

An Investigation of the Employment Status and Demand for People with Mild Mental Disorders— A Case Study of Kaohsiung City

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Abstract

According to both nationwide and Kaohsiung City statistics, one in every ten handicapped persons suffers from chronic mental disorder, and the majority of them still belong to the working population. Yet, their employment status is gloomy, despite the fact that their employment right is protected by the law.

Although deinstitutionalization, community living and employment opportunities are popular psychiatric interventions today, unable to locate a job is still a problem they usually encounter even after their disorder is well treated. To people with psychiatric diseases, work is such an important part of their life that it is able to influence the extent of remission of their diseases. The effect on disease remission is even more positive when work and community participations are given to people with successful treatments and stable conditions. From this perspective, the ultimate goal of treatment is still to help people with chronic mental disorders to return to the society and be socially active. Hence, this paper aims at studying people with mild mental disorders in Kaohsiung with respect to their current employment status and their demand for employment service. We hope to provide a basis for employment policies regarding people with chronic mental disorders, so that they will be able to receive proper employment services.

**Keyword: mental disorder, mild mental disorder, social participations,
employment**