

Abstract

The Study of "Family's Attitudes towards the Enchainment of Psychiatric Patients : Case Study at Khon Kaen Province". The purposes of this study were to examine the attitudes of members of families that took care of psychiatric patients using enchainment methods and to determine the knowledge and understanding of psychiatric care methods of the members of families that used enchainment methods in caring for the patients. The tools applied in this study included a questionnaire and an interview form. Sample of the study consisted of members of families that cared for psychiatric patients. Among 81 families that received the questionnaires, 76 sets of filled questionnaires were returned to the researcher, 94 percents. The program used for data analysis was SPSS. The statistics used in this study were percentage, mean, and standard deviation. In-depth interview was conducted with three care-giving members of families with psychiatric patients.

Results of the study showed that most of the samples were females, aged between 21-40 years old. Most of them completed the primary school, worked as farmers, and gained less than 2,000 baht of income per month. Most of them were parents of the psychiatric patients and had resorted on enchainment methods for 1 year and 1 month to 5 years. Most of the samples had already freed the patients. Family members who cared for the psychiatric patients had knowledge and understanding of psychiatric illness and symptoms at a high level. Their attitudes towards caring for psychiatric patients by enchainment methods were at a moderate level. Their knowledge and understanding of psychiatric caring method was also found to be in a moderate level.

Results of the interview indicated that before the psychiatric team came to enhance their knowledge and understanding of psychiatric illness and correct caring methods in according to the policy to free the psychiatric patients who were tied or detained in Khon Kaen area, most of the caregivers' attitudes towards the patients were not good. Most of them also lacked knowledge and understanding of psychiatric care

methods, especially following the doctors' instructions. Therefore, they inappropriately cared for the patients by tying or detaining them. However, after the psychiatric team played a role in enhancing caregivers' knowledge and understanding of psychiatric illness and correct caring methods, most of the caregivers had a better attitude towards the patients. They admitted that the patients were able to develop and adjust themselves. As a result, the caregivers began to take care of the patients more appropriately and gained more knowledge and understanding of psychiatric care in different aspects.

For recommendations of this study, the planning authority of the psychiatric team should promote mechanisms for multi-dimension coordination to ensure that all levels and divisions work together to achieve a coordinated and integrated work plan. In addition, the work plan should emphasize prevention, not correction. The implementation plan that was successful with the families that had freed the patients should also be applied to those still restricted the patients' enchainment. Moreover, the work plan should focus on equally access families and communities and adapted to fit the situation of each family and community to ensure work achievement. For implementation division, the psychiatric team has to work gradually and earnestly. It is also important to conduct a regular following-up and evaluation to avoid the problem of repeated enchainment. The psychiatric team should also enhance the families' caring skills. In the cases where patients are still tied or locked up, the psychiatric team needs to play a role in proactively protecting the patients' rights. This can be achieved by building the awareness and changing the attitudes of families and communities to ensure that the patients will become more accepted and live in the society happily.