“MEHR”: A Photovoice Project Encapsulating Heroine Use Disorder

by:
Nigâr Ersin

Abstract

This qualitative research project aims to capture personal perspectives on heroin use disorder, by using the participatory visual method of photovoice.

The group of participants is comprised of people suffering from heroin use disorder. The latter were given disposable cameras, together with instructions. Participants were asked to capture places, moments or other parts of their lives they would like to share, each during a seven day period.

The project's idea is to allow participants to make visible, what has become invisible; to give them the chance to speak about and show what isn't heard or seen; to create a discourse that is not based on their substance use disorder, but on who they are: so much more.

The project is named "MEHR", which means "more" in German. The community in this study is the district of Kreuzberg, in Berlin, hence a German name for the project. The word "more" has a double meaning here; it encapsulates the concept of substance use disorder, "I want more"; as well as the breaking of stigma, "I am more".

During the course of this project, certain challenges were met, resulting in a necessary change in the concept along the way. Due to the difficulty of finding participants and organizations to cooperate with, new goals were set; these developments are explained below, together with the implementation and outcomes of the project.