

NEWSLETTER

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MODERN PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION INSTRUMENTS FOR THE ALEGRA CENTERS



The Executing Unit 003 of the Improvement Program of the Justice Administration Services - Eje No Penal, serves three institutions of the Peruvian justice system: the Constitutional Court (TC), the National Board of Justice (JNJ) and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MINJUSDH).

In the case of the beneficiary institutions MINJUSDH, they are free legal advice ALEGRA and MEGA ALEGRA centers, which receive technical and financial support from the Eje No Penal Program. With a focus on helping vulnerable populations, services are being enhanced with the purchase of modern equipment such as document scanners,

printers, laptops and desktop computers for the Public Defenders who offer their services free of charge in the Alegra centers.

The Eje No Penal Program goes further. With an investment of more than 1 million soles this month, manuals, tests and psychological evaluation instruments were acquired for forensic psychologist experts who also provide their services in the Alegra centers for the care of victims of violence. In newsletter No. 08, we will address the importance of having these certified instruments and the great usefulness in a country that unfortunately has the highest rates of violence in the region.

Participant institutions:

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The SRV-20 assessment manual is a guide for estimating a person's risk of sexual abuse.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ACCURATE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

According to the Mental Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health (MINSa), during 2021, about 313,455 cases of people with depression were treated nationwide, an increase of 12% compared to the previous year.

It is no secret that a person with severe depression can become a danger to oneself when the sense of life is lost and also the motives to continue with it. An important risk factor that generates the SRV-20 assessment manual is a guide to estimate the risk that a person suffers in situations of sexual abuse. pressure is domestic violence, since it is highly likely that a child, woman

or any psychologically, sexually or physically abused person will develop a disorder that affects their normal development and may even cause death.

To prevent it or to provide early attention, there are currently manuals for sexual violence risk assessment, used by psychologists and forensic psychiatrists. In the (40) Alegria and (04) Mega Alegria centers of the Ministry of Justice, which are distributed nationwide, these professionals work free of charge and already have these evaluation instruments, thanks to the support of the World Bank, through the Improvement Program of Justice Administration Services - Eje No Penal.

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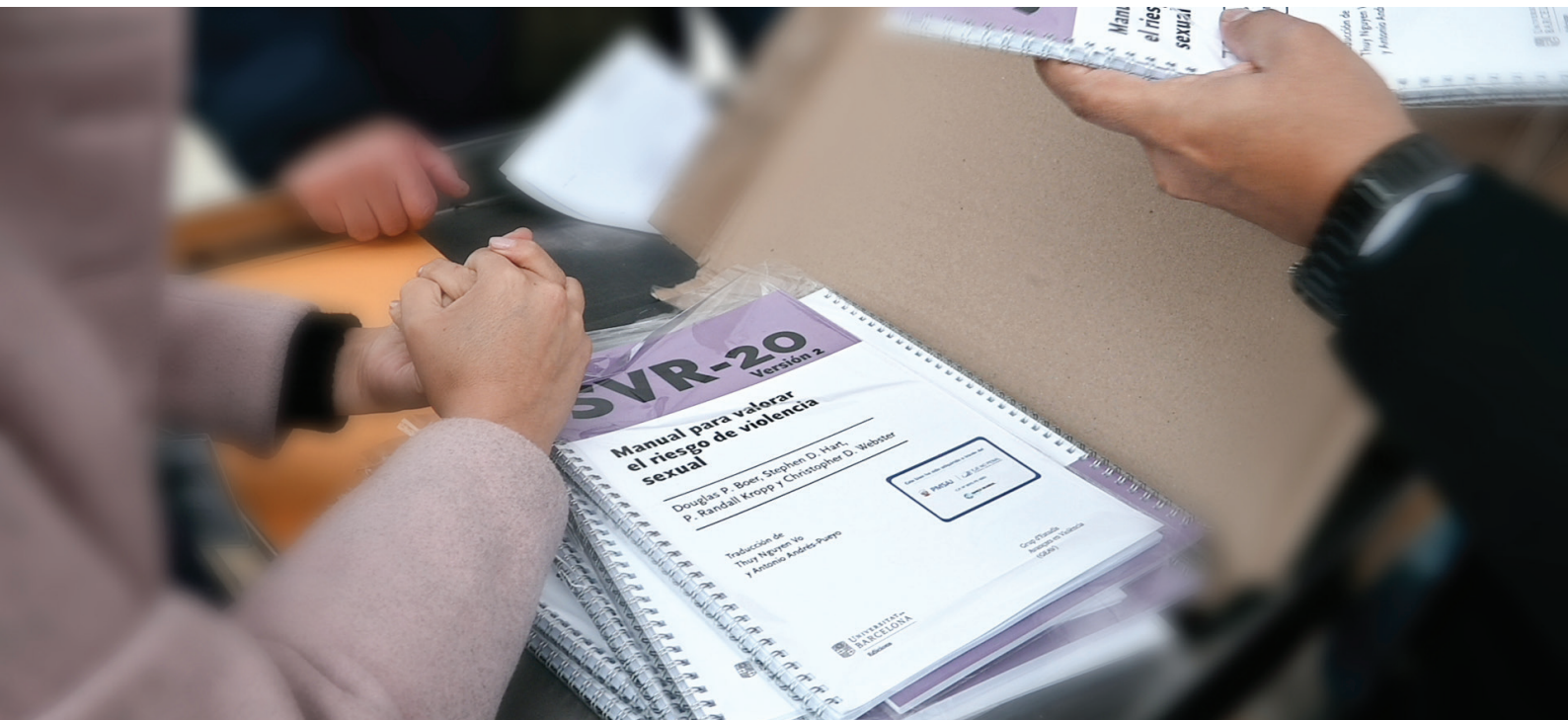
“This SRV-20 version 2 assessment manual, which we have acquired for the Alegra and Mega Alegra centers, constitutes a guide to estimate the risk a person suffers in the face of sexual abuse situations. We are providing useful tools to the multidisciplinary team of the Public Defense throughout the country,” explained Rodolfo Albán Guevara, executive director of the Eje No penal Program.

This is a case-specific assessment scheme that allows weighting the risk of sexual violence in low, moderate and high categories. This manual has been developed by academics and forensic scientists from various prestigious international institutions such as the University of Canberra in Australia, Columbia University in Great Britain and Simon Fraser University in Canada.

With more than one million soles, the intervention of the Eje No Penal Program has also achieved the acquisition of other certified psycholo-



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gical evaluation instruments that are essential for conducting and supporting expert opinions: questionnaires for adopters, caregivers, guardians and mediators; intelligence evaluations in children and adults, personality evaluations, evaluations of type I and II aggressors; and methodology for determining the psychopathy scale, among others. The most relevant aspect is that all this material will be available to the most vulnerable populations, without economic resources, who come to the Alegra and Mega Alegra centers in search of a free defense attorney.

“The expert reports will now feature original assessments that are certified. This is very impor-

tant for a case of violence when, for example, we determine that a victim is suffering from depression due to abuse. There will no longer be any doubts about the expert results, due to the legitimacy of the evidence used”, commented Dr. Tania Bustamante Maita, supervisor of the Multidisciplinary Services Department of the Alegra and Mega Alegra centers.

Dr. Bustamante Maita makes a much more detailed assessment and answered a questionnaire on the usefulness and relevance of these psychological evaluation instruments for the 23 forensic psychologist experts working at the Public Defense and Access to Justice Directorate.



With an investment of more than one million soles, the Eje No Penal Program has acquired certified psychological evaluation instruments.

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Dr. Tania Bustamante Maita, supervisor of the Multidisciplinary Services Department of the Alegra and Mega Alegra centers.

INTERVIEW TO:

DRA. TANIA BUSTAMANTE MAITA

Supervisor of the Multidisciplinary Services Department of the Alegra and Mega Alegra centers.

1. What is the usefulness of the received psychological instruments?

The psychological instruments are useful for forensic psychologist experts to carry out psychological evaluations of the users of the Public Defense service and thus, forensic psychologists can arrive at more accurate conclusions in their expert reports.

2. What kind of instruments has received the Public Defense?

We have received valid, reliable, standardized, original and internationally certified psychological instruments.

3. Where is the importance of them and what is the contribution to the daily work?

Psychological instruments are important for the work of forensic psychologist experts who eva-

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The acquired instruments will provide more information that will strengthen the quality of the issued expert reports.



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evaluate specific psychological constructs in users of the Public Defense service, such as intelligence, aggressive behaviors, as well as personality.

4. What is the definition and characteristics of psychopathy assessments and personality assessment instruments?

Psychopathy is a type of maladjusted personality. Through scientific studies in the various areas of forensic sciences, the evaluation of psychopathy makes it possible to predict in the future, the existence of behaviors contrary to the norms of society and detrimental to the fundamental rights of others. Psychological instruments that allow the assessment of psychopathy and personality provide valuable information that is useful to the expert to complement the information gathered in the process of a psychological evaluation, the objective of which is to determine the personality type or traits of a user.

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5. What is the methodology for the Type I and II of aggressor assessment scale?

Specify some examples. All psychological instruments are used for the elaboration of a psychological evaluation; therefore, a scientific methodology is used. By using the type I and type II aggressor assessment scales, the aim is to predict, based on the description of the repertoire of behaviors observed in the assessed, the risk of sexual violence assessment (type I aggressors) as well as the risk of intimate partner violence (type II aggressors).

6. Which department of the Alegria centers will use these instruments?

The psychological instruments will be used by the members of the Multidisciplinary Team of the Alegria and Mega Alegria centers; specifically, by the forensic psychologist experts; however, the content of the theoretical framework in the manuals of each of the psychological instruments may be of help and interest to those responsible for social work, as well as to the criminalistic experts.

7. What is the number of professionals working there (number of psychologists working at the branches)?

The psychological instruments will be distributed to a total of 12 District Public Defense Directorates involving Alegria Centers and currently the General Directorate of Public Defense and Access to Justice has 23 Forensic Psychologist Experts distributed in 20 District Directorates, each District Directorate has 1 Forensic Psychologist Expert, except for the District Directorate of Public Defense and

Access to Justice of Central Lima, North Lima and Arequipa, which have 2 Forensic Psychologist Experts each.

However, the psychological instruments will be distributed to a total of 12 District Public Defense and Access to Justice Directorates, each District Directorate has 1 forensic psychologist expert, with the exception of the District Public Defense and Access to Justice Directorate of Central Lima, which has 2 forensic psychologists.

8. What other Peruvian state institutions could have these evaluation instruments?

All institutions in which psychologists are working.

9. Before the acquisition, how did PD psychologists carry out their work?

Psychologists have been carrying out psychological assessment processes using various psychological techniques and instruments to evaluate personality, antisocial behaviors, cognitive status, psychopathological syndromes, etc. Likewise, having these recently acquired instruments will provide them with more information that will strengthen the quality of the issued expert reports.

10. How does this acquisition benefit vulnerable populations?


The psychological instruments that have been acquired will help the psychological evaluation process to comply with the highest quality standards, guaranteeing the commitment to provide a good quality service, especially to users who are part of the different vulnerable populations.


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