Multidisciplinary collaboration in the development of Community Meeting and patient empowerment at an Acute Psychiatric setting

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Introduction
Patient empowerment at acute psychiatric setting is a new innovative practice. Author is positive and initiates this direction at acute psychiatric setting with doctor at first; later extended to occupational therapists, patients resources staff, peer support workers since July 2014.

Objectives
To develop patient empowerment, increase their internal strength for this group of patients and advocate patient empowerment.

Methodology
Both author and a SMO initiated this new innovation: We both share the belief on Recovery Oriented Care. Author led her team: redesign ward programs with staff, develop staff with training of new service direction, develop therapeutic group and community meeting with patients in acute ward setting every Monday morning since 10 July 2017. With Senior managerial support and blessing: recruitment of a supporting staff to implement different kinds of programmes and activities at ward setting, a lot of different kinds of activities are available for patient selection at this ward. Examples: CP (anger and stress management; nursing (art, exercise, cooking, music.), OT involvement; red cross teacher for aged below 16 patient. Patients have freedom to choose and join the activity in the hospitalization.

Result
Patients and staffs become positive and getting involved. The changed culture is developed gradually. The weekly community meeting involves not only nurses, OT staff but led by a psychiatrist as well. Patients are empowered. They speak freely and enjoy this innovative development well. Up to dates, over 500 patient attendance and there is a trend to extend this innovative practice to all acute wards in our department.