

Predictors of the vocational placement for clients with chronic psychiatric illness

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Introduction: Successful vocational placement is an important indicator of functional independence for clients with chronic psychiatric illness. Vocational assessment process determines the match between clients and placement. Vocational assessment process includes nonstandardized approaches (e.g. interviews and observations) or standardized tests (e.g. psychometric test). The results of vocational assessment is comprehensive but their relationship with the placement result was not investigated.

Objectives: To investigate whether the results of vocational assessment (including demographic, personal factors, and psychiatric vocational rehabilitation characteristics) predict the match between the client and successfulness of vocational placement in clients with chronic psychiatric illness..

Methods: A prospective study was conducted to identify the predictors of vocational placement among results of vocational assessment. Sixty-four vocational assessment reports for clients with chronic psychiatric illness were analyzed. The information in the report was categorized and coded to represent the demographic and personal factors, vocational rehabilitation characteristics. A forward selection multiple logistic regression model was used to identify predictors for vocational placement. .

Results: 61% clients were employed and their working status was consistent with the recommendations of vocational assessment. There are three most strong predictors of vocational placement in the final model . Including, clients who had the future work target ($P=0.027$), worked together with others without conflict ($P=0.009$), employed in sheltered workshops more than 2 years($P=0.036$).

Conclusions: The predictors identified in the present study may reflect local vocational rehabilitation situation. Psychiatric vocational rehabilitation characteristics critically influence the application of vocational assessment result in psychiatric patients.