

P03-156

## **SOCEITAL BURDEN IN SCHIZOPRHENIC PATIENT'S FAMILY IS MANY FOLD & THE COST IS HIGHH IN A RURAL INDIAN DISTRICT**

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**Introduction:** Niether the patient alone in schizophrenia, but the spouse & children and other members involved are all facing several difficulties.

**Objectives:** Here in a population of schizophrenic patients all treating in the author's rural district clinic in 2009 are evaluated for their familial stress & burden. The cost seems high even in a rural society in India, where joint family situation exists.

**Aims:** The current loss involving a schizophrenic patient after more than 5-10 years of suffering is re-assessed to find an insight to this grave problem, still rampant in different countries of the developing world.

**Methods:** 180 patients who were diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia as per ICD-10 criteria were evaluated. They were 96 male, 84 females with onset of illness 5-10 years back & in the age group 28-42 with a median age of 35 years.

1. Marital status & satisfaction was assessed first, with a divorce of 7 in female and 4 in male groups. There was desertion of spouse in 13 cases in male group & living apart status in 10 females. Sexual life in the last 6 months was absent in 24 females & in 10 of male group, those living together. Satisfaction in sex was reported poor by 30% of females & 25% of males.
2. Living status & where there is a fall in previous 5 years was reported as 30% in female groups & nearly 50% in male groups.
3. Childrearing & education was poor in 40% of male & 55% in females.

**Results:** Societal burden in few parameters is immense.

**Conclusion:** In all dimensions burden & cost is high.