

Abstract

The present study focused on understanding the acceptance of disability of mental health consumers as it relates to their mental health and rehabilitation progress. 175 mental health consumers from 5 local mental health organizations were interviewed to examine the relationship between acceptance of disability and its correlates: (a) psychological and emotional difficulties (psychiatric symptoms like depression, hallucinations or thoughts of racing); (b) functioning ability (the extent they can manage their daily lives without assistance like grooming, bathing and dressing); (c) self-stigmatization; (d) psychosocial factors (collective self-esteem, self-esteem) and (e) demographic characteristics (gender, age, education, family income, employment, number of years since on-set and diagnosis). Self-esteem, collective self-esteem and self-stigma of mental health consumers had significant impact on acceptance of disability that would facilitate their recovery from mental illness and reintegration into the community.