

Attitude Toward Traditional Healers Among Schizophrenic Patients and Their Families in A Study from Bahrain

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To study the attitudes regarding traditional healers among patients with schizophrenia and their families in Bahrain.

Design: A cross-sectional study.

Setting: Out-patient Department, Psychiatric Hospital, Ministry of Health, Bahrain.

Method: A total of fifty patients were included in the study from January 2021 to June 2021. The inclusion criteria were 18-65 years with a diagnosis of schizophrenia. They as well as their families were polled on their views on traditional healers using a structured interview.

Result: Many of the patients (46%) visited a traditional healer before visiting a psychiatrist. Majority of the patients who think the cause of the illness is due to supernatural causes attribute it to evil eye 9 (18%), to black magic 6 (12%), and to demon possession 6 (12%). Majority of the patients think psychiatric illness is due to a medical cause 28 (56%). Most of them were literate.

Conclusion: Among patients in Bahrain with schizophrenia, supernatural beliefs were frequent, many of them visited a traditional healer before visiting a psychiatrist and their primary care givers had similar opinions to them. It reflects Bahrain's critical need for mental health knowledge.

Keywords: Cultural healing, Faith healing, Islam, Jinn, Mental disorders, Islam, Muslim, Cultural concept of distress

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