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Ideas for research in Parenting and Psychiatric Rehabilitation

3 out of 5 studies for PhD
Topics

1. Epidemiological research
2. Qualitative research:
   - role of the father
3. Evaluation of programs
1. Data
Numbers of SMI and children

- Almost half of 160,000 people in the Netherlands with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) has children

(Between 18 -65 years) ±68,000

SMI + children: .9% of the population

Parents with mild and severe mental illness total: 400,000 - 600,000 parents (6%-9%)
COPMI in the Netherlands

Children of Parents with mental illness
577,000 under 18 years.

15.7% of all children
Losing custody

• With SMI 50% - 68% of parents loses custody²-³

• Children from parents with all kind of problems, in the Netherlands 102 children per 10.000 out of parents’ custody (US: 66)
2. A qualitative research to the strategies by parents

especially the role of the fathers
27 parents (8 fathers)\(^5\)

- Only a few fathers really took responsibility
- They sometimes needed to develop new competencies or discover lost possibilities.
- Ex-partners or professionals were suspicious
Role of the fathers

- Fathers start with a lag compared to mothers

- Fathers felt limited in their role, but opportunities to play a bigger role are available

- A father with psychiatric disabilities can make a change in his life
3. Program ‘Parenting with Success and Satisfaction’ (PARSS)
Three PARSS Workbooks
I. Assessing the actual functioning in the parental role

Ila. Strengthen the parental role for parents living together with their children

IIb. Take back the parental role for parents living apart from their children
Pilot Research

One-year

Experimental group:
11 parents (+11 mental health workers and 7 close relatives)

Control group
15 parents (+15 mental health workers and 6 close relatives)
Instruments 1
Parenting evaluation (TOPSE, Kendall/Bloomfield, 2004) with subscales:

- Affection
- Play
- Empathy
- Routines
- Control
- Boundaries
- Pressures
- Acceptance
- Learning
Instruments 2

• Psychological Empowerment Scale (Akey, et al, 2000)

• Quality of life: EUROQOL-VAS (Brooks, 1996)
Results

- The **success in parenting** stays on average the same in both groups.

- The **satisfaction in parenting** is augmented in the experimental group, not in the control group.

- Empowerment: the experimental group falls back while the control group improves a little.
Future international research

- Multisite epidemiological research to the number of parents with psychiatric disabilities, number of children of these parents and multisite research to the number of lost custodies of children.
- Stimulating developments in recovery of the parental role and evaluating the process
- Role of the father (expectations, culture etc.)
- Attunement of instruments to evaluate programs for parenting by parents with psychiatric disabilities
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References


