Historical Development of Psychiatry & Psychiatric Nursing

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Objectives

- By the end of this presentation the learners will be able to:
- Explore historical perspective of psychiatry
- Discuss legal and ethical issues in mental health in the light of mental health ordinance 2001
- Discuss the role of nurse related to legal and ethical issues in mental health nursing
Early Civilization

- In ancient times, people believed that mentally ill were possessed by the demons or devils.
- A foreign object with magical power or an evil had entered the body.
- A person had violated the code, a social taboo had been broken or a person had sinned.
Treatment

- Treatment was directed at driving out the evil spirit or demon from the body.
- Triphening (Drilling holes in skull) was used to allow the spirit to escape.
- Person was beaten or starved to drive out the spirit.
- Person was isolated from society driven away or locked up.
Benchmark periods in the evolution of psychiatric history

- Period of Enlightenment
- Period of Scientific Studies
- Period of Psychiatric Drugs
- Community Mental Health
Enlightenment (1790)

- Pinel unchained the mentally ill.
- The insane were no longer treated as less than human.
- Human dignity was upheld.
- The asylum movement developed.
Freud (1856-1939) emphasized the importance of early life experiences in shaping the mental health. Humans could be studied and that study held promises for treating and curing mental health problems. The study of the mind & treatment approaches to psychiatric conditions flourished. Kraepelin (1856-1926) developed classification of mental illness.
Psychotropic Drugs (1950s)

- 1949 - Lithium
- 1950 - Chlorpromazine
- 1952 - MAOIs
- 1957 - Haloperidol
- 1960s – Benzodiazapines

Some mental disorders are caused by chemical imbalances, if the chemical problem could be found through research than the chemical cure could be found as well. Moreover people would no longer need to be confined.
First Psychiatric Nursing textbook

Mental Health Ordinance 2001

- Mentally disorder means mental illness including mild to severe mental impairment, severe personality disorder and other disorders or disability of mind.
Establishment of Mental Health Care Facility

- 18 years and above
- Child and adolescent psychiatric units
- Psycho geriatric units
- Unit for drug dependence
Licensing of Mental Health Care Facilities

- Registered with national council
- Comply with physical facilities protocol
- Satisfies regular visits by inspection team
- Timely renewal of license to run private practice
Assessment and Treatment

- **Care in the community:**
  - Mental health service should be made accessible in community

- **Voluntary Admission:**
  - Patients who present themselves at psychiatric facilities and request hospitalization are considered voluntary admission clients.
  - An admission is considered voluntary if the client is not unwilling to take treatment
Involuntary admission

- Implies that the individual is institutionalized against his wishes. Requires formal written application on patient’s behalf.
- A compulsion is made to admit the client determining that he/she is unable to meet needs of the daily living. The duration of hospitalization can be from 24 hours to 6 months or more as recommended for client’s safety.
Leaves and Discharge

- Short leave can be granted to patients prior to discharge or as per request.
- Psychiatrist can discharge patient when appropriate.
- Application by relative or friend can be submitted and reviewed by psychiatrist.
- A letter informing about patient’s discharge need to be sent to concerned authority when appropriate.
Management of Property

- An application may be made by relative or advocate
- Court can summon the person in question
- Decision regarding management of property is based on the report submitted after assessing the client in question
Offences

- Penalty for making false statement
- Ill treatment or mal treatment or willfully neglecting clients with mental disorders.
- Use of inhuman treatment such as trepanning, scalding, exorcising, beating, chaining to a tree
- Subjecting any ill to physical, emotional or sexual abuse
- Rs. 50000 or/ and 5 years imprisonment
Role of nurses

- Nurse as care provider, avoid malpractice
- Reporting on patient’s condition
- Maintaining good nursing records
- Know the laws of specific state
- Knows the rights and duties of self as well as patients
- Maintain the confidentiality of patient information
Thank You!