

Psychology 12

Stigma: The feelings and experiences of 46 people with mental illness

After reading the above article by Dinos et al (2004), answer the following questions.

1. What is the most surprising thing you read about in the article?
2. How do the authors define stigma? Relate this definition to the definition of “abnormal behaviour” in Kasschau (2008) in 16.1. (p. 176)
3. What are the two sub-categories of stigma that participants revealed? (p. 177)
4. The authors identify three major categories of mental illness in their study: people with psychotic disorders, those with non-psychotic disorders, and those with dual-diagnosis. Which of these groups reported the most stigma, and when? Which group reported the least amount of stigma, and why? (p. 177)
5. How did some people with Schizophrenia disclose their mental illness to others? (p. 178). Why do you think they did this?
6. What role does the media play in creating the stigma for schizophrenia in particular? (p. 178)
7. Why do people with psychotic diagnoses report more overt discrimination than people with non-psychotic diagnoses? (p. 178...you have to infer)
8. What does it mean to be “patronizing”? (p. 178) Why would this treatment be stigmatizing?
9. What were some of the consequences of the overt discrimination? (p. 179).
10. In what ways were the diagnoses positive? (p. 179)
11. “Participants with depression, anxiety, and personality disorders were the most likely to be affected by feelings of stigma even in the absence of such overt discrimination” (p. 180). Why is this more problematic (problem causing) than if they were most affected by overt discrimination? (Think about treatment)
12. Why is the section on positive outcomes/lack of stigma so important?