

Opinion Article

A Systematic Review and Consequences of Associative Stigma among Mental Health Professionals

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DESCRIPTION

Mental disorders are usually stigmatized among the general public but emerging data suggests that mental health practitioners are stigmatized as well, a phenomenon known as associative stigma. Across investigations the prevalence of associated stigma ranged from 5.8% to 75%. Low resilience, selfstigma among patients and poor quality of care as a result of stigma were all seen. Associative stigma towards mental health practitioners is widespread with substantial consequences for professionals, patients and care delivery. Mental disorders are the most often stigmatized conditions worldwide, despite the fact has proved that mental illnesses are not caused by moral failings as the public generally believes but by neurochemical imbalances. Mental health stigma is a broad and complicated construct that stems from the public's misconception and incorrect information of mental illness. Individuals with mental problems are frequently perceived by the general public as dangerous, incompetent, unpredictable, less human and irresponsible. The impact of stigma on people with mental diseases can be severe including avoidance of help seeking and a disadvantage in terms of employment potential.

The stigma associated with psychological professionals has been attributed to several factors, including exaggeration in mental health services, a high rate of public ignorance of mental illness, simplification of all aspects of psychiatry and unclear boundaries between abnormality and normal life in psychiatry. Overall, mental health professionals were stereotyped in professional effectiveness, discomfort with disclosing one's field, negative stereotype about mental illness and Mental health practitioners were perceived as unconventional and unpredictable whereas substance abuse treatment specialists were perceived as less empathic, predictable and conventional than those treating depression. Those who treat schizophrenia and depression were

perceived to be more withdrawn than those who treat drug abuse problems. Society regards mental health experts as insane. According to the findings, mental health experts such as psychiatric and mental health nurses, psychiatrists and social workers in the mental health environment face a high level of associative stigma from the general public. Mental health professionals found a significant proportion of associated stigma ranging from 5.8% to 75% across studies and nations. This has major implications for global mental health since it may discourage the very few mental health practitioners in developing nations, posing a greater threat to mental health care delivery. It would significantly impair efforts to enhance people's mental health across countries. Not only are mental health professionals stigmatized the health-care system functions as a team and as should not stigmatize against any subgroup.

Professional psychiatric organizations should propose to adopt efforts to modify this negative attitude. Across the literature, young medical and health science students do not regard psychiatry as a potential subject of specialty. This was related to psychiatry's terrible public image, stigma by association and other factors. This has major implications for the future of both industrialized and poor countries. If preventive measures against associative stigma are not implemented in a timely manner, psychiatry will face a greater threat of professional shortage, which will be detrimental to the world's mental health. The World Health Organization and professional nursing and psychiatry organizations are required to do something to improve the image and state of the profession particularly in developing countries people and students with a family history of mental problems were more humane and friendly towards mental health practitioners. More of the stigma attached to mental health practitioners stems from ignorance and misunderstanding.

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