



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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Protecting patients against sexual harassment / assault in a child and adolescent mixed-gender psychiatric ward

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Introduction

Protecting patients under 18 from sexual harm is an important issue in a mixed-gender ward. Psychiatric services should take appropriate actions to safeguard the patients. Formal staff training for caring patients in mixed-gender ward should be provided to staff. Structured patient educational program by teaching about age-appropriate sexual development, learning the warning signs that could indicate child sexual harassment / assault, practicing to speak up is essential for protecting child and adolescent against sexual harassment/ assault.

Objectives

- (1) To protect in-patients against sexual harassment/ assault
- (2) To help in-patients to equip skills of interpersonal relationship
- (3) To help in-patients to establish and accept the role and responsibility to their own gender
- (4) To help in-patients to set up a foundation for the future development in their acquaintance with friends and lovers and their interpersonal relationship

Methodology

- (1) Patients' needs and problem were identified.
- (2) The standard training materials about prevention of sexual harassment / assault for staff were designed.
- (3) A sex education kit for in-patients was created.
- (4) Sex education program for in-patients was developed.
 - Manual for nursing staff was created.
 - Sex education video (gender identity, interpersonal skills, prevention of sexual harassment/ assault, etc.) would be played with different topic every Saturday.
 - Individual psycho-education would be provided to the patient in needed.
 - Monthly group education, discussion and role play on different topics related sex education would be held in community meeting.

Result

Comments and positive feedbacks were collected from the patient satisfactory survey. Active participation during monthly group education, discussion and role play were noted. Patients expressed the programme helped them to equip skills to protect themselves from inappropriate sexual behaviour and manage their interpersonal relationship issues. Patients' awareness on self-protection against sexual harassment/ assault was increased. The programme would be conducted continuously. Regular staff training would be conducted for staff to manage the incidents of sexual assault.