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by L T

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Reflection Question on Mental Illness Institutions

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Reflection Question on Mental Illness Institutions

Question 1

Watching the video made me feel devastated and worried about the conditions of the children who are sent to the Willow Brook State Institution. It was difficult to watch and realize that the scenes in the video depict how people with mental illnesses are treated in the institutions which should provide proper mental therapy to the affected children. From the video, Senator Jeff Kennedy described Willow Brook as a snake hole, and the act of negligence is also evident when Bernard's case was misdiagnosed. He could not be taken to school because he was regarded as too old—watching the video made me sympathize with the kids' situation under the institution's watch (Professor Gee, 2010).

Question 2

I think culture and social norms influence institutions like Willow Brook and other institutions for mental illnesses. People expect such institutions to hold high standards of professionalism concerning traditional ways, culture, and social norms that society holds dear as far as treating children with mental illnesses is concerned. In his expose of the pathetic condition of the Willow Brook, Rivera maintains that the doctor who invited him had warned him prior that what he was about to see could be bad. In the interview, Bernard also complains about the cutting of budget that the institution ever experienced. The two scenarios, therefore, bring it out clearly that most people involved in the operations of the institutions are not happy about how the culture of the institution is changing, and so to meet the expected social norms, they have to challenge the status quo by exposing the mishandlings.

Question 3

From this module's readings, DSM-5 is a medical model that clinicians use in psychopathology. Its primary manifestation is to distinguish personality pathology from undesirable and negative personality features to develop desirable psychotherapy for mental illness patients. Therefore, stigma being undesirable and negative conditions in psychotherapy, clinicians through the medical model of DSM-5 eradicate it from the patient's mindset by making them believe in themselves, process and improve on their self-esteem. Some people do have outgoing personalities, maybe because of what they go through due to mental illness. The state of their condition may make them feel separated from the rest of society. Therefore, to make them recover well, the people around them are brought on board to accept their conditions and avoid stigma. On the same note, cultural considerations are also crucial when dealing with mental illness patients, just as stigma using this model. Some cultures view some mental illnesses as curses, so nobody from such culture accepts to relate with such patients. DSM-5 addresses this to eliminate the misconceptions in society to help the patients feel part of society despite their conditions.

Reference

Professor Gee. (2010). Deinstitutionalization. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiTy-fxukY4>

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