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# PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS of ADOLESCENTS ON LONG-TERM PROGRAMMED DIALYSIS



Arabkir JMC, Yerevan,  
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# Hospital Psychosocial Service

- The Arabkir hospital - the Republican reference centre for children and adolescents
- 1991- The psychosocial service has been introduced and developed
- Unique in holistic approach – medical staff, psychosocial team and hospital school teachers.
- Last two services are provided in cooperation with DAA, local NGO

# General Situation

- Regional hospitals of Armenia - lack dialysis
- Paediatric programmed dialysis and relative transplantation is only done at Arabkir

# Problem 1

- A number of psychological problems caused by the diagnosis
- Dialysis for more than 2 decades –sustain quality of life
  - home
  - schooling
  - economic issues

## Problem 2

### Aggravation of existing problems

- Patients from the capital – undergo great psychological problems
  - don't have to adjust to a different social environment
- Patients from the regions - have deeper problems
  - have to adjust to the contrasting city life

# Hospital School Services

- Education while on long-term treatment, including foreign language and computer courses
- Handicraft atelier: skills for the patients and their care provider – can be income generating



# Handicraft Atelier



# Patient's Family House

- Patients Family House (PFH)





# Results

The psychosocial analysis of such patients allows making extraordinary conclusions

- After some time of hospitalization - possibilities available in the city in contrast to the home town/village
  - for further education at collage level
  - possibility for income through personal exhibitions
  - chance for integration into the social life, where the acceptance of the child with chronic condition differs from the one in the village

# Case 1

- L.H., female – admitted in 1995 with renal failure - starts programmed dialysis
- Attends hospital school, language courses and handicraft atelier
- Age 16: attends state university of foreign languages, graduates with B.A. in teaching English
- Works as personal tutor in English for school age children

## Case 2

- V.G., male, age: 19 – admitted with renal failure - starts programmed dialysis
- Attends hospital school and handicraft atelier
- Lodging in PFH
- Involved in “Mother and Child” project, especially designed for both the patient and the mother / care provider
- Personal exhibition – some handicraft works sold

# Conclusion

- “Every dark cloud has a silver lining”
- If the fact of illness is considered unavoidable, for a group of patients it can make a crucial positive change in social life