

Knowledge and attitude of Bedouins of Saint Catherine towards mental disorders

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To assess the knowledge and attitude of Bedouins towards mental disorders, 81 subjects from Saint Catherine (South Sinai) were randomly and systematically recruited and interviewed with a semi- structured technique to obtain a profile of their concepts and beliefs. The results showed that 89% of interviewed did not recognize the term schizophrenia (Fusam) and 66.6% refused to work with a patient known to have mental disorder. The implications of these findings suggested that the programs aiming at the reduction of stigma of mental illness should target the knowledge and attitudes of various community subgroups.