

# Effects of internalized stigma on symptoms and quality of life in schizophrenic patients; mediated by dysfunctional attitude

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## Abstract

The objective of this study was to determine the effects of internalized stigma on symptoms, quality of life of schizophrenic patients; mediated by dysfunctional attitude. A descriptive correlational research design was used to investigate the relationship between symptoms, quality of life and dysfunctional attitude in schizophrenic patients. Linear regression was used to investigate the mediational effects of dysfunctional attitude. Purposive sampling technique was used for the selection of the participants. The study was conducted on diagnosed schizophrenic patients from psychiatry ward of Nishtar Hospital Multan, Fountain House Rehabilitation Centre Lahore and Punjab Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre Lahore. The sample of the study was 50 registered patients of schizophrenia. Calculated sample size was 50 schizophrenic patients among them 34 were Males and 16 were Females. Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness Scale was used to see the effects of stigma on schizophrenic patients (ISMI, Ritsher, 2003), along with Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale was used to evaluate the positive and negative symptoms in schizophrenic patients (Kay, et al., 1987), World Health Organization Quality of life BREF Scale (WHOQOL-BREF, 2003) was used to assess the quality of life of schizophrenic patients, along with another scale of Dysfunctional Attitude Scale (DAS, Weissman, 1978) was also used to assess the cognitive functioning of the schizophrenic patients. Studies showed that internalized stigma had significant positive correlation with dysfunctional attitude and negative significant correlation with symptoms and quality of life of schizophrenic patients. Internalized stigma had strong significant effects on the symptoms, quality of life and dysfunctional attitude. Studies also showed that people with mental illness has to face negative stereotype, rejection and finally alienation from society because of stigma which is a big hurdle in their process of recovery and treatment.

**Keywords:** *Internalized Stigma; Schizophrenia; Quality of Life; Dysfunctional Attitude.*

## 1. Introduction

Stigma is a social procedure described by restricting dismissal and accuse that outcomes as a matter of fact, observation or sensible desire of opposite social judgment around a man or a gathering (Weiss & Ramakrishna, 2006). Internalized stigma is particularly associated with schizophrenia and has detrimental effects on them. Increased internalized stigma in schizophrenic patients results in discrimination, discernment which creates hurdle in their process of recovery and increased feeling of shame, guilt, hopelessness, demoralization, unemployment and poor quality of life (Cullen & Shrout, 1989). Schizophrenia is a severe type of psychopathology which have severe negative effects on individual's academic, professional life. Because of stigma, schizophrenic patients cannot access to social support from their families to manage their illness and lead to social isolation, rejection and discrimination. Singular's mindfulness about their spot in life in the setting of their way of life and quality framework in relation to their goals, expectations, standard and concerns is called quality of life (Pak, Sci, 2014). Researches indicates that QOL is negatively correlated with internalized stigma. QOL in schizophrenic patient is quite impaired and lead to occupational dysfunction and delaying in recovery process.

Dysfunctional attitude are beliefs and negative subjective conventions about oneself, the world and the future (Beck, 1967). Patients with schizophrenia increases the chances of dysfunctional attitude. Individual with schizophrenia are more endorse negative

belief about one self which results in diminished future probability of delight, acknowledgement, achievement and constrained psychological assets to perform an assignment.

This is association between internalized stigma, schizophrenia, its symptoms, quality of life and dysfunctional attitude and its mediating role in our research. Schizophrenia has a long history of negligence, demonization and suppression. Currently people are not aware of this illness and researchers do not get funding for this illness numbers of affective. Affected families also try to hide the illness from their families, friends and workplace associates, by lessening its influence on public awareness. University of Indiana proposed a study that mental illness has extensively attained acceptance by the public as treatable, but still people thought that individual who are suffering from schizophrenia are not suitable for keeping personal relationship and workplace success (Link, et al., 1997; Jorm, et al., 1999). Because of stigma, people with schizophrenia cannot access to social support from their families to manage their illness but lead to feelings of social seclusion and solitude. The antagonistic significances of stigma prompts separation in lodging, instruction and business, and makes distress in individuals with schizophrenia (Link, et al., 1997; jorm, et al., 1999).

Schizophrenic patient's living conditions not only depend on people acceptance but also increase their severity of illness because of discrimination and stereotypes. Regardless of treatment advances, schizophrenic patient has to face a considerable stigma that confines their access to treatment and obstructs their active participation in society. Stigma hinders the mentally ill people from normal

functioning and gain considerable place in society. Individuals with schizophrenia are largely stigmatized in our society. Relatives, close friends, people with mental illness and well-being professionals has to bear stigma (Link, et al., 1992). With the help of quality of life (QOL) one can describe the positive and negative aspects of the person's life in detail. Good physical functioning indicates good quality of life of a person. Many factors including anxiety, pain, lack of energy and depression can affect the quality of life (Bobs & Portilla, 2014). There has been increasing interest in quality of life in schizophrenic patients in last two decades, where schizophrenia is consider as a severe, disabling, enduring disorder, with severe social and occupational dysfunction. The progression of atypical antipsychotics with wider efficiency and lower frequency of extrapyramidal side effects than typical neuroleptics has indorsed greater interest from the patient's viewpoint (Bobs & Portilla, 2003). In Beck's cognitive theory, dysfunctional attitudes are implicit beliefs and constant dynamic rules that individual holds about himself and the world, are inflexible and impractical, that influence the subjective building of reality through an inaccurate information processing, simplistic character, arrange and develop only that stimuli which is reliable only with defined conviction, by ignoring unreliable information. The ultimate loss of entropy, or falsification of that outcome in depression possibilities nearly difficult to form self-worth, while mania for overemphasizing the positive and self-esteem rises (Beck, 1967). Stigma and Mental Health condition in Pakistan: The most appallingly ignored area in Pakistan, is mental health field which affects 10 – 16% of the population; with a large commonly of those affected being women. In a report of world health organization WHO, for 180 people only 400 psychiatrists and 5 psychiatric hospitals exist within the whole country. For half a million people only one psychiatrist is available and that is alarming figure in Pakistan.

## 2. Methodology

The population of the study was diagnosed (registered) 50 patients of Schizophrenia spectrum disorder and schizoaffective disorder with no comorbidity of any other disorder has been taken from Nishtar Hospital Psychiatry Department, Organization of fountain house rehabilitation Centre Lahore or Punjab Institute of Mental Health rehabilitation Centre Lahore from 25th November 2014 to 23rd April 2015. Calculated sample size was 50 patients who showed willingness to provide informed consent. Patient's age range was 18-64 years among them 70% were male and 30% female. Research is based on purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling which is based on the particular characteristic of the population of interest.

**Table 2.1:** Demographic Features of the Members (N=50)

Demographic Details	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	34	68%
Female	16	32%
<b>Age</b>		
18-33years	21	42%
34-49years	24	48%
50-65years	05	10%
<b>Education</b>		
Uneducated	06	12%
Primary	03	6%
Middle	08	16%
Matric	25	50%
F.A	06	12%
B.A	01	2%
M.A	01	2%
<b>Socioeconomic Status</b>		
Lower Class	20	40%
Lower Middle Class	15	30%
Middle Class	14	28%
Upper Middle Class	01	2%
<b>Onset of Disorder</b>		

16-26 years	21	42%
27-37 years	19	38%
38-48 years	07	14%
49-59 years	03	6%
<b>Course of Disease</b>		
Schizophrenic	48	96%
Schizoaffective	02	4%
<b>Relapse if any</b>		
Yes	08	16%
No	42	84%

Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness Scale (ISMI): The Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness (ISMI) scale is a 29-thing study measuring self-disrespect among persons with psychiatric issue, with subscale measuring Alienation, Stereotype Endorsement, Perceived Discrimination, Social Withdrawal, and disapproval resistance. ISMI had high inward consistency and test retest enduring quality. Each statement is assessed on the following 4-point Likert scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = agree, 4 = strongly agree. (Appendix C).

Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS Rating Form): The Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (Appendix D) is a medicinal scale utilized for measuring side effect seriousness of patients with schizophrenia. It was distributed in 1987 by Stanley Kay, Lewis Opler, and Abraham Fiszbein. It is broadly utilized as a part of the investigation of antipsychotic treatment (Kay, et al., 1987). Scoring: As 1 rather than 0 is given as the slightest score for everything, a patient can't score lower than 30 for the total PANSS score. Scores are habitually given freely for the 7 positive things, 7 negative things, and 16 general psychopathology. It take 45 min to direct. In this study we used PANSS to gage schizophrenic positive, negative and general fanatical symptoms.

World Health Organization Quality of Life BREF (WHOQOL-BREF): A wellbeing related instrument made by WHOQOL. It was decided to assess nature of wellbeing and life in patients of Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorder. (Orley & Kuyken, 1994; WHOQOL Group 1994a, 1994b, Szabo, 1995, 1996). It is 26 things scale (Appendix E) and have four domains in which: Domain 1 is Physical wellbeing, Domain 2 is Psychological, Domain 3 is Social Relationships and Domain 4 is Environment. These things rate on 5 focuses, 1 of low score and up to 5 of high score for get an unpleasant score. By then changed score get by foul scores change. 4-20 is the degree of changed score. High score show amazing individual satisfaction of the people (WHOQOL, 1995).

Scoring: The WHOQOL-Bref does not have highlight scores, Mean substitutions are endorsed for Domain 1 Physical Health and Domain 4 Environment if near to one thing is coded missing. Only three things need to be pivoted before scoring. The WHOQOL-Brief (Field Trial Version) makes a profile with four territory scores and two autonomously scored things around a solitary's general perspective of individual fulfillment and wellbeing. The four region scores are scaled in a constructive heading with higher scores exhibiting a higher individual fulfillment.

Dysfunctional Attitude Scale (DAS): The DAS is a 15-things instrument (Appendix F) that is expected to perceive and measure mental turns, particularly twists that may relate to or cause wretchedness. The things contained on the DAS are considering Beck's subjective treatment model and present 7 noteworthy worth structures: Approval, Love, Achievement, Perfectionism, Entitlement, Omnipotence, and Autonomy. (Weissman, 1978). Scoring: Any things that are missing, allocate a zero. To acquire the general score, essentially include the score all things (extending from 1 to 7). 1 = absolutely concur, 2 = Agree all that much, 3 = Agree marginally, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Disagree somewhat, 6 = Disagree all that much, 7 = thoroughly oppose this idea.

Completed questionnaire and measurements were entered into a computer data base. For analysis statistical package for social science (SPSS, 20.0) was used. Both descriptive and inferential statistics was applied in the analysis of the data. Descriptive statistics was utilized to measure mean, standard deviation, and alpha

reliability. Pearson coefficient correlation was calculated to examine relationship between internalized stigma, dysfunctional attitude, symptoms and quality of life.

### 3. Results

In this study, researcher collected four standardized scales: Dysfunctional Attitude Scale (DAS), World Health Organization Quality of Life BREF (WHOQOL-BREF), Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness Scale (ISMI), Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS Rating Form). Cronbach's alpha of scales administered in present research is given in table 3.1

**Table 3.1:** Cronbach's Alpha of Scales

Sr. #	Scales	Cronbach's Alpha	Items No
1	Dysfunctional Attitude Scale	.407	15
2	World Health Organization Quality of Life BREF	.782	26
3	Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness Scale	.722	29
4	Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale	.970	30

**Table 3.2:** Descriptive Statistics for the study variables

Variables	M	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Skewness
DAS	3.61	.529	1	4	-.763
QOL					
Physical Domain	3.58	.326	2	4	-.284
Psychological Domain	3.34	.527	2	4	-.407
Social Domain	3.38	.514	2	4	-.591
Environmental Domain	3.39	.484	1	4	-1.237
ISMI	2.50	.162	2	2	-.206
Stigma Resistance	2.32	.261	2	3	.925
PANSS					
Positive symptoms	2.79	1.51	1	6	.859
Negative Symptoms	2.97	1.38	1	5	.415
General Symptoms	2.54	1.14	1	6	1.36

Table 3.2 showing descriptive statistics of study variables. Dysfunctional attitude scale has maximum mean value 3.61 and stigma resistance has minimum mean value 2.32. Skewness was also within range.

**Table 3.3:** Correlation Coefficient Matrix of Internalized Stigma, Dysfunctional Attitude, Symptoms and Quality of Life

Sr. No.	Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	ISMI	1	.361**	-.780**	-.870**	-.860**	-.440**	-.510**	.245	.438**
2	DAS		1	.287*	.342*	.049	.160	.124	.130	.004
3	Positive Symptoms			1	.634**	.575**	.330*	.350**	.080	.249
4	Negative Symptoms				1	.706**	.273	.380**	.114	.250
5	General Health					1	.386**	.496**	.263	.491**
6	Physical Health						1	.304*	.193	.708**
7	Psychological Health							1	.203	.576**
8	Social Health								1	.334*
9	Environmental Health									1

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level, \*\*p< 0.01, Note. N = 50.

\*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level, \*p <0.05, (ISMI), internalized stigma of mental illness, (DAS), dysfunctional attitude scale, (QOL), quality of life.

Table 3.3 presents the relationship among internalized stigma, dysfunctional attitude, symptoms and quality of life. Internalized stigma was positively correlated with dysfunctional attitude scale (r = .361), internalized stigma was positively correlated with dysfunctional attitude scale (r = .361), and negatively correlated with positive symptoms (r = -.780), negative symptoms (r = -.870), general symptoms (r = -.869), and with quality of life like physical domain (r = -.441), psychological domain (r = -.512), social domain (r = -.245), and with environmental domain (r = -.438).

Dysfunctional attitude was negatively correlated with positive symptoms (r = -.287) and with negative symptoms (r = -.342). Positive symptoms was positively correlated with negative symptoms (r = .634), and with general symptoms (r = .575). Negative symptoms was positively correlated with general symptoms (r = .706).

Physical domain of quality of life was positively correlated with psychological domain (r = .304), and negatively correlated with environmental domain (r = -.708). Psychological domain of quality of life scale was positively correlated with environmental domain (r = .576). Social domain was also positively correlated with environmental domain (r = .334). Result findings indicates that there is positive significant correlation between internalized stigma and dysfunctional attitude but negatively significant correlation among symptoms and quality of life.

**Table 3.4:** Model 1 Linear Regression Analysis Showing Direct Effect of Internalized Stigma on Positive Symptoms of Schizophrenia (N =50)

Model	b	SE	β	t	P
Constant	125.859	12.341		10.198	.000
ISMI	-1.738	.201	-.780	-8.637	.000

Note. R<sup>2</sup>= .608, Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = .600, F (74.604), P<0.05

Table 3.4 indicates the regression analysis for showing the effect of internalized stigma on positive symptoms of schizophrenia. Findings revealed that internalized stigma regressed upon positive symptoms. The R<sup>2</sup> value is .608 that indicates that internalized stigma predicts the effects on positive symptoms 60.8%.

#### Meditational Analysis of Dysfunctional Attitude

**Table 3.5:** Linear Regression Analysis Showing Effect of Internalized Stigma on Dysfunctional Attitude (Path A)

Model	B	SE	β	T	P
Constant	16.976	13.943		1.218	.229
ISMI	.610	.227	.361	2.683	.010

Note. R<sup>2</sup>= .130, Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>= .112, F (7.201), P<0.05

Table 3.5 indicates the regression analysis for showing the effect of internalized stigma on dysfunctional attitude. Findings reveal that internalized stigma completely regressed upon dysfunctional attitude. The R<sup>2</sup> value is .130 that indicates internalized stigma predicts the dysfunctional attitude 13.0%.

**Table 3.6:** Linear Regression Analysis Showing Effect of Dysfunctional Attitude on Positive Symptoms (Path B)

Model	B	SE	β	t	P
Constant	40.164	10.004		4.015	.000
DAS	-.379	.182	-.287	-2.080	.043

Note. R<sup>2</sup> = .083, Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = .064, F (4.324), P<0.05

Table 3.6 indicates the regression analysis for showing the effect of dysfunctional attitude on positive symptoms. Findings reveal that dysfunctional attitude completely regressed upon positive symptoms. The R<sup>2</sup> value is .083 it means dysfunctional attitude predicts the positive symptoms 8.3%.

**Table 3.7:** Sobel's Test for the Significance of Mediation

	Regression	B	SE	Sobel's test	P
Path A	ISMI predicting DAS	.610	.227		
				-1.646	0.04
Path B	DAS predicting positive symptoms	-.379	.182		

Note.  $P < 0.05$  Where ISMI=internalized stigma of mental illness scale; DAS= dysfunctional attitude scale.

Table 3.7 indicate that the Sobel's z value is large ( $p < 0.05$ ). This indicates that the association between internalized stigma and positive symptoms have been highly significantly of the mediating variable.

**Table 3.8:** Linear Regression Analysis Showing Effect of Internalized Stigma on Dysfunctional Attitude (Path A)

Model	b	SE	$\beta$	t	P
Constant	16.976	13.943		1.218	.229
ISMI	.610	.227	.361	2.683	.010

Note.  $R^2 = .130$ , Adjusted  $R^2 = .112$ ,  $F(7.201)$ ,  $P < 0.05$

Table 3.8 indicates the regression analysis for showing the effect of internalized stigma on dysfunctional attitude. Findings reveal that internalized stigma completely regressed upon dysfunctional attitude. The  $R^2$  value is .130 that indicates internalized stigma predicts the dysfunctional attitude 13.0%.

**Table 3.9:** Linear Regression Analysis Showing Effect of Dysfunctional Attitude on Negative Symptoms (Path B)

Model	b	SE	$\beta$	t	P
Constant	43.205	8.972		4.816	.000
PSPS	-.413	.164	-.342	-2.524	.015

Note.  $R^2 = .117$ , Adjusted  $R^2 = .099$ ,  $F(6.371)$ ,  $P < 0.05$

Table 3.9 indicates the regression analysis for showing the effect of dysfunctional attitude on negative symptoms of schizophrenia. Findings reveal that dysfunctional attitude completely regressed upon negative symptoms. The  $R^2$  value is .117 it means dysfunctional attitude predicts the negative symptoms 11.7%.

**Table 3.10:** Sobel's Test for the Significance of Mediation

	Regression	B	SE	Sobel's test	P
Path A	ISMI predicting DAS	.610	.227		
				-1.837	0.03
Path B	DAS predicting Negative symptoms	-.413	.164		

Note.  $P < 0.05$  Where ISMI=internalized stigma of mental illness; DAS= dysfunctional attitude scale.

Table 3.10 indicate that the Sobel's z value is large ( $p < 0.05$ ). This indicates that the association between internalized stigma and negative symptoms have been highly significantly of the mediating variable.

**Table 3.11:** Linear Regression Analysis Showing Impact of Internalized Stigma on Dysfunctional Attitude (Path A)

Model	B	SE	$\beta$	t	P
Constant	16.976	13.943		1.218	.229
ISMI	.610	.227	.361	2.683	.010

Note.  $R^2 = .130$ , Adjusted  $R^2 = .112$ ,  $F(7.201)$ ,  $P < 0.05$

Table 3.11 indicates the regression analysis for showing the effect of internalized stigma on dysfunctional attitude. Findings reveal

that internalized stigma completely regressed upon dysfunctional attitude. The  $R^2$  value is .130 that indicates internalized stigma predicts the dysfunctional attitude 13.0%.

**Table 3.12:** Linear Regression Analysis Showing Effect of Dysfunctional Attitude on QOL (Path B)

Model	b	SE	$\beta$	t	P
Constant	95.010	8.710		10.908	.000
DAS	-.105	.159	-.095	-.660	.512

Note.  $R^2 = .009$ , Adjusted  $R^2 = -.012$ ,  $F(0.436)$ ,  $P < 0.05$

Table 3.12 indicates the regression analysis for showing no effect of dysfunctional attitude on quality of life of schizophrenic patients. Findings reveal that dysfunctional attitude not completely regressed upon QOL, The  $R^2$  value is .009 it means dysfunctional attitude do not predicts the quality of life 0.9%.

**Table 3.13:** Sobel's Test for the Significance of Mediation

	Regression	B	SE	Sobel's test	P
Path A	ISMI predicting DAS	.610	.227		
				-0.641	0.26
Path B	DAS predicting QOL	-.105	.159		

Note.  $P < 0.05$  Where ISMI=Internalized stigma of mental illness; DAS= Dysfunctional attitude scale and QOL=Quality of life.

Table 3.13 indicate that the Sobel's z value is smaller ( $p < 0.05$ ). This indicates that there is association between internalized stigma and quality of life but has no significant of the mediating variable.

## 4. Discussion

The most shameful neglected health field in Pakistan is mental illness. One of the most pertinent factor hindering mental healthcare within Pakistan is stigma. Within Pakistan it limits an individual from gaining complete social acceptance and proper treatment services. Since internalized stigma alludes to the procedure by which individual with emotional sickness apply negative generalizations to themselves, hope to be dismisses by others family and companions, and feel estranged from society. Individuals with maniacal issue (schizophrenia) are judged more brutally than individuals with melancholy or uneasiness issue. Internalized stigma is particularly associated with schizophrenia because patient with schizophrenia reluctant to go psychologist, psychiatrist and mental hospitals being labelled as insane or pagal. They more prefer to go to (peer, fakir, and babas) spiritual healers to avoid social stigma about mental illness, which results in severity of symptoms and difficulty in recovery process also decreasing their quality of life and lead to low hope for success and perception of inadequate intellectual possessions for retrieval chances.

The present study examine the relationship between internalized stigma and dysfunctional attitude, symptoms and quality of life in schizophrenic patients. In this study internalized stigma is positively correlated with dysfunctional attitude. This shows that the more self-reporting of internalized stigma the more person with schizophrenia had negative biased assumptions about oneself, surroundings and about his future. Increase dysfunctional attitude results in real depressive scenes which may incorporate side effects of tragic inclination, anhedonia, rest/wake, aggravations, weight change, and subjective changes. Dysfunctional attitude regarding accomplishment and preference play an important role in the process of recovery. On the off chance that one not discover future experience satisfying are identified with abnormal state of internalized stigma on the grounds that these maladaptive convictions and desire of disappointment in life in work lead to distance from family, peers, and withdrawn from society.

In the line with past examination Ritscher, et al., 2003, internalized stigma was connected with despondency in our specimen, quality of life subscale satisfaction with family and satisfaction with social relations were furthermore related to internalized stigma, with poorer individual fulfillment in these spaces being joined with more unmistakable internalized stigma. Interestingly, internalized stigma was not related to objective subscales of personal satisfaction, for instance, family contact or social contact, demonstrating that internalized stigma accomplished more like the satisfaction with that contact. In this study results showed that internalized stigma is negatively correlated with quality of life in schizophrenic patients and also with its all subscales. This shows that high level of internalized stigma lead to poor quality of life. Lower quality of life lead to lower level at physical, psychological and environmental domain. Patients who have enough social support from their families along with proper antipsychotic drugs have higher rate of recovery and more positive and healthy life than those who do not have much social support and proper medication.

But in Pakistan the quality in females is very poor as compared to male because proper treatment facilities are not available female patients. Higher the internalized stigma lower the quality of life. Fewer side effect of antipsychotic drugs lead to better quality of life and patients who have better social support or involved community support programmed have good quality of life. Dysfunctional attitude is mediating the internalized stigma, symptoms and quality of life in schizophrenic patients. Results showed that dysfunctional attitude had strong mediational effect on the positive symptoms and negative symptoms of schizophrenia but had no relation or mediational effect on quality of life.

## 5. Conclusion

Current study discovered the mediating role of dysfunctional attitude between internalized stigma, positive and negative symptoms in schizophrenic patients but has no role in quality of life. Internalized stigma is positively correlated with dysfunctional attitude and negatively correlated with symptoms and quality of life. In Pakistan patients especially psychiatric patients has to face lots of problem because of stigma including internal and external discrimination limited access to employment and housing and proper treatment facilities. Therefore, individuals with mental illness are at a high danger of unemployment, disconnection, and deferred treatment-looking for, which regularly causes a genuine general wellbeing weight. Stigma is big hurdle in the way of treatment and recovery process in schizophrenic patients. Because patient seeks no treatment from psychiatrists and psychologist because of labeling and social stigma to mental illnesses. By reducing stigma especially internalized stigma we can improve the quality of life of schizophrenic patients and provide better health facilities.

We should learn and offer the actualities about psychological wellness and ailment become more acquainted with individuals encounters of maladjustment talk up in challenge when companions, family, associates or the media show false convictions and negative generalizations offer the same backing to individuals when they are physically or rationally unwell try not to mark or judge individuals with a dysfunctional behavior, approach them with deference and respect as you would any other individual try not to segregate regarding the matter of cooperation, lodging and occupation talk straightforwardly you could call your own experience of dysfunctional behavior. The more concealed dysfunctional behavior remains, the more individuals keep on accepting that it is dishonorable and needs to be hidden. In the finding of present study. It was concluded that patient with schizophrenia suffer more with internalized stigma than any other psychiatric disease. Internalized stigma has strong relationship with symptoms, quality of life and dysfunctional attitude of schizophrenic patients and there is significant mediating effect on internalized stigma, positive and negative symptoms and no effect on quality of life.

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