

Comparison of attitude and perspectives of Nurses and Patient Care Attendants towards mental illness : A cross sectional study in a tertiary care

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Abstract

The study of attitudes toward mental illness and people with mental illness has been an important domain of mental health professionals. Individuals living with psychiatric illness have been seen as bizarre, terrifying, eccentric, aggressive and who lack self control. The attitudes to the mentally ill have mirrored the overall situation at the times. In western studies, scientists have commonly researched that supporting ward staff (eg:attendants) are more authoritarian and restrictive in their perspectives about mental patients than are clinic experts (specialists, nurses). A few studies have investigated key perspectives in both general and specialised population including health professionals. Since negative attitudes and beliefs, especially the ones held by the workforce, who are destined to have contact with individuals with psychiatric illness, and can have broad repercussions, it is basic that this group be widely studied. Specific consideration has been missing on nursing staff, and all the more uniquely on the ward attendants, who from a significant cog in the wheel of mental health services. A study that characterises their attitude would go on far in shaping approaches and instructive projects for diminishing shame and advancing positive mental health services. This study aims to study such attitudes and explore the relations of different domains with various sociodemographic factors. The study was cross sectional in nature, with 30 subjects in each group, on whom the COMMUNITY ATTITUDE TOWARDS MENTAL ILLNESS scale was administered, and association of various variables were statistically analysed and interpreted.

Biography :

Dr Sumati Arikera has completed Bachelors of Medicine and Bachelors of Science at the age of 24 years, and is currently pursuing Post-graduation in Psychiatry from Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour since 2018, and has published one case report. This study is done under the guidance of Dr Shilpa Waikar, Associate Professor at Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour since 2003, and has published 2 articles.

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