

Knowledge and attitude of adolescents towards patients with schizophrenia

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The objective of this study was to identify the adolescent concepts about schizophrenia and the degree of stigma and discrimination against people, who suffer from this mental disorder. A cross sectional survey was done in a randomly selected secondary school using a specially designed questionnaire to collect data. The results showed that 381 students in 1st year of a secondary school answered the questionnaire, about 22.8% of them did not know any knowledge about schizophrenia (Arabic term is fusam), while 32% of them defined it as split personality. 10% refused to be in the work or in the class of a patient with schizophrenia. In addition, there were statistically significant differences in the social isolation regarding those who had poor and good knowledge. Only 3% of the students knew that schizophrenia could be treated with drugs.