

STIGMA: EXPERIENCES OF 30 WOMEN, RESIDENT IN VLORA PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Gentiana Xhelili (Lepuri)

“Ismail Qemali” University, Human Sciences Faculty, Vlore-Skele Boulevard, Albania,
Email: genta2002al@yahoo.it

Abstract

Stigma is a social construction that defines people in terms of a distinguishing characteristic or mark and devalues them as a consequence. A stigmatized person may be regarded as not quite human. The purpose of this study was to investigate the stigma experiences among mental health patients. Thirty women diagnosed with mental health problems, residents at the Psychiatric Hospital of Vlore were participants of this study. The Stigma Scale was administered to the patients. Results show that stigma is a constant concern to all the participants in the study. They reported strong feelings of stigma after being diagnosed with mental health issues and mostly after hospitalization. Further research need to be done in order to better explore how stigma influences the lives of mental health patients, how they view themselves, how they interact with others and the process of reintegration after hospitalization.

Keywords: *stigma, mental health*