

Results: This review revealed the presence of well-structured support groups for the caregivers of the mentally ill in many parts of the world. The advantages of such groups and their contributions to the holistic care of these patients in those regions were also discussed, while suggesting a possible structure for their creation, sustainability and focus in Africa.

Conclusions: The support of caregivers for the mentally ill must be given keen attention by both care providers and policy makers, with prime importance given to the creation and funding of more caregiver support groups in the continent in order to achieve quality and holistic care for the mentally ill.

Keywords: holistic care; caregiver support group; Africa; mental healthcare

EPP0741

The relationship between stigma and help-seeking intentions in college students

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Introduction: Few people seek mental health care despite the high prevalence of mental illnesses and their serious consequences. Barriers explaining this lack or absence of help-seeking have been the subject of several studies with stigma being the most prominent barrier.

Objectives: We aimed to assess the relationship between stigma and help-seeking intentions in a sample of Tunisian college students.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional survey. The “Mental Health Knowledge Schedule”, and the “Reported and Intended Behavior Scale” were administered to a total of 714 college students (62.2% female; mean age =20.9).

Results: More than one-third of students (39.6%) felt that it would be “unlikely” or “very unlikely” to seek the help of a health professional for mental health problems. Pearson product moment correlations indicated that help-seeking intentions significantly and positively correlated with behavior ($p < 0.001$, $r = 0.103$) and knowledge ($p < 0.001$, $r = 0.163$). The multiple hierarchical linear regression analysis found that after controlling for demographic variables (gender, age) and other personal-related variables (marital status, family income, living environment, substance use, personal psychiatric history), help-seeking intentions were significant contributors to behaviors and knowledge.

Conclusions: Given that stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness is a real and perceived barrier to seeking help and treatment, psycho-educational campaigns should be put in place to address the negative perceptions and attitudes of the general population about mental health issues, and should be tailored to the needs of specific groups (including students in different disciplines), taking into account their attitudes, fear and concerns about mental illness.

Keywords: mental health; Stigma; Reported and Intended Behavior Scale; help-seeking intentions

EPP0742

Assessment of knowledge of mental illness in a non-clinical population of tunisian students.

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Introduction: Stigma, including beliefs about mental illness, can operate in different cultures in different ways, making Western theoretical bases considered “universal” on the stigmatization of theories not applicable to non-Western cultures; hence the need for international studies on this subject.

Objectives: This work aimed to assess knowledge of mental illness, available treatments and recovery in a non-clinical sample of Tunisian university students.

Methods: In a cross-sectional descriptive study from October 1 to November 30, 2019, we evaluated 714 students from 3 Tunisian public universities using the Mental Health Knowledge Schedule scale (MAKS).

Results: We found that 34.2% of students did not agree that drugs can be an effective treatment for people with mental health issues, while 76.4% agreed on the effectiveness of psychotherapy. In addition, 34.3% did not consider drug addiction as a mental illness and 21.9% did not consider depression as a mental illness. We objectified a significant correlation of the MAKS score with gender ($p = 0.019$), living environment ($p = 0.001$), high academic level of father ($p = 0.000$) and mother ($p = 0.027$) and presence of personal psychiatric history ($p = 0.013$).

Conclusions: Awareness and information campaigns aimed at developing the general public’s knowledge of the scientific, medical and psychosocial causes of mental illness and the means of management should be established.

Keywords: Mental Health Knowledge Schedule scale; knowledge; Mental illness; Stigma

EPP0743

Profile of tunisian students consulting in psychopedagogy unit

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Introduction: A significant proportion of adolescents and young adults suffer from mental disorders that interfere with their development and influence their academic and professional success.

Objectives: To describe the socio-demographic and clinical profile of tunisian students who have consulted in the psycho-pedagogy unit.

Methods: A retrospective descriptive study, data were collected from the files of 359 pupils and students having consulted in the psycho-pedagogy unit of the psychiatry (B) department of the Hedi Chaker university hospital of Sfax in Tunisia, from 2014 to 2018.

Results: The average age of students was 20.38 ± 2.38 years old. The Sex ratio = 0.95 (175 M / 184 W). Students were undergraduates in 55.4 of the cases. They are smokers in 19% and consume alcohol in