

Expanded abstract

Economic and Social Return on Investment in a Labor Rehabilitation Center

A study of the social return on investment was carried out at the Labor Rehabilitation Center of Fuencarral , following the SROI methodology. This study has got the character of an approximation to measure the impact of the actions and activities that carried out in the Labor Rehabilitation Center, and how these end up reversing in society, taking into account different variables and different sources of change. There is a positive return to society in economic terms added to the efficacy and effectiveness of psychosocial rehabilitation.

The main objective is to know how the activity of a center such as the Labor Rehabilitation Center for people with severe mental illness (SMI) generates a positive return to society, both in psychosocial and economic concepts.

Based on the applied methodology, the main objectives were:

- Analyze, quantify and monetize the changes generated by the Labor Rehabilitation Center through its activities with people with a SMI diagnosis.
- Give visibility of the benefits provided by the Labor Rehabilitation Center activity at each stakeholders.

The Labor Rehabilitation Center of Fuencarral provide a service arranged with the Office of Family, Youth and Social Policy, belonging to the Social Care Network for people with serious and lasting mental illness (Red). It is aimed at attending to those people with mental health problems who due to various reasons are not in a position to directly access the job market (employment) or independently manage the different demands that work integration mean.

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a methodology by which change is measured in ways that are relevant to the people or organizations that experience or contribute to it. It measures social, environmental and economic outcomes and uses monetary terms to represent these results.

To apply a SROI analysis, it is recommended to follow some stages in the process, according to the SROI Guide (Grupo Civis, 2009:9-10):

1. Establish scope and identify main stakeholders.
2. Make the outcomes map.
3. Show the outcomes and give them a value.
4. Establish the impact taking into account concepts such as dead weight, displacement, attribution and decrease.
5. Calculate the SROI, according to the established formula.
6. Report, use and certify.

The returns of a Labor Rehabilitation Center were analyzed. In 2017 a total of 93 people (35.5% women) and 27 family members were attended. The results reveal a return, within a year, of 137%, that is, 1.37€ for each euro invested. The stakeholders that returned the most are the people attended (0.48€ for 1€ invested), the Public Administration (0.31€ for 1€ invested) and the Labor Rehabilitation Center's workers (0.26€ for 1€ invested).

The results reflects that the return to society of the activities carried out in the Labor Rehabilitation Center represents 1.37€ for each euro invested by the Public Administration. From this we can itemise:

- For each euro invested in the Labor Rehabilitation Center by the Public Administration, a social value is created by those users who find work or access training of approximately 0.48€.
- For each euro that is invested in the Labor Rehabilitation Center by the Public Administration, the relatives returned 0.19€ to society in direct contributions and 0.04€ was returned to them indirectly.
- For every euro invested by the Public Administration in the Labor Rehabilitation Center, the return to Labor Rehabilitation Center's workers was 0.26€ in different concepts (mainly salary).
- For each euro that the Public Administration invests in the Labor Rehabilitation Center, the return to the Administration itself is 0.31€, taking into account the direct return and savings in pensions, subsidies or economic aid. Specifically, the direct return was estimated at 0.27€ per euro invested, and the return on indirect savings was 0.039€ per euro invested.
- For each euro invested by the Public Administration, 0.092€ was impacte don companies participating in the center, necessary for the center's activity.

Other results obtained have been excluded from the analysis of the economic return. They are achievements that are accomplished, and represent a change in society, that generate quality of life in professionals, people attended, family members and other services that intervene directly or indirectly in the development of the actions of the Labor Rehabilitation Center, and for which It has not been possible to match a proxy that offers a monetization of the change. Even so, they are considered essential, and are fundamental objectives of these centers, such as; improvements in the quality of life and self-esteem of those who are attended and their families, greater participation in society, reduction in the frequency of appointments in mental health centers, etc.

In conclusions, the investment of the Public Administrations produces a positive economic and social return, added to the effectiveness of its programs and a high level of satisfaction in those who receive the assistance.

However, even if the analysis of the return was not so positive, the need for this kind of resources should not be forgotten to achieve the general well-being of society and, mainly, of the people who are served, and the families.

The study also shows certain limitation. The results do not reflect every impact, the lack of standardization means that some results have not been able to be monetized. For this reason,

it is necessary to continue developing studies in this field of specialisation that are capable of including all the real results. Continuing to promote economically sustainable projects that facilitate access to employment for people with special difficulties and disabilities, whatever the cause, seems to be of special relevance, not only for the interested parties themselves, but for all members of society.

It is claimed that these results lead to stop believing the creation of resources from a “philanthropic” point of view and take it towards the real social investment and impact they generate. Being public investments an opportunity for the generation of social value (Retolaza et al., 2015).