

## **Challenges of participation of non governmental organizations (NGO's) in the control of addiction process**

### **Abstract**

**Background:** Non-governmental organizations, as one of the executive arms of governments, can play a role as the most efficient means to prevent people's tendency to become addicted to governments.

**Aim:** The aim of this study was to explain the challenges of social participation and the activation of people's organizations and society focused on addiction control in Ardabil province.

**Materials and methods:** The study population of this research was the members of non-governmental and community-oriented organizations of Ardabil province who played a role in addiction control. Members of non-governmental organizations and also those who referred to the organization were interviewed. To ensure the accuracy of the data, four criteria of Lincoln and Guba were used. In the data analysis, the method proposed by Graniheim and Alandman was used; In this way, first the text of the interviews were re-read, then coding was done and the codes were compared and based on the semantic similarities and differences of the codes, subclasses and finally classes were identified. Data collection and analysis were done simultaneously.

**Results:** Based on data analysis, the results of data analysis identified 44 codes (sub-items), which were categorized into 6 themes and 3 categories. The interviews were classified into 3 categories: social support, organizational/government support, and enablers. The social support class was redefined in the two subclasses of Seman's social status, society's approach to addiction and prevention. The organizational support class consisted of two sub-classes: the weakness of organized government support, the weakness of policy making in addiction management, and the enablers class consisted of the two sub-classes of obstacles to addiction management and addiction facilitators.

**Conclusion:** Non-governmental organizations in the field of addiction prevention and management have many problems, including the lack of organized government support, the tendency to dominate the government sector, the threats of regulatory organizations, people's

lack of trust and skepticism towards non-governmental organizations, they face the negative burden of addiction in society. Meanwhile, non-governmental organizations have special capacities to realize the basic principles of providing primary health care, including public participation.

**Key words:** Substance use disorder - Non-governmental organization – Prevention