

ACHIEVING STUDENT DRUG AWARENESS THROUGH
AN INDIVIDUALIZED COUNSELING PROGRAM

by

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM STATEMENTS

Background to the Problem

The attempt to achieve drug awareness among students poses many discipline and social behavior problems for teachers, counselors, and school officials. If the above problems are to be solved through the utilization of counselors or student personnel in drug education programs, recommended approaches should be utilized and highly organized programs followed to ensure positive results among students who participate in drug counseling programs.

Statement of the Problem

It was the purpose of this study: (1) to review research and professional literature; (2) to survey counseling programs and students for a planned drug program; and (3) to synthesize subsequent findings in order to identify positive approaches utilized in individualized drug counseling programs; finally, the study attempted to synthesize the findings into conclusions and recommendations for further study of the individualized drug counseling program.

Procedure of the Study

An investigation was made of recent research, professional literature, and other materials about drugs and drug abuse. In Lincoln Parish, a survey of drug programs in ten schools and a survey of twenty-five students ranging from high school to college grade levels was made. The surveys

were conducted to obtain information for constructing a planned drug counseling program. The findings and results were subsequently drawn into conclusions and recommendations for further study of the individualized drug counseling program were made.

Definition of Terms

1. Drug abuse — (a) Legally, a criminal act involving the selling or buying of drugs without a legal permit for personal use. (b) Psychologically, a form of scapegoating designed to overlook the problems one might have. (c) Medically, drugs used by persons who have not been prescribed to do so by a medical doctor. And (d) socially, the misuse of drugs for bodily gratification and fulfillment with the in-crowd.

2. Drug problem — (a) The widespread misuse of drugs by individuals to settle inner questions that they are incapable of handling alone. (b) An unsettled dilemma of the society which is rapidly spreading.

3. Drug program — An organized plan which deals with giving out information and decision-making procedures on drugs.

4. Small-group counseling — A group of six to ten individuals having similar problems engaged in trying to help each group member to reach solutions.

5. Peer counseling — The counseling services performed by a student who is providing assistance to another student.

6. Questionnaire — An instrument which served the purpose of gathering information and providing a descriptive reference about the study.

7. Marijuana and Marihuana — Different spellings for the same drug.

Chapter II

REVIEW OF RECENT RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

Social and Legal Background

The drug problem in our society and more particularly in our schools has recently come to the attention of law officials, governmental agencies, professionals, and educators. The drug problem seems to have sprung up over-night; as a result, the responsibility of finding a solution to it has been shifted among various groups. The responsibility of achieving drug awareness has gone from the court to the jails, from the doctor's office to institutions, and from the school counselor's office to the street or home. Drug misuse seems to occur because no one person or group has the answer to reducing drug usage for combating the problem or for deleting the entire drug issue. Efforts have been made on the parts of all concerned in trying to confront the drug problem. School counselors have set up drug programs; the government has passed laws; and medical research has been continuous in trying to eliminate growing drug misuse. It seems that little has been accomplished while the continuing drug problem seems to be fatal to our youth. As a result, various responsible groups of persons are still probing and trying to seek "the approach" to end drug abuse and to make students aware of drugs.

The problem of drug abuse is not a new one however it seems the problem is becoming more widespread. Our society faces a crucial problem as the drug proposition attracts the youth of our country. For many