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How do laboratory technicians perceive their role in the tuberculosis diagnostic process? A crosssectional study among laboratory technicians in health centers of central Java Province, Indonesia

[Widjanarko, Bagoes^a](#) [Widyastari, Dyah Anantalia^b](#); [Martini, Martini^c](#); [Ginandjar, Praba^c](#) [Save all to author list](#)^a Department of Health Education and Behavior Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia^b Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Salaya, Thailand^c Department of Epidemiology, Faculty of Public Health, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia1 32th percentile
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Igor Elman, MD was trained at the National Institute of Mental Health and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry with a subspecialty certification in Addiction Psychiatry. Dr. Elman's current research is focused on the role of reward and motivational systems in the pathophysiology of severe neuropsychiatric disorders, including behavioral and chemical addictions, schizophrenia and post-traumatic stress disorder.



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Einar Thorsteinsson, PhD, is an Associate Professor at University of New England, School of Psychology, Australia. He maintains extensive collaborations in the area of health psychology both within Australia and internationally such as through the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) research network that covers most nations in Europe as well as Canada and the



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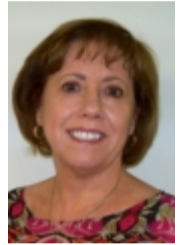
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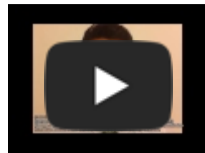
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Predictors of disability-related attitudes: considering self-esteem, communication apprehension, contact, and geographic location

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Abstract: Individuals' attitudes about persons with disability (PwD) strongly affect differently-abled persons' quality of life and position in society. Some research offers support for the ability of systematic, supported, longitudinal contact between different groups of individuals to improve attitudes. College campuses, in particular, offer a potentially useful arena in which to facilitate this type of contact. This study explored contextual factors (eg, geographic region, biological sex) and predictors of disability-related attitudes among a college student population to determine strategies for course-based intervention design (eg, as community-engaged or service-learning initiatives). Surveying participants from universities in two regions of the United States, we found that self-esteem, audience-based communication apprehension, and contact with PwD explain more than 50% of the variance in disability-related attitudes. Further, we found that geographic location affects both self-esteem and audience-based communication apprehension (communicating/interacting with PwD). We discuss the implications for community engagement and/or service learning and highlight the importance of partnerships among relevant community stakeholders, including university faculty, students, and staff.

Keywords: community engagement, service learning, intervention, regional culture, PwD, intergroup, quality of life, college students, community partnerships

Introduction

In the United States, individuals and groups have employed multiple mechanisms to improve the quality of life for persons with disability (PwD) and facilitate their full inclusion in society. One of the major mechanisms was the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) of 1990, which criminalizes discrimination against PwD in employment, transportation, and public accommodation.¹ The ADA boasts success. For example, a 2010 survey of 870 disability community leaders found that more than 90% of the respondents believed the quality of life of PwD had improved with the passage of the ADA.² According to Frieden,² "the ADA is helping to improve both the self-esteem of PwD, and how they are perceived by others." However, despite the actions undertaken to ensure equal opportunity and full participation and inclusion of PwD in society,² there are indications that some people in society still have negative attitudes toward PwD. These negative attitudes affect PwD on multiple levels.

More work is needed to understand the attitudes and beliefs that underlie behaviors toward PwD in order to affect a positive shift in disability-related attitudes. The ability of attitudes to influence behavior is well supported by previous studies^{3,4} as well as in interventions founded in classic behavior change theories.^{5,6} The foundational ideas from these theories may relate to attitudes about the self (eg, self-esteem), cultural attitudes

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Seasonal affective disorder, winter type: current insights and treatment options

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Abstract: Seasonal affective disorder (SAD), winter type, is a seasonal pattern of recurrent major depressive episodes most commonly occurring in autumn or winter and remitting in spring/summer. The syndrome has been well-known for more than three decades, with light treatment being the treatment of first choice. In this paper, an overview is presented of the present insights in SAD. Description of the syndrome, etiology, and treatment options are mentioned. Apart from light treatment, medication and psychotherapy are other treatment options. The predictable, repetitive nature of the syndrome makes it possible to discuss preventive treatment options. Furthermore, critical views on the concept of SAD as a distinct diagnosis are discussed.

Keywords: seasonal affective disorder, review, light treatment, medication, psychotherapy, prevention

Introduction

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD), winter type, is an almost yearly recurrent depression with the onset of symptoms in autumn/winter followed by a spontaneous recovery in spring/summer. In their now classical paper, Rosenthal et al¹ described the syndrome and presented the first study using light treatment (LT) for SAD. Since then, the syndrome has been described in several editions of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) and is still included in the most recent fifth edition (DSM-5).² In this paper, an overview of the syndrome, its prevalence, etiology, assessment procedures, treatment modalities, and some criticisms about the concept of SAD are presented.

The syndrome

The SAD syndrome, winter type, or winter depression has been described and studied since the early 80s of the previous century. In the last three editions of the DSM, SAD was either formulated as a specifier of a major depression or as a specifier of a bipolar I or II disorder, but not as an independent entity. Despite the arguments of Rosenthal to formulate SAD as a distinct entity, it is still a specifier in the DSM-5.³

Arguments for and against the choice for SAD as a specifier and not a distinct category can be found, and both have consequences for the recognition and treatment.

Classification systems are consensus based, which is not always identical to evidence based. The advantage of inclusion in the classification systems is the recognition of the symptoms, which makes it easier or more acceptable to treat these patients within different health care systems. Therefore, it is important to formulate distinct categories.

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Reliability and validity of the Italian version of the I4-item Resilience Scale

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Background: In recent years resilience has gained clinical relevance in sociological, psychological, and medical disciplines, and a lot of scales measuring resilience have been developed and have been utilized in the western countries. The aim of the study was to assess the psychometric properties of the Italian version of the 14-item Resilience Scale (RS-14), by describing its validity and reliability. As agreed with the authors of the original English version of the RS-14, it was translated into Italian. Then the standard procedure for back-translation was followed.

Methods: In total, 150 participants among the nursing and professional education students of the University of Insubria of Varese and health workers of the “ASST dei Sette Laghi-Ospedale di Circolo” of Varese were enrolled. The responses to the questionnaires were collected only from the students and the health workers between the ages of 18 and 65 years who gave their consent to participate in the study from April to September 2015. A subsample of 26 students and health workers was retested on the RS-14, 5 weeks after the first assessment. The questionnaires were handed out to 214 people, and 150 sets of questionnaires (70%) were returned, of which eight were subsequently removed because >60% of the answers were missing. In order to ensure anonymity, every completed questionnaire was identified only via a code.

Results: No significant differences were found between the mean values of the resilience scores between women (76.1) and men (76.3), with unpaired *t*-test = -0.08 and *P*=0.93. Similarly, no difference between resilience scores were found between mean age group of 18–25 years (75.3) and 26–65 years (78.7), with *t*-test = 1.6. The overall Cronbach’s alpha of the RS-14 is 0.88, *P*=0.10. The RS-14 is negatively correlated with the Beck Depression Inventory-Primary Care Version and the 12-item General Health Questionnaire and positively correlated with the World Health Organization Quality of Life-Brief Version. The test-retest reliability, assessed on the 26 subjects 5 weeks after the first evaluation, highlighted an intraclass correlation coefficient value equal to 0.65. Factor analysis retains three factors, and it considers the factor loadings >0.40: RS-14-06 (‘I am determined’) is loaded on all the factors and RS-14-12 (‘In an emergency, I am someone people can generally rely on’) is not loaded on any factor.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates that the Italian RS-14 has psychometric properties with a good level of internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha = 0.88), an adequate concurrent validity, verified by relationships with the other scales and as it was expected from literature, and an acceptable test-retest reliability.

Keywords: resilience, measuring scales, psychometrics, factor analysis, adolescence, adulthood

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Introduction

Resilience is the process of a capacity for or an outcome of successful adaptation despite challenging or threatening circumstances.¹ Resilient people are characterized by interior strength, competence, optimism, flexibility, and coping ability in the face

Effectiveness of social work intervention with a systematic approach to improve general health in opioid addicts in addiction treatment centers

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Purpose: This study takes a systematic approach to investigate the effect of social work intervention aimed at increasing general health among opioid addicts in addiction treatment centers.

Patients and methods: This is an experimental plan (pretest to posttest with a control group); the study sample included 60 patients with drug dependencies undergoing treatment in addiction treatment centers. These patients were randomly assigned as case (30) and control (30) groups. The case group was subjected to intervention over ten sessions, whereas the control group received no intervention. Both groups then passed through a posttest, while a follow-up was conducted after 4 months. Data were obtained via a General Health Questionnaire.

Results: A covariance analysis test and independent and dependent *t*-test results indicated that a social work intervention adopting systematic approach was effective in increasing the general health of drug-addicted patients under treatment.

Conclusion: Thus, the nature of the presence of social workers in addiction treatment centers has been effective and can have a significant influence by reducing anxiety and insomnia and somatic symptoms, improving patients' self-understanding and self-recognition, and enhancing social functioning.

Keywords: social work, intervention, systematic approach, general health, opioid addicts

Introduction

Currently, addiction has changed into a plight for the general health around the world.¹ Similarly, in Iran, despite lack of existence of accurate statistics about the number of addicts,² over the last few years, the extent of abusing stimulants including opioids has been increasing.³ Today, many studies have confirmed the symbiosis of drug dependence disorders and mood disorders.^{4,5} The results of studies conducted in Iran also show that mental health among drug abusers is significantly lower than that in healthy individuals.⁶⁻¹⁰ Furthermore, investigations reveal that addicts have paranoid thinking, signs of depression, anxiety, obsessive thoughts, low self-confidence, and phobia.¹¹ In general, research has shown that general health is low among addicts.¹²

General health ensures provision and preservation of psychological, individual, and social health, such that the person is able to do his/her activities well and establish proper relationship with his/her family members and environment and has no improper behavior according to the culture and society. Therefore, disorders in the general health result in physical, psychological, and social problems; thus, addiction is considered as a disorder in general health.¹³

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