

Opiate dependence treatment and rehabilitation: experiences from Thailand and Hong Kong

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ABSTRACT

Since the 1950s Thailand and Hong Kong have harboured wide spread heroin dependence. The problems entailed were specially aggravated because the heroin dependence was grafted on top of the indigenous opium dependence which took roots in Asia back in the 19th century. The serious problems of opiate dependence meanwhile inspired extensive control measures aiming at reduction of both supply and demand. The following presentations deal with knowledge and experiences collected over three decades of implementing treatment and rehabilitation programmes for opiate dependents in our countries. To fit into the short time limit of this joint presentation, the materials are selected according to our assessment of their relevancy to this important meeting as essential substances for your deliberation. My talk will focus on the macro issues of development of treatment and rehabilitation programmes while my collaborator, Dr. James M.N. Ch'ien will offer materials and evaluation data on some major approaches in methodology.

Key words : Opiate dependence, Treatment, Rehabilitation.

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