



Stigma and discrimination experienced by people with schizophrenia living in the community in Guangzhou, China

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Statement of Potential Conflicts of Interest

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Background-1

- Stigma and discrimination are complicating features of psychiatric disorders and treatment, especially for schizophrenia.
- The main sources of reported patients with schizophrenia experienced stigma and discrimination recently are from high-income countries (HICs).



Background-2

- While there still a lack of studies in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where about 85% of the world's population live.
- No assessment about the experiences of stigma, especially discrimination among people with schizophrenia in community of Guangzhou has been reported.



Aims

- **To** assess the experiences of stigma and discrimination among individuals with schizophrenia in community of Guangzhou, China.
- **To** investigate the factors associated with a higher likelihood of experiencing stigma and discrimination.



Methods-1

- Participants

- 384 patients with schizophrenia, who were registered in the system of Guangzhou severe mental disorders management database, were included in this cross-sectional study based on the inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria described.



Methods-2

Contents	Questionnaire and scales
Demographic characteristics	General Situation Questionnaire
Psychopathological level	BPRS/PANSS-N
Social functioning	GAF
Quality of life	SQLS
Self-esteem	SES
Stigma and discrimination	ISMI/DISC ₋₁₂



Methods-3

- Data analysis

- Statistical analysis was conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics (version 21.0; IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA).
- Descriptive statistics including the mean, standard deviation (SD), frequency and proportion were used to summarize the demographics, subscale scores and mean scores of rating scales.



Methods-4

- Data analysis

- Item-total correlations were calculated with Pearson correlation coefficient.
- Multivariable linear regression was used to assess the association of relative factors with stigma and discrimination.
- Unadjusted regression coefficients (b), adjusted regression coefficients (b_{ad}) and 95% confidence intervals (95%CI) were calculated.



Results-1a

Table 1 Social and Demographic Characteristics

Characteristics	Total group (n=384)
Age (years) (Mean \pm SD)	39.96 \pm 7.69
Race (Han) n (%)	380(99.0)
Sex n (%)	
Male	197 (51.3)
Female	187 (48.7)
Marital status n (%)	
Single	198 (51.6)
Married	146 (38.0)
Divorce/Widowed	40(10.4)



Results-1b

Table 1 Social and Demographic Characteristics (cont)

Characteristics	Total group (n=384)
Occupation n (%)	
Yes	112(29.2)
No	272(70.8)
Education level (Mean \pm SD)	10.13 \pm 2.60
Duration of illness (years) (Mean \pm SD)	14.54 \pm 7.97
Number of hospitalization (Mean \pm SD)	2.48 \pm 3.03

Results-2a

Table 2 Measurements among participants

Measurements	
BPRS total score (Mean \pm SD)	27.33 \pm 7.16
PANSS Negative subscale (Mean \pm SD)	17.15 \pm 5.40
Medication compliance	
Complete compliance n (%)	292(76%)
Part compliance n (%)	88(22.9%)
No compliance n (%)	4(1.0%)
Insight	
Complete insight n (%)	100(26%)
Part insight n (%)	238(62%)
No insight n (%)	46(12%)
GAF total score (Mean \pm SD)	62.72 \pm 11.47
SQLS total score (Mean \pm SD)	31.79 \pm 15.83
Psychosocial	30.06 \pm 19.99
motivation/energy	46.30 \pm 16.17
symptoms /side effects	22.35 \pm 17.03

Results-2b

Table 2 Measurements among participants (cont)

Measurements	
ISMI total score (Mean \pm SD)	2.30 \pm 0.39
Alienation	2.31 \pm 0.60
Stereotype	1.06 \pm 0.78
Discrimination experience	2.31 \pm 0.54
Social withdrawal	2.34 \pm 0.53
Stigma resistance	2.28 \pm 0.46
DISC-12 subscales (Mean \pm SD)	
Experienced discrimination	0.20 \pm 0.27
Anticipated discrimination	0.79 \pm 0.72
Overcoming stigma	0.75 \pm 0.69
Positive treatment	0.73 \pm 0.63
SES total score (Mean \pm SD)	23.14 \pm 3.90

Results-3

Table 3 Multivariate regression coefficients and 95% confidence intervals for the association between ISMI and other measurements among participants

Characteristics	b(95%CI)	b _{ad} (95%CI) [#]
BPRS total score	0.012(0.007-0.018) ^{***}	-
PANSS-N	0.007(0.000-0.014)	-
GAF total score	-0.005(-0.008 -0.001) ^{**}	-
SQLS total score	0.013(0.011-0.015) ^{***}	0.007(0.004-0.010) ^{***}
SES total score	0.055(0.047-0.064) ^{***}	0.032(0.021-0.042) ^{***}
Experienced discrimination	0.421(0.283-0.559) ^{***}	0.141(0.015-0.268) [*]
Anticipated discrimination	0.106(0.052-0.160) ^{***}	-
Overcoming stigma	-0.024(-0.082-0.033)	-
Positive treatment	0.011(-0.051-0.073)	-



Results-4

- A significant **positive** correlation between BPRS score and PANSS-N score.
- GAF score was significantly **negative** correlated with SQLS score.
- Insight score was significantly **negative** correlated with medication compliance score.



Results-5

- ISMI score was significantly **positive** correlated with SES score and experienced discrimination score.
- Multivariable linear regression found SQLS, SES and experienced discrimination were the main independent variables of ISMI and **experienced discrimination** was the most important factor of ISMI.



Discussion-1

- To our knowledge, this is the first study to report the experienced stigma and discrimination in patients with schizophrenia in local community of Guangzhou, China.
- Our study showed that patients with schizophrenia generally experienced **high levels of stigma**; however, discrimination experiences were comparatively less than often described.



Discussion-2

- From the cross-cultural perspective, Chinese culture was different from the Euro-American culture.
- The former was mainly affected by Confucianism, while the latter was impressed by the culture of the ancient Greece and Christian.



Discussion-3

- Though the culture background was significantly different, the high level of stigma patients with schizophrenia experienced was very similar.
- This revealed a phenomenon that the culture universality was superior to the culture particularity in the field of stigma and discrimination.



Conclusion

- Our findings show that people with schizophrenia living in the community often experience both stigma and discrimination, which are barriers to social participation and successful vocational integration.



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Thank you for your attention!



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