

The Drug De-addiction Programme was initiated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in 1988. Under this programme, The National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been conducting regular training courses in substance abuse management for physicians and has published a manual as an aid.

There is a growing realization that nursing personnel have an important role to play in all aspects of substance abuse ranging from identification, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the training they receive as part of their academic curriculum is inadequate. It has been decided that regular training courses are needed for imparting this training. However, there is no formal document in existence that can help in training. Keeping these factors in mind the NDDTC decided to publish a manual with financial support from WHO (India).

The chapters in this manual are written by experts in the field and include assessment, pharmacological and non-pharmacological management, care in hospital and camp settings and care of substance dependence patients in medical and surgical units. Other chapters include correlation with HIV, nicotine dependence, legal issues and organizational aspects.

Appendices include commonly used scales for assessment and a list of De-addiction centres in the country.

