

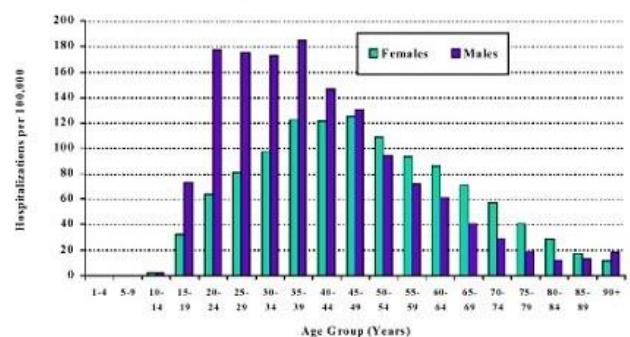
Estimating Schizophrenia Literacy among Caregivers of Patients with Schizophrenia at the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH): A Cross-Sectional Study

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Schizophrenia literacy (SL) is defined as the “knowledge and beliefs about schizophrenia which aid their recognition, management or prevention.” Though mental health literacy was vastly studied in foreign countries, globally there is dearth of literature on caregiver schizophrenia literacy. For six months, 202 caregiver-patient pairs in Admission and Crisis Intervention Section (ACIS) wards were enrolled. SL was measured by administering the National Center for Mental Health Schizophrenia Literacy-B Questionnaire (NCMHSL-BQ) through structured interview. Tertile scores were computed to delineate the three SL categories Low, Satisfactory and High. Ethics approval was granted by UPM Research Ethics Board and NCMH Research Ethics Committee. For the demographics, mean age was 43.9(±13.2) years old, nearly 60% are females, almost half (49%) are married and all resides in highly urbanized cities (HUCs). 35% are mothers while 30% are either brother or sister of the patient. 28% and 13% are High School and College graduate, respectively, and the rest had lower educational attainment. On average, the interview took 33 (±4.8) minutes. The mean SL score was 32 (±3.4), with 42 as highest and 19 as the lowest. Among all respondents, 41.6% had low (score of 19 to 31), 28.7% satisfactory (32 to 33), and 29.7% high (34 to 42) SL. Majority have Low SL, which would imply that there might be a need to intensify health education or psych education activities. Future work for this research would include an examination of the relationship of caregiver SL with the frequency of readmission of their patients with schizophrenia.

WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP), launched in 2008, uses evidence-based technical guidance, tools and training packages to expand service in countries, especially in resource-poor settings. It focuses on a prioritized set of conditions, directing capacity building towards non-specialized health-care providers in an integrated approach that promotes mental health at all levels of care. Currently mhGAP is being implemented in more than 100 WHO Member States. The WHO Quality Rights Project involves improving the quality of care and human rights conditions in mental health and social care facilities and to empower organizations to advocate for the health of people with mental disorders.

WHO's Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2013, highlights the steps required to provide appropriate services for people with mental disorders including schizophrenia. A key recommendation of the Action Plan is to shift services from institutions to the community.



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