

Articles

A Study of QOL for Adults with Severe Motor and Intellectual Disabilities Using the QOL Evaluation Items developed by Hughes, et al.

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In order to make a QOL evaluation measure for adults with severe motor and intellectual disabilities (SMID), 10 individuals in our facility were evaluated using the QOL evaluation (15 areas, 224 questions) that Hughes, et al. (1997) picked out from the literatures of QOL research. The questions related to "Employment" were found not to be suitable to adults with SMID. The scores for "Physical and Material Well-being" and "Support Services Received" were higher. On the other hand, "Self-Determination, Autonomy, and Personal Choice", "Personal Competence, Community Adjustment, and Independent Living Skills" were scored lower. Different from American people who aim at living in the community, Japanese people with SMID want to stay in facilities. A part of the sections on "Residential Environment" and "Community Integration" could not be suitable to them. Two individuals who could judge subjectively were asked for self-evaluations which were compared with staff-member evaluations. Though the self-evaluation of an individual was lower than staff-member evaluations in the area of "Psychological Well-being and Personal Satisfaction", no statistical difference was recognized in other area.

The High Expectations Placed on Psychiatric Social Workers

Yoriko KOSHIBA

A year has passed since psychiatric social workers were licensed. Great expectations have been placed on them by mentally handicapped people, their families and other members of mental treatment teams.

They are an important part of mental treatment teams. Because their studies are based on social welfare, they are expected to support mentally handicapped people according to the theories and practices of social work. Psychiatric social workers should endeavor to develop new resources to promote normalization for handicapped people.

Psychiatric social workers must work hard to become effective members of the treatment teams.

If they succeed in doing a good job, they will be accepted by the specialists at hospitals, in other facilities and the community in general. It is hoped that their contributions will improve and become greater.

Current State of Deaths at Home and Problem of Medical Welfare Service in City

Yoko NAKAMURA, Shinji MIYAHARA and Hiroe HITOMI

This study was conducted to determine what medical welfare services are available in Osaka for patients who wish to die at home. Questionnaires were sent to 18 nursing stations in Osaka. They asked for information over the three year period from 1996 to 1998. Included were the number of cases of deaths at home, age, sex, cause of death, the degree of bedriddenness, the type of home service provided, and the medical treatment used. Thirteen stations (72%) provided 24-hour service and 15 (83%) provided services in the home. Death occurred in the home in 129 (34.8%) out of a total of 371. No differences according