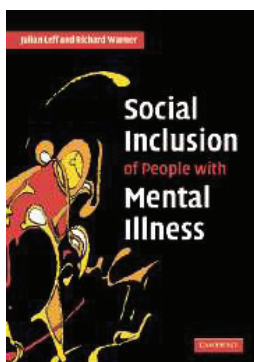


Book Review



Social inclusion of people with mental illness

JULIAN LEFF, RICHARD WARNER. 192 pp. Price: US\$ 55/£29.99 Publisher: Cambridge University Press. Date of Publication: 2006. Place of Publication: UK. ISBN: 0521615364.

This book is one of the very important publications on in its field. Joint author, Professor Julian Leff is one of the pioneers in the field of Social Psychiatry worldwide. Having traveled through Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East, his book entitled "Social Psychiatry" was subsequently published by the Royal College of Psychiatry, United Kingdom. It was based on his findings to the cultural diversity in the treatment of patients in this field.

In his current book Professor Leff, together with Richard Warner, another expert in this field, discusses the social inclusion of people with mental illness in the UK and USA. They assess and evaluate the current concept of the stigma attached to mental illness, although varying from culture to culture, it can be found in almost every society. The origin of this stigma is highlighted, and how it affects those seeking psychiatric treatment in some societies. Another point of interest outlined is the association of poverty and social disadvantage and its

link to mental illness. In most developed and third world countries, psychiatric treatment is listed at the bottom of the priority list of physical illness. The book further discusses the plight of mentally ill patients who receive no treatment, and the fact that the majority of those with psychotic illness, unable to take care of themselves, end up living homeless in the streets without support or medication. In turn, some end up causing violations of the law due to their illness. Noticeably, one of the most favorable aspects of this book is the discussion in relation to helping patients tackle their own inner self-stigmatization, a very important aspect of helping them to fight the fear of being mentally ill.

The final part of the book discusses the obstacles that mentally ill patients face in employment. This issue is of great importance as unemployment further exacerbates the plight of their social standing.

In general, the coverage of this book is excellent and extremely important to the social psychiatrist and all professionals involved in taking care of the mentally ill patient within the community.

Overall, I recommend that this book is a very good buy.

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