

Differences in the deprivation of needs among women and men in connection with the necessity of hospitalisation in the psychiatric ward

Beata Ziarko, Zygmunt Podbielski, Marzena Twardowska

The Psychiatry and Psychotherapy Department and Clinic of ŚIAM in Katowice
The head of the department: Doc. dr hab. I. Krupka-Matuszczyk

Summary

Background and aim: We aimed to study the differences in the deprivation of needs among women and men in connection with the necessity of being hospitalised in a psychiatric ward. **Material and method:** The study included 53 patients hospitalised in the Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Lubliniec (29 women, 24 men). We took into account the number of psychiatric hospitalisations, length of the present psychiatric hospitalisation and clinical diagnosis. As a clinical tool we used a questionnaire constructed especially for the study. The questionnaire is based on Murray's psychic needs' conception. **Results:** Although the average value of the deprivation of needs for both examined groups appeared to be the same, differences appeared within the hierarchy of needs. There are statistically significant differences between men and women referring to the needs of getting to know new things, of reaching one's own ambition and sexual satisfaction. **Conclusion:** In certain aspects men and women differ significantly in the deprivation of needs when hospitalised.

Key words: psychiatric hospitalisation, sex, deprivation of needs

Introduction

Hospitalisation in the closed wards of mental hospital produces a difficult situation not only in terms of a disease process but also because of various kinds of limitations imposed on the hospitalised patients [1]. Taking into consideration the character of the disease, a long-lasting hospitalisation (sometimes against the patient's will) is an indispensable and common practice [2]. In the face of such a situation, an attempt was taken by the authors of this work to answer the question about the patients' needs that are particularly deprived during the time hospitalisation. The study means to draw attention to these needs and at the same time, gives a possibility to reduce deficiencies.

Material and method

A group of 53 patients hospitalised in the closed wards of the Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Lubliniec was examined according to the enclosed (based on the authors' idea) questionnaire. It consists of certain statements that describe various patients'

needs and allow the authors to qualify the degree of each deprivation separately. The questionnaire is constructed in such a way that it gives a patient the possibility to add his/her own proposal of the perceptible deprivation. The questionnaire is based on H.A. Murray's concept of mental needs [3].

Table 1

Characteristics of the examined group

Sex	Men	Women
Number of people	24	29
Average age	45.91	43.13
Number of hospitalizations		
▪ 1	6 (25%)	7 (24%)
▪ 2-10	13 (54%)	13 (45%)
▪ more than 10	5 (21%)	6 (21%)
▪ no answer	-	1 (3.4%)
Time of the current stay in hospital		
▪ > 1 month	8 (33%)	11 (38%)
▪ 1-6 months	10 (42%)	9 (31%)
▪ 7-12 months	4 (17%)	1 (3.4%)
▪ more than a year	1 (4%)	1 (3.4%)
▪ no answer	1 (4%)	1 (3.4%)

Results

The average values are calculated on the bases of the gathered data. All of them correspond to the intensity of deprivation of particular needs. The comparison is made in the group of men and women. See table 2.

Table 2

The average values of the intensity of the deprivation of needs

Perceptible lack of	Women	Men
Physical security	0.79	0.75
Security in contacts with other people	1.0	1.25
Self-confidence	1.31	1.46
Opportunity to dominate other people	0.48	0.42
Care and support	1.24	1.29
Independence	1.13	1.38
Opportunity to express anger and discontent	1.06	1.25
Opportunity to fulfill one's ambitions	1.0	1.58
Fulfillment of sexual desires	0.41	0.92

Reassure anxious and sensitive experiences	1.62	1.04
Opportunity to attract other people	0.75	0.83
Possibility of making fun	1.24	1.08
Possibility of enjoying with relatives	2.17	2.04
Opportunity to take care of other people	1.58	1.42
Opportunity to overcome some difficulties	1.06	1.33
Opportunity to see and learn new things	1.55	1.38
Employment	1.62	1.38
Free movement	1.44	1.67
Average value	1.19	1.19

The subsequent analysis presents the results as for the needs that the examined patients (women and men), according to their opinions, are particularly deprived of. (table 3).

Table 3

Comparison of five needs chosen by men and women as the examples of the most deprived ones

Women	Men
Staying with relatives	Staying with relatives
Employment	Independence
Reassure anxious and sensitive experiences	Free movement
Opportunity to take care of other people	Opportunity to fulfil one's ambition
Opportunity to see and learn new things	Self-confidence

Significant differences between women and men within the range of the deprivation of needs were analysed accordingly. (table 4).

Table 4

Significant differences within the range of choices made by men and women as for the deprivation of needs

Need	Average value (women)	Average value (men)	Significance of differences - test Chi ² 0, 1; p = 0,05
Opportunity to fulfil one's ambition	1,0	1,58	Statistically significant
Opportunity to see and learn new things	1,55	1,38	Statistically significant
Fulfillment to sexual desires	0,41	0,92	Statistically significant

Some of the examined patients decided to provide other (their own) examples of needs that they feel to be deprived of when staying in the isolated psychiatric ward. (table 5).

Table 5

Other examples provided by the patients

Women	Men
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Normality of everyday life" ▪ "Going outdoors walk" ▪ "Sport" ▪ "Attending church, Communion" ▪ "Relatives, freedom" ▪ "Culture, nice atmosphere, kindness of heart" ▪ "Children, pets and friends" ▪ "Home and children" ▪ "Dentist" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Possibility of drawing money out of one's own account" ▪ "Communion" ▪ "Self-expression" ▪ "Possibilities of personal fulfilment" ▪ "Surgery self"

Discussion on the results

The average values of deprivation of needs for both examined groups; women and men appear to be the same. The differences are connected with the hierarchy of needs that are not satisfied. The need for staying with relatives is situated in the first place, both for women and men. All the same, this analysis is consistent with the results of previous research, that for the majority of patients the most difficult thing to bear is the deprivation of family contacts [2]. The differences appear in the presentation of the following needs: as far as women are concerned, the needs connected with "opening to the world" such as: learning, sensuous and aesthetic experiences and employment are to be found. Women also mention contacts with other people and an opportunity to take care of somebody as the needs of great importance. Men on the other hand, perceive the inability to satisfy the needs connected with self-esteem (self-confidence, ambition and independence) and a free, active life as the most difficult. Looking at these problems from the perspective of a social, especially sexual stereotyping, they seem to be easy to understand. Independence, self-confidence, the possibility of improvement and the opportunity to fulfil one's ambition, are strictly connected with the role of the man in the society, whereas the ability to co-operate and taking care of other people are rather female characteristics [4]. According to Bennett and Cohen, men are prestige-oriented, whereas women want to gain love and friendship. This difference is also connected with varied reactions to punishment and reward: men are likely to believe that the possibility of winning the reward or being punished, depends wholly on one's own behaviour, whereas women, connect those two things with a friendly or unfriendly attitude of the society towards them [5]. A similar tendency is observed as for the needs where the average values of the deprivation intensity differ considerably between men and women. The lack of opportunity to fulfil one's own ambition and

to satisfy the sexual desires is more often perceived as a great disadvantage by men than by women. Women on the other hand, suffer more from the inability to see and learn new things. This two-dimensional tendency is also visible in the needs provided by the patients themselves. The needs for self-expression and self-improvement are characteristic for the men's group only.

Both men and women assert that they experience some difficulties with satisfying their spiritual needs.

Conclusions

1. The average value of the deprivation of needs for both examined groups; women and men appeared to be the same. The first place of the hierarchy was occupied by the need for staying with relatives.
2. Differences appeared within the hierarchy of needs. As far as women are concerned the needs connected with "opening to the world" played for them the most important role. Men on the other hand, paid a great attention to self-esteem.
3. Within the range of such needs as seeing and knowing new things, opportunity to fulfil one's ambition and sexual desires, the differences appeared to be statistically significant.

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Author's address:

Beata Ziarko
Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
ul. Ziołowa 45/47
40-635 Katowice

QUESTIONNAIRE

Initials: **Age:** **Sex:** **Date:**

Number of hospitalisations in the psychiatric ward:

Time of hospitalisation (date):.....

Please fill each gap with an appropriate number according to the intensity of deprivation of needs you experience:

- (Not) at all.....0**
- A little.....1**
- Average.....2**
- Very much.....3**

During the time of hospitalisation I lack for:

1. Physical security
2. Security in contacts with other people
3. Self-confidence
4. Opportunity to dominate other people
5. Care and support
6. Independence
7. Possibility of expressing anger and discontent
8. Fulfilment of my ambition
9. Fulfilment of sexual desires
10. Pleasant sensuous and aesthetic experiences such as: good food, films, music
11. Opportunity to attract other people
12. Possibility of making fun
13. Staying with relatives.....
14. Opportunity to help and take care of other people.....
15. Chance to overcome some difficulties
16. Opportunity to see and learn new things.....
17. Employment.....
18. Free movement.....
19. Other