of the user, to accommodate and educate the affected families and educate the general population. In this sense, he/she employs techniques of therapeutic relationship, individually and in groups, with the mentally ill or user of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and their families<sup>(5)</sup>.

We hope our readers enjoy the contributions of another edition of the SMAD.

## Referências

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