

Nursing Students' Attitude toward Patients with Psychotic Disorders

Thesis

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment for Requirements of
Master Degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing*

By

Fatma Attia Metwally Abdo

B.S.C - Elmansoura University

Nursing Teacher at Technical Nursing Institute

Al-Azhar University

**Faculty of Nursing
Ain Shams University**

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Supervised by

Prof. Sorayia Ramadan Abd El-Fatah

*Professor of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
Faculty of Nursing - Ain Shams University*

Dr. Mona Hassan Abd El-Aal

*Assist. Professor of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
Faculty of Nursing - Ain Shams University*

**Faculty of Nursing
Ain Shams University**

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List of Abbreviations

<i>Abb.</i>	<i>Full term</i>
<i>A. D.</i>	<i>Anno Domini</i>
<i>AACN</i>	<i>American Association of Colleges of Nursing</i>
<i>ANA</i>	<i>American Nurses Association</i>
<i>APASMMD</i>	<i>American Psychiatric Association and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i>
<i>APRN</i>	<i>Advanced practice registered nurses</i>
<i>IRB</i>	<i>Institutional Review Board</i>
<i>SPSS</i>	<i>Statistical Package for the Social Sciences</i>
<i>U.S.A.</i>	<i>United States of America</i>
<i>WHO</i>	<i>World Health Organization</i>
<i>WPA</i>	<i>World Psychiatric Association</i>

Abstract

Background: Literature suggests that nursing students hold stigmatizing attitudes towards people with mental illness. **Aim of the Study:** This study was aimed to assess nursing students' attitude towards patients with psychotic disorders. **Subjects and Methods:** This study included 286 nursing students from 2 Egyptian technical nursing institutes. The sample was nearly halved between Saied Galal and Ain Shams University Nursing Institutions. **Tools:** Data were collected using demographic data survey instruments and attitude scale for mental illness. **Results:** About half of the nursing students had positive attitude towards patients with mental illness. The main positive factors towards positive attitude were the type of secondary school, type of the nursing institute and the student study level. **Conclusions:** Only half of the study students had positive attitude towards the psychiatric patients. Students who had pass nursing secondary school, and students at Saied Galal technical institute and the students at higher study level, had more positive attitude towards patients with mental illness. **Recommendations:** Attempts should be carried out to change the negative attitude of nursing students towards mental illness. Providing a variety of community mental health services are essential to improve attitude about psychiatric nursing career and psychiatric patients. Further large sample study to estimate the exact factors affecting the attitude of nursing students towards psychiatric patients.

Keywords: Nursing students – attitude - patients with psychiatric disorders

INTRODUCTION

Globally the burden of mental disorders continues to increase with significant impacts on health, social life, human rights and economic consequences. However, most of the health systems haven't yet responded to the burden of mental disorders adequately. As a consequence, the gap between the provision of treatment and needs of mentally ill is increasing all over the world (*WHO, 2017*).

Since more than 10 years in 2005, there were more than 450 million people in the world had showed some symptoms of psychiatric disorders i.e. approximately 1 in 4 people experienced these symptoms, and only 1 in 200 had asked for help for their psychiatric problems (*McCabe, 2005*). It is estimated that by 2020, 15% of the total disease burden will be attributed to mental and behavioral disorders (*Sakellari et al., 2011*).

People with mental illness are usually described as violent and dangerous persons that have severely annoyed thoughts with unpredictable behaviors and should be feared (*Ross & Goldner, 2009*). Most of the psychiatric patients arrested for violent or nonviolent crimes have encountered barriers to treatment. According to *Rueve and Welton (2008)*, an estimate suggested that 80% of violent psychiatric patients didn't adhere to treatment recommendations at some point during their illnesses.

Many nurses as a part of the public, believe that mental illness is related to the persons own deficiencies, such as weakness of character and morals, laziness, and lack of discipline and self-control (*Ross & Goldner, 2009*). These beliefs and attitudes cause discrimination leading to suffering of these patients from several adverse effects such as unemployment, lack of education, marginalization, shortage of income, rights violation and indeed, self-respect and self-concept (*Markowitz, 1998*).

People with mental illness have a higher incidence of chronic diseases and a shorter lifespan compared to the general population. However, *Phelan et al. (2001)* reported that some healthcare providers may dither to fully assess the physical status of these patients due to apathy or inconvenience and annoyance they can face when dealing with them.

Added to that, People with mental illness wish to work and are competent to do more than basic jobs (*Wong et al., 2009*);but are socially excluded in relation to employment and housing and suffer from low self-esteem (*Munro & Baker, 2007*). Psychiatric nurses need to educate family members to be more aware of stigma, learn effective coping techniques and provide anti-stigma interventions (*Larson & Corrigan, 2008*).

With increasing in the number of mentally ill persons, there is a great need for psychiatric nurses to cope with the imbalance in the supply and demand of nursing staff for

psychiatric patients. Shortage of nurses selecting to be specialized or to work in the psychiatry departments is recorded over the years (*Browne et al., 2013; De Kock and Pillay, 2016; Olfson, 2016*). *Sharrock & Happell, (2000)* reported the poor attitudes of many nurses in providing this pressing care which may have a passive impact in the delivery of care to mentally ill patients. For that the *World Psychiatric Association (WPA)* included recruitment to psychiatry as a major part of its action plan 2008–2011.

According to *Munro and Baker (2007)*, psychiatric nurses have a role, which is to provide appropriate information to the patient's relatives and care providers to reduce fear of people with a psychiatric illness. This can be accomplished by giving a well-informed understanding of the psychiatric illness, risk factors and expected outcomes of the patient.

Added to that, psychiatric nurses are viewed as the slightest talented, lowest respected nurses and are an objective of affiliated shame, which refers to any individual who has a nearby to psychiatric or mental patient (*Halter, 2008*).

So within the nursing profession, psychiatric nursing must strive to win the battle with other specialties attracting qualified graduates into the field and into graduate programs (*Fox and Chamberlain, 1988; Murphy, 1988*). It is up to the nursing staff in undergraduate nursing programs to change this nursing student's negative attitude towards psychiatric nursing.

It has been demonstrated that undergraduate nursing students are most affected by their teachers, and a lot of the students fear is disappeared with finishing their psychiatric part of their undergraduate preparation (*Durkin, 2002*).

Significance of the Study:

Several themes describe were a slight decline in students' attitudes towards valuable contribution of psychiatric nursing services after studying psychiatric nursing course and psychosocial stigma were reported. Study conducted at Faculty of Nursing at El-Minia and Assiut Universities in Egypt (*Darweesh, 2014*). Psychosocial stigma and negative attitudes towards people with psychotic disorders have been found to be common worldwide among both trained health professionals as well as the general population (*Ghanem et al., 2012*). So, it is necessary to implement the assessment nursing students' attitude towards patients with psychotic disorders (*MacNeela et al., 2012*).

In this study we focused on nursing students because this group reflects the effects of psychiatry teaching and clinical exposure. This group may also be influenced by factors affecting their attitude which nursing staff can address with sufficient evidence and will. An understanding of these attitudes could eventually lead to more effective education and training of nursing students.

AIM OF THE STUDY

This study aimed to:

Assess nursing students' attitude toward patients with psychotic disorders.

This aim will be achieved through answering the following question:

-What is students' attitude toward patients with psychotic disorders?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This literature review includes an overview of the published literature about attitudes of nursing students toward mental illness.

- The first section of this chapter presents information about the stigma and resulting attitudes toward mental illness.
- The second section presents the factors affecting the students' attitude.
- The third section displays studies on attitudes of nursing students toward mental illness.
- The final section presents an overview of implications for supportive education of nursing students during their psychiatric clinical rotation.

I- The first section of this chapter will present information about the stigma and resulting attitudes toward mental Illness

In order to attract students and nurses to work in the mental health field, it is important to assess the attitudes and factors that are associated with students' choice of selecting psychiatric nursing as a future career choice.