

Research Paper—Sociology



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IMPACT OF FAMILY ON HOMELESS MENTALLY ILL FEMALES OF INDORE CITY



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A B S T R A C T

The twentieth century has brought more insight to social psychiatry than any of those preceding it. The importance of social context of mental health and diseases has become obvious and the interaction importance between people in illness and their physical and social environment is better understood. In the beginning of the twenty first century there were limited services available for the mental health issues. A sound mind in a sound body has been recognized as a social ideal for many centuries. Care for mentally ill individuals, particularly in our society, carry a heavy burden, more so than care for other disabled individuals such as mentally retarded people. Care of mentally ill is always a challenge for families and after trying for possible treatments they leave it to the super power "God". In this condition sufferers feel neglected from family side and a little push from any member results in Homelessness of a mentally ill. 40 Mentally ill Females were studied from the roadside Sample and interviewed in the month of October and November. Study reveals that all the Females were the victims of poor treatment facilities and lack of awareness among the Family members. Family negligence is clearly seen in all the cases.

Key Words - Family Environment, Mental Illness, Homelessness

Introduction

Sociologically it is relevant and important to see the correlation between family conditions and incidence of mental illness among adolescent. In the study we have tried to find other angles of incidence of mental illness such as; association of mental illness with social class, rural and urban area, sex, family upbringing and family structure. Study of these relationships was little difficult as another evil of social stigma is attached to the mental Disorders. Families become more conscious when it comes to young children of them. In our Indian society marriage specially Girls marriage is assumed to be the ultimate goal of the Parents, but mental Disorders cause hurdles in the whole process.

Mental illness or mental Disorders is one of our serious social problems. WHO also consider it as one of the most prevailing Disorder by 2010, and will become more and more severe in the coming decades in our rapidly changing society. Joint families are changing either into functionally joint or nuclear families. Changes made by human beings are making them more exposed to emotional insecurity and psychopathology.

One mentally ill in the family affects the whole family structure. Society has witnessed the fact that one mentally ill ward makes life of his parents hell and vice versa. Some of the times these severely disturbed individuals behave in such a manner that they are considered as a threat to community. There

are 'n' numbers of reasons behind all these circumstances but the root cause is always the family and the upbringings of a child. M.P. always marginalized and considered as a backward state in the field of mental health. There are some reasonably good work done at organization level but no remarkable work is done at state level. No data available on the homeless mentally ill and not even a single agency had any information of reasons of homelessness. Acts and regulations of our country are very old and need Revision immediately. These Judicial processes are very often used for personal benefits of so called normal Individuals.

Methodology

The present small study aims at sociological approach in studying the incidence of mental disorders in adolescent because of the family structure. The study focused on the Goal that mental Disorders has Family as one of the major etiology. The study was conducted on the 40 girls who left their home because of mental illness and surviving on roads.

Objectives: 1. To find incidence of mental illness among unsheltered homeless girls. 2. To examine reasons of homelessness. 3. To do need assessment of unsheltered homeless mentally ill girls.

Hypothesis: 1. Most of the mentally ill females are neglected by the family. 2. Illiteracy has a very close relationship with Mental illness. 3. Environmental factors also contribute to Mental Illness.

Area of study – Indore City

Results and Discussions

The data collected from these homeless mentally ill females is not a one day work; interviewing one case took 3 to 7 days. As it takes time to establish rapport with the cases. The study reveals certain eye opening facts of street life as well as life with family members. The underprivileged mentally ill who cannot afford good treatment, are much neglected. This study also found some major gaps at law enforcing agencies and decision maker level. Out of 69 cases studied 40 were detected mentally ill. The study of homeless mentally ill females shows 2.5 % case were below 18 yr. age group, 12.5 % of the case were of 18 to

25 age group, 70 % were of 25 to 45 Yr. age group and 15 % were of above 45 Yr. age group. When these homeless females were asked about their housing while they were at home; 15 % of cases were from families living in Pakka house and 85 % were from families living in Kaccha house. Duration of homelessness shows that 20 % of the cases were on road for less than 1 year, 25 % of cases were on road for 1 to 2 Years and 55 % of the cases were on road for more than 2 years. Results shows that 95 % of cases were married and 5 % were unmarried when we asked them about their marital status. When asked about their children 82.5 % females were having kids and 17.5 % were not having kids.

Educational qualification of the homeless mentally ill shows 15 % of the cases studied up to post graduation, 7.5 % studied up to graduation, 5 % studied up to 8th. 10 % studied up to 5th and 62.5 % of them were illiterate. Correlation between education and Living shows that all the females from Pakka house were post graduate. Disability added with mental illness is another problem for family members. Study shows 97.5 % of cases were physically able and 2.5 % case were Disabled. Interviewing a mentally ill from road side is a very difficult task. Study reveals that 90 % of cases were cooperative while interviewing, 7.5 % were moderate for interviewing and 2.5 % cases were not interested in interacting for interviewing.

This study says 70 % of females were thrown out of house by their family members (directly / indirectly), 22.5 % of them moved out themselves and 7.5 % were sat in wrong bus / train.

Surviving on road without any physical abuse is a challenging task and study shows 72.5 % of females were the victims of physical abuse and 27.5 % saved themselves from physical abuse. The entire post graduates were very smart and took safe shelters in nights. They were staying at Temples, near mahila thana or round the clock trafficed areas.

Some of the family members took them to a doctor or a Quack when they were at home. Family assumed that the female is possessed by Demons. 45 % took medicines of some doctor / faith healers when they were with their family but 55% of cases studied never took medicines. Our assumption of

Age wise Distribution of Homeless Mentally III

S.No.	Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 18 Yrs	1	2.5%
2	18 to 25 Yrs	5	12.5%
3	25 to 45 Yrs	28	70%
4	45 Yrs and above	6	15%
	Total	40	100%

Housing Pattern of Homeless Mentally III Females

S.No.	Housing	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Kaccha House	34	85%
2	Pakka House	6	15%
	Total	40	100%

Duration of Homeless Mentally III Females on Road

S.No.	Years on Road	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	0-1	8	20%
2	1-2	10	25%
3	2-5	22	55%
	Total	40	100%

Marital Status of Homeless Mentally III Females

S.No.	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Married	38	95%
2	Unmarried	2	5%
	Total	40	100%

Number of children Homeless Mentally III Females

S.No.	Kids	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Having Kids	33	82.5%
2	No kids	7	17.5%
	Total	40	100%

Education qualification of Homeless Mentally III Females

S.No.	Education	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterte	25	62.5%
2	Middle	4	10%
3	Highschool	2	5%
4	Graduate	3	7.5%
5	Post Graduate	6	15%
	Total	40	100%

Table Showing Disabled Homeless Mentally III Females

S.No.	Physical ability	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Able	39	97.5%
2	Disable	1	2.5%
	Total	40	100%

Cooperativeness of Homeless Mentally III Females

S.No.	Co-operation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Eager to cooperate	36	90%
2	Moderate	3	7.5%
3	Not Interested	1	2.5%
	Total	40	100%

Duration on road of Homeless Mentally III Females

S.No.	Reason of being on road	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Family	28	70%
2	Self	9	22.5%
3	Misguided	3	7.5%
	Total	40	100%

Abuse victims among Homeless Mentally III Females

S.No.	Abuse	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Physically abused	29	72.5%
2	Saved	11	27.5%
	Total	40	100%

Treatment taken when Homeless Mentally III Females was at home

S.No.	Treatment	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Took treatment	18	45%
2	Not taken	22	55%
	Total	40	100%

Response of Homeless Mentally III Females when offered shelter

S.No.	Shelter offer	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Ready to accept	12	30%
2	Not Ready	5	12.5%
3	Can't say	23	57.5%
	Total	40	100%

Insight of Homeless Mentally Ill Females for Mental Illness

S.No.	Insight	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Present	19	47.5%
2	Absent	21	52.5%
	Total	40	100%

Food dependency of Homeless Mentally Ill Females

S.No.	Food dependency	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Public Giving	11	27.5%
2	Begging	29	72.5%
	Total	40	100%

Response of Homeless Mentally Ill Females for Inst. Help

S.No.	Institutional Help	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Offered	4	10%
2	Never offered	36	90%
	Total	40	100%

Clothing condition of Homeless Mentally Ill Females

S.No.	Clothing	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Few shabby cloths	8	20%
2	Dirty cloth	32	80%
	Total	40	100%

their reaction for offering shelter went wrong when 30 % were ready if somebody provides shelter to them, 57.5 % replied that they can not say anything and 12.5 % said that they are not ready for shifting to any shelter. Results for insight among the homeless females shows that 47.5 % had insight that they have some problem and 52.5 % do not have any insight about their problem. Study reveals that 27.5% were fed by public (somebody will come and give food) and 72.5 % uses to beg for food (to a specific area) Response of homeless females when they were offered for Institutional help 10 % of cases were offered some institutional help and 90% were never offered any support services by any one. Study reveals that 20 % were in shabby few clothes (almost nude) and 80 % were wearing cloths (very dirty)

Conclusion

1 All the Females were the victims of poor treatment facilities and lack of awareness among the Family. 2 All the persons extending help to these women are not with wrong connotation. 3 Few of the persons have developed very good understanding with the homeless mentally ill and pay keen attention to their every day requirements. 4 There are few policemen who really want to help these homeless women but they are not aware how to help these marginalized and neglected females. 5 General public do not share sympathetic attitude towards these homeless females. 6 Though majority of the cases studied were illiterate but all of them were very good in money transaction. 7 Not even a single case shown violent behavior while interviewing. 8 Family negligence is clearly seen in all the cases.

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