Attitude of Nursing students towards mental illness and mentally ill patients.

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Introduction:

Today is an age of tremendous growth of knowledge and rapid social change. Unfortunately advances in our understanding of man have lagged far behind our advances in physical and biological sciences. We know much about the atoms and the genes but not nearly enough about love or the values needed for achieving a meaningful and fulfilling life, and for constructing a better world for us all.

The past two three decades have witnessed several major shifts in the concepts, care, and treatment of hospitalized mentally ill patients. There has been a move towards ‘open’ hospitals, milieu therapy, patient government and patient work programme. This newer outlook is based on the general assumption that wellbeing of mentally ill patients is at least to some extent influenced by the social context.

Therefore the study was undertaken to explore the attitude of Baccalaureate Nursing students with and without Psychiatric Nursing Education towards mental illness and mentally ill patients.

Objectives:

1. To know the attitude of Baccalaureate Nursing students without Psychiatric Nursing Education towards mental illness and mentally ill patients.
2. To know the attitudes of Baccalaureate Nursing students with Psychiatric Nursing Education towards mental illness and mentally ill patients.
3. To find out the relationship between selected variables and attitudes towards mental illness and mentally ill patients.

Assumption:

The attitudes of students with Psychiatric Nursing Education towards mental illness and mentally ill patients will be positive as
compare to the attitudes of students with no such education.

Methodology:

Setting of study: The study was exploratory in nature and research approach employed for it was the descriptive survey method. It was undertaken in a university Baccalaureate Nursing programme of Smt. Nathibai Damodar Thackersey, Women’s University in Mumbai.

Sample size:

45 had exposure to Psychiatric Nursing Education

45 had no such exposure

Who fulfill the predetermined criteria for selection of samples.

Tool used:

The tool used for the data collection consisted of two parts.

Part I consisted of items with regards to demographic and general information regarding the subject.

Part II which was OMI Scale consisted of statements concerning mental illness, its cause, treatment and prognosis.

The OMI is composed of Likert type items with responses ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

These items were later grouped under five factors such as

- Authoritarianism,
- Benevolence,
- Mental hygiene ideology,
- Social restrictiveness,
- Interpersonal etiology.
**Result & conclusion:**

- The results of this study reveal the attitudes of Baccalaureate Nursing students towards mental illness and mentally ill patients. By and large both the groups namely with and without Psychiatric Nursing Education did not differ significantly on any of the attitudinal dimensions statistically.
- But on Descriptive analysis majority of the students from the group with education showed favorable attitudes towards mental illness and mentally ill patients as compared to the group with no such education.
- The findings of the present study therefore indicate that the Psychiatric Affiliation programme may be effective in changing nursing student’s attitudes about mental illness and mentally ill patients in favorable directions.

**References:**


**10 October 2013**

Every year on 10th of October, The World Health Organization joins in celebrating the World Mental Health Day. The theme of World Mental Health Day in 2013 is “Mental health and older adults”.

“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”

_Aristotle_

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