

tients a few special considerations contribute to protecting their sense of worth and their feelings of adequacy.

Summary

Geriatric problems and its Nursing care is not like any other speciality which deals with one group of diseases. Older adults suffer from various disabilities and diseases. Geriatric group will lose memory power, hearing, eyesight, etc. The Nurse who deals with geriatric patients is expected to be well versed in all the aspects. She approaches the patients through Nursing process. She plans and directs the day-to-day Nursing care according to the situation that arises. Because of the scientific knowledge and modern techniques acquired by the Nurses and health care workers they are able to give a fairly comfortable life to the elderly people.

References

1. V.S. Natarajan, *Aging Beautifully*.
2. Altschul, *Psychology for Nurses: Illness, Chronicity and Disability*.
3. *The Principles and Practice of Surgery*.

World Health Day

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ABSTRACT

Screening School Children for Psychiatric Morbidity

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Introduction

Surveys of mental morbidity carried out in various parts of the country suggest a morbidity rate of not lesser than 18-20 per 1000 and the types of illness and their prevalence are very much the same as in other parts of the world (J.E. Park and Park, Dec., 1991).

About 50% of General Medical problems are associated with psychiatric problems in India [Reddemna (1982)].

Keeping in mind the magnitude of the problem, a study was conducted on 230 school children to screen for psychiatric morbidity. The study was undertaken by Bishop's College of Nursing in August 1997, in Dharapuram. The motive is to take up some preventive measures in Dharapuram.

Aim: To screen psychiatric morbidity among school children of Nanchiampalayam-Dharapuram.

Objectives: 1. To identify the potential cases through a self-reporting questionnaire. 2. To assess the psycho-social stress among school children.

Hypothesis: Pathology (Alcohol dependence, family separation, marital discord) in family causes psychological

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cal disturbances among the school children.

Tools: (a) Socio-demographic schedule. (b) WHO mental health screening device.

Data Collection: Data was analysed in terms of Chi-Square, Mean, Standard Deviation and Percentiles. The major findings from the analysis are given below:

1. Majority of them were in the age group of 10-12 years.
2. Majority of them, that is 87%, were from the Hindu religion.
3. Subjects were from 6th, 7th and 8th standards.
4. Seven per cent (7%) of the subjects were potential cases.
5. Among the 16 identified potential cases 9 were male and 7 were female.
6. Students with psychological disturbances revealed family pathology and had physical deformity.

Suggestions

1. The researchers have made a small beginning which would be an eye-opener for the future studies in the same area.
2. The researchers feel that the screening device has to be sharpened and also the intervention programme has to be framed accordingly.
3. This valid study would help Nursing professionals to do preventive and promotive, positive mental health programmes among school children.