

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
FOR HEALTH & FACULTAD DE MEDICINA,
UNAM, PRESENT



THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



TUFH2020 MEXICO

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2020

#TUFH2020
TUFH2020.COM



TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Cross-sectional study to assess the attitude of doctors towards mental illness in a tertiary care centre in South India
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Measuring Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals</i>
Presenting Author	Neeraja Varma
Co-Authors	
Country	India
Abstract N^o	TUFH23

Content

Stigma towards mental illness, especially if seen within the medical community, can limit patients from seeking help at the right time. Considering the meager workforce of psychiatrists among the Indian population, a person needing psychiatric care may be first seen by a physician. Hence the necessity to possess a positive attitude. This study proposes to assess the attitude of doctors not only because of the scarcity of information regarding the same but also because they play a vital role in the pathway to care and the overall wellbeing of a psychiatric patient. Methodology: It is a cross-sectional analytical study conducted in a private medical college in Kolenchery, South India, including all faculty doctors, other than those specialising in psychiatry. After obtaining informed consent, a semi-structured questionnaire and a 34 item pre-validated Attitude Scale for Mental Illness (ASMI) was distributed for assessing the attitude under various domains. Data analysis was done using R software. Difference between attitudes were studied using independent sample t-test and Mann-Whitney U test. Results: Out of 188 doctors consisting of 80.8% clinicians and 19.2% non-clinicians. The mean attitude score was 73.55 (SD – 13.78) with 63% having a negative attitude. Independent sample t-test showed the average attitude of clinicians and non-clinicians was not statistically significant ($p = 0.086$). Separatism showed a statistically significant ($p = 0.05$) difference between the two groups. Conclusion: The study, on the whole, shows a negative attitude of doctors towards mental illness, clinicians and non-clinicians alike. This attitude needs to change to decrease the stigma through health education within the medical community.