Drug Rehabilitation in Mainland China

The number of drug users in mainland China has been increasing in recent years. Chinese government has attached great importance to the issue by introducing regulations related to drug abuse in three laws, namely the Anti-Drug Law, the Law of the PRC on Penalties for Administration of Public Security, and the Criminal Law, which specify that drug traffickers could be imposed to death penalty, drug addicts may be sentenced to detention for up to 15 days, community drug rehabilitation or forced isolation, and those with a history of drug abuse will get a permanent criminal record and are under dynamic control. Each province has set up a committee for drug rehabilitation in communities (street and town level) according to law, yet different practices and effects are seen among them. While some provinces’ community drug rehabilitation becomes a mere formality, there are still drug treatment mode, social worker intervention mode, and publicity and employment mode. However, whatever the mode, there are several common difficulties that the community drug rehabilitation has to address urgently, such as lack of attention, insufficient number of social workers, low professional quality and awareness of drug rehabilitation and high relapse rate. There are both subjective and objective factors that has led to the dilemma mentioned above.

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