

ABSTRACT

Background: Over the past few decades, the literature on forensic psychology and psychiatry has been dominated by research and publications on violence and instruments for assessing the risk of aggressive behaviour. Typically, these instruments use the theoretical RNR (risk-needs-response) model, where identifying criminogenic needs forms the basis for treating forensic patients. It is now believed that psychological needs, which are important values for people along with all day-to-day needs that affect their quality of life, and environmental and social factors are equally important for planning treatment and care for patients in forensic psychiatric wards. The assessment of needs in forensic psychiatry facilities is still underdeveloped compared to the long tradition of research on needs in psychiatric wards and outpatient facilities. Nevertheless, the practical relevance of assessing the needs and quality of life of forensic patients seems indisputable and even essential for optimizing their therapeutic process.

The aim of this study was a comprehensive analysis of forensic patients' needs and perceived quality of life, their determinants and their impact on various aspects of psychological and social functioning, including one of the more problematic phenomena occurring in forensic psychiatric wards: aggressive behaviour. The analysis of needs and their role in human life was based on Maslow's psychological theory of needs. Furthermore, since the paper deals with the needs of *mentally* disordered offenders, the essence of needs in the medical paradigm was also discussed. Finally, all considerations have been enriched with the ideas of the Good Life Model concept, on which modern rehabilitation models are built and proposed to be implemented in Polish forensic psychiatry. The study presented in the dissertation included: 1) analysis of the structure and determinants of the needs presented by forensic patients and the degree to which needs are met; 2) identification of the role of met or unmet needs in determining the behaviour of forensic patients; 3) determination of the importance of quality of life in the therapy and rehabilitation of forensic patients; 4) evaluation of the impact of need satisfaction and quality of life and other specified factors on the occurrence of violent behaviour among patients.

Methods: The study group consisted of patients (N = 120) recruited from 13 forensic psychiatry wards in various provinces of Poland who received therapy in isolation as part of a protective measure. They were divided into three subgroups according to their facility's level of security (low - N=40; medium - N=40; high - N=40). The following research tools were used in the study: 1) CANFOR - Camberwell Assessment of Need - Forensic Version; 2) WHODAS 2.0. - WHO Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0; 3) FQL-SV - Forensic Inpatient Quality of Life Questionnaire - Short Version; 4) SS-10 - Perceived Stress Scale; 5) MOAS - Modified Overt Aggression Scale; 6) Sociodemographic-Clinical Questionnaire. The tools made it possible to answer several specific research questions. The dissertation as a whole is exploratory in nature.

Results: All groups of patients residing in forensic wards with three different levels of security differed in terms of the number of met and unmet needs (from different need domains). Most patients

felt unfulfilled in terms of basic needs - in units with a low level of security, and health (treatment) and social care needs - in wards with medium security levels. In addition, the analyzes showed that, according to the patients, they did not receive enough help and support in meeting their needs. Despite the existing intergroup differences in the satisfaction of needs and expected support, the patients of all three groups did not differ in terms of the overall perceived quality of life (average satisfaction), and differences were observed only in the area of autonomy. The highest level of autonomy was demonstrated by the patients of wards with a low level of security. There were no significant differences in the intensity of stress among patients in wards with three different levels of security, while the highest level of aggression was observed among patients from maximum-security facilities. They also had a significantly higher level of psychopathological symptoms compared to the other two groups.

In the course of analyzes carried out within the entire clinical group of 120 forensic patients, it was found that patients displaying aggressive behavior in the wards obtained significantly higher scores on the level of perceived stress than those who did not engage in such behavior. The existence of a positive correlation between the number of deprived needs and the intensity of stress and the frequency of aggressive behavior was also confirmed.

Conclusions: Meeting patients' needs and optimizing their quality of life in forensic psychiatric wards is extremely important, because the deprivation of needs can affect the intensity of aggressive behavior in patients.

Determining the role of met and unmet needs of forensic patients in the therapeutic process, their impact on the level of experienced stress and the severity of aggressive behaviour in the ward, make them an essential instrument that helps to correct behaviours and formulate specific motivation plans. Needs analysis also enables a better understanding of patients and to offering them more adapted and more individualized therapy. All these actions may be crucial in the treatment, rehabilitation and resocialization of *mentally* disordered offenders.

Key words: needs, quality of life, preventive measures, forensic psychiatric patients