PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT DIFFERENCES AMONG SCHIZOPHRENIC AND DEPRESSED PATIENTS IN REHABILITATION CARE

BY

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"Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful."

"Read in the name of your Lord, who created you, Created man from a clot of blood. Who taught by the pen.Taught man that which he did not know". 96:1-5

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed at analyzing the difference in the level of perceived social support among the psychiatric patients of schizophrenia and depression in rehabilitation care. The research hypothesized that there would be significant difference in the levels of social support among the patients of schizophrenia, and depression and that perceived social support plays major role among other treatments in the relapse. The patients of schizophrenia and depression were selected from Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore rehabilitation care units through purposive sampling to provide geographical diversity to the study to understand the difference in perceived social support by the cultural environment of the region. The targeted population were those patients who were either admitted for the treatment or who were coming for day program treatment or consultation. The data was collected through a structured and standardized questionnaire of perceived social support PSSS (Malik & Ismail 2005). The aim was to identify difference in the level of social support among the patients of schizophrenia, and depression and to prove that perceived social support plays major role among other treatment in the relapse and prevention of psychiatric illnesses. Quantitative research approach was applied using the method of t-test. The social support scale was administered on a sample of 100 participants.

The 100 participants were divided into two categories comprising of 50 schizophrenic patients and 50 depressed patients in the age range of 19-27.

The sample was selected from three major cities of Pakistan including Karachi,

Islamabad and Lahore through purposive sampling technique. The implication of this research was to investigate the difference in perceived social support and then its utilization for the benefit of these patients. The significance of perception about their families and support system was measured through the scores on the PSSS scale. The results were obtained and discussed with figures and tables generated through t-test computed to find out the relationship of the two variables using the statistical package of (SPSS 20.0 version).

Findings of the study indicates that perceived social support is higher in the patients of depression(89.66) then schizophrenia (70.19), $t= -4.054, p< 0.005$) and that higher/lower perceived social support(.491,$p< 0.005$) does not predict less relapse for the patients of depression and schizophrenia in the rehabilitation care.

The study findings have enlightened importance of perceived social support in the patients of depression and schizophrenia and opened the avenue for the future local and cross cultural researches in this field.