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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 children¹

- 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

Marrie Venderink and Peter van der Ende ⁶

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**

**Ilb Take back the parental role
for parents living apart from their children**

Pilot Research⁵

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) ⁷ with subscales:

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

Instruments 2

- Psychological Empowerment Scale
(Akey, et al, 2000) ⁷
- Quality of life: EUROQOL-VAS
(Brooks, 1996) ⁸

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

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