

Assessment of social functioning and social behaviour of schizophrenic patients : A step towards community reintegration

Ahmad, Hanan Husain Supervised by **Kamel, M. Craig, T. Manssour, M. Aumar, A.**

Ain-Shams Univ., Cairo (EGY). Fac. of Med.

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This work aimed to find out the characteristics of long stay schizophrenia patients and their needs of support. One hundred patients with schizophrenia according to ICD-10 criteria, 50 from the inpatients at Abassia Hospital and 50 from those attending the outpatient clinics of the Institute of Psychiatry-Ain Shams University, were included in the study. Cases were assessed by SANS, SAPS, SFQ, SBS and the community placement. The results showed that outpatients performed better in activities of daily living assessed by SFQ. Autonomy was almost complete for 30% of outpatients as compared with 14% of inpatients. Outpatients had larger number of significant relations which are mainly kins (68% had kins vs. 10 % in inpatients) and less problematic family relations (38% vs. 93.9% in inpatients). Finally, only 16% of inpatients were thought capable of living independently as compared to 88% of outpatients. Patient's social functioning was weakly correlated to positive symptoms of schizophrenia.