

Assessment of satisfaction with life among long stay patients in psychiatric hospitals

Shama, Gamal T.

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The aim of the present study was to assess satisfaction with life among long stay patients in psychiatric hospital. It was carried out on 151 long stay psychiatric patients hospitalized for a minimum of two years without any discharge exceeding one month. Data were collected using interview technique including biosocial and clinical data. The second part was an Arabic version of long stay hospitalized psychiatric patients satisfaction with life scale. The study concluded that long stay patients in psychiatric hospitals are dissatisfied with their life. Most of the dissatisfied patients have feelings of fearfulness, isolation, lack of individualization, perceived the hospital environment as unsatisfactory, lack of autonomy, perceived personal hygiene facilities as unsatisfactory, lack of status and recognition and restriction of action. Patients in private wards feel more satisfied than those in gratis wards. Also, patients who get visitors are more satisfied with their life in psychiatric hospital than those who have no visitors. There was no significant statistical relationship between satisfaction with life within the hospital and the patient's sex, age, marital status, level of education and diagnosis.