Effects of an educational TV program on reduction of prejudice towards schizophrenia

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Aim

 The present paper introduces our attempts to develop the ways to reduce the Prejudice **Towards Schizophrenia** (PTS) by using the TVbased education. We examined the effect of a short educational TV program designed to reduce the PTS of nursing students.



The program is a story of a married couple with schizophrenia living, working and helping each other

Method

- Participants were 139 nursing undergraduate students.
- The TV program was derived from a thirtyminute educational program which introduced the lifestyle of a newly married couple with schizophrenia helping each other.
- The effects of the TV program were measured by the Attitude toward Mental Disorder Scale (AMDS: Kitaoka-Higashiguchi et al. 2001) in the pre-test and the post-test.

Results

- As for comparison of pre and post tests, the reduction of points of both subscales were significant: M = -.30, F (1, 276) = 97.014, p <.001 in Social Distance Scale, and M = -.83, F (1, 276)= 820.164, p < .001 in Bad Image Scale.
- Effect Size was much larger in Bad Image Scale (*ES* = 1.84.) than in Social Distance Scale (*ES* = .55).
- The percentage of attitude change in desirable direction was 98% in Bad Image Scale, and 69% in Social Distance Scale. Attitude change was observed in most of the nursing student participants.



Conclusions(1)

- Results of the present study indicated that even a short, 30minute TV program had been effective in reducing the PTS to a noticeable manner. The present study showed that the negative attitudes towards schizophrenia, or the PTS, could have been altered with audiovisual education materials with little time and cost.
- The effect sizes of the present study were much larger than previous studies summarized in Ito, Kodaira, Matsugami, & Inoue (2009), which revealed that narrative contents and explanatory contents had different effects in changing the attitude.
- As Link et al (1999) pointed out, 61% of people have "perceived danger," which is presumed to be equivalent to the "bad image" in this study to schizophrenia, and thus the reduction of the PTS could well be thought of as an important issue to consider both at the professional levels and public settings.

Conclusions (2)

- World Psychiatric Association (2002) suggested that some of the advantage for using movie/video programs as a media for reducing stigmas is the audio-visual expression with appealing realities and the power to influence people at the emotional and perceptional levels.
- Narrative contents could have changed the images of schizophrenia better than explanatory contents, possibly because the narratives showed the life itself, so that the participants were able to see the real life story of people with schizophrenia.
- **Bibliography:** Ito, T., Kodaira, T., Matsugami, S., & Inoue 2009 Video-based preventive education for the prejudice towards schizophrenia. Proceeding of the 2nd International on Community Psychology (ICCP) June 4-6, 2008 Lisbon
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