Catholic Church and Children Abuse in Austria

Delayed Therapy of Traumatic Experiences

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Euro-TC Berlin 2012 Seminar / Treatment of Addicted Families and Trauma Therapy
History

- High level of discontent with assumed hidden cases of abuse within Catholic church.

- „Gerhard Kloos effect“

- Independent commission for protection of victims „Klasnic-Opferschutzkommission“
  - Help for victims
  - Prevention for the future
Figures

- 1,129 cases applied / only 19 cases refused by commission
- € 8 million financial compensation paid to victims
- € 2,1 million paid for therapy (mostly outpatient)
- 40% of cases between 1960 and 1969
- 75% of victims are male
- 2/3 victims of sexual abuse
- 65% victims of physic or psychic violence
Anm.:
Jeweilige Anzahl der positiv behandelten Vorfälle:
vor 1950: 25
1950-1959: 98
1960-1969: 243
1970-1979: 155
1980-1989: 68
1990-1999: 19
seit 2000: 5

Unabhängige Opferschutzanwaltschaft – Initiative gegen Missbrauch und Gewalt
Bösendorferstraße 4/3/18, 1010 Wien, E-Mail: office@opfer-schutz.at
General Problems Arising from Sexual Abuse
Focus Group Results Female in Treatment

- Relations to men heavily disturbed – feel only secure if I am accepted as sexual attractive
- Sadomasochistic wishes in sexual life
- No ability experiencing an orgasm having sex with a man
- Disgust against my own body
- Cannot divide between lust and pain
- Wishes to hurt myself/ I often stay under strong tension
General Problems Arising from Sexual Abuse
Focus Group Results Male in Treatment

- Needed drugs to have sex with women
- Extreme pressure in contacts to women, ambivalent feeling – feel better with drugs
- Fear to be homosexual, loss of sexual identity - drugs as possibility to handle this problem
- Opiates to handle problems with premature ejaculation
- Drugs to handle shame (time of ongoing abuse)
General Impact

- Abuse not through aggressor from outside but through protecting system
- Persistent over long time
- Blind social system, denial of facts
- Shame and guilt from side of victim

Within a closed (church) system: Victims become offenders
Post-Traumatic Stress of Church Victims

- Addiction – predominantly alcohol
- Fear-Panic-Syndrom
- Relation Disorders
- Depression
- Rate of suicides / attempts increased

Commission not reached by most effected persons / presumably many have passed away

Official outcome covers social stable persons who can or have learned to manage life

We can presume that one offender leaves hundreds of victims
Case Study Norbert

Pater B.

Norbert:
„Du hast mir Leid angetan das über 40 Jahre andauert“

Pater B.:
„Das interessiert mich überhaupt nicht. Du bist immer wieder gerne gekommen - wenn wir, wenn ich, so ein Unmensch gewesen wäre, wärst du gar nie mehr gekommen“
Norbert starts liking the therapy
- First forgotten abuse comes out through therapy

- Reconstruction of abusive situation with the real offender / former abbot – „I will show you something beautiful“

- Double „inner child work“

- Feeling of control and satisfaction – Inner child now well-protected
Norbert loves tunnels
Therapiesalon im Wald

www.therapiesalon.at