

The Relationship Between Social Cognition and Vocational Functioning in Adults with Schizophrenia Who Are Receiving Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong

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Introduction:

Symptoms of schizophrenia involve a social-cognitive basis. Affected by social cognitive functioning, vocational rehabilitation is one of the most important aspects that affect community survival among schizophrenic rehabilitants.

An assessment tool for measuring social cognition of schizophrenic rehabilitants is necessary for this clientele. Investigation of association between social cognition and work performances brings insight to future studies.

Purpose of the Project:

To translate an existing assessment for social cognition—Schizophrenic Communication Scale (SCD) into a Chinese version

To investigate the association between social cognition and vocational performance, so as to bring insights to future assessment and treatment for schizophrenic rehabilitants

Material & Methods:

Schizophrenic Communication Disorder Scale (SCD) is translated into a Chinese version. A group of university graduates (N=20), who were literate to both Chinese and English, were recruited to compare their performance between the two versions.

A group of adult rehabilitants (N = 72) diagnosed with Schizophrenia without other diagnosis or mental retardation were recruited from an integrated rehabilitation centre by convenient sampling. Chinese translation of SCD and Chinese Work Personality Profile (CWPP) were applied to measure the performance of social cognitive functioning and work performance respectively. Data was analyzed with statistical packages of social sciences (SPSS).

Results:

Performances between English and Chinese version were equivalent except for one of the items, yet the degree of agreement was high.

Correlation between social cognition and vocational performance was computed. The correlations between items of both assessment ranged from moderate (-0.045) to high (-0.764).

Conclusions:

Social cognition takes a role in schizophrenic rehabilitants' vocational performance. It could be a dimension for future assessment and treatment. Study limitation has to be considered, included generalizability to schizophrenic rehabilitants in other vocational rehabilitation settings.