



Schizophrenia with Hyper-Religiosity: A Case Study

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Abstract:- Schizophrenia is a psychotic illness that drastically affects the persons cognition, behaviour, affect and understanding in the state of clear consciousness. Schizophrenia with over or hyper-religiosity is not so common yet not so rare. A 25 years old male was brought to psychiatric unit with complaints of hyper-religiosity, destructive behaviour, extreme suspiciousness, increase aggression, self smiling since one months and decreased sleep and appetite since 8 days. According to family since one year the patient started praying rigorously for long hours in the morning and evening and the whole day, many times he skips the meals also saying prayers are the only source of living for him. On asking by the family the patient said that he sensing smell of dead dog inside the house and the house members hiding a dog's dead body inside the house and mixing dead dog's remains in his food, he also developed the habit of self-induced vomiting after eating over the feeling of disgust. As in this case the the patient showed multiple symptom I.e. hyper-religiosity, destructive behaviour, extreme suspiciousness, increase aggression, self smiling and decreased sleep and appetite.

Key words: Schizophrenia, Hyper-Religiosity

Introduction: Schizophrenia is a serious mental illness which leads to difficulty in interpret the reality normally. In schizophrenia the persons ability to think, behave and feel adversely affects. The person gradually loses his touch with reality. In some cases it also affects memory and concentration. Schizophrenia is a psychotic illness that drastically affects the persons cognition, behaviour, affect and understanding in the state of clear consciousness. Schizophrenia with over or hyper-religiosity is not so common yet not so rare.

Case presentation: A 25 years old male was brought to psychiatric unit with

complaints of hyper-religiosity, destructive behaviour, extreme suspiciousness, increase aggression, self smiling since one months and decreased sleep and appetite since 8 days. He was the youngest brother among 6 siblings. As per the statement of his elder sister the patient took treatment for the same illness 2-3 years back for which his symptoms got subside but since the last 2-3 months the patient started developing symptoms which included spending most of his time of day in praying in temples even he continues to pray at home too for the long times. The patient has no previous history of medical or psychiatric illness. He was studying in B.A. 2nd year from distance education and was working in private

factory as labour but currently not working anywhere due to his illness. He has no known history of allergies, belonged to lower middle class family and is very close to his mother who is a housewife and his father works as school teacher. He got marry last year but due to his illness the couple is now living separately. He said that he never had any good friend in his life. The patient was alright almost 2-3- years back when one day he came home and stated showing aggressive and destructive behaviour that was gradually increasing day by day accompanying few more symptoms such as increased religiosity and self-smiling. According to family since one year the patient started praying rigorously for long hours in the morning and evening and the whole day, many times he skips the meals also saying prayers are the only source of living for him. On asking by the family the patient started throwing objects and said that he sensing smell of dead dog inside the house that's why he prays and the house members hiding a dog's dead body inside the house and mixing dead dog's remains in his food and giving him dog's leftover water to drink because of these thoughts he always used to eat from street vendors but never from home, he also developed the habit of self-induced vomiting after eating over the feeling of disgust and started praying and chanting. After these all scenarios the family decided to admit him in same psychiatry unit where he took the treatment for one month continuously and his symptoms got subsided, after that that patient got discharged but the treatment went on for about 2 years. As per the family he was not taking his medications since last 3 month hence the symptoms appear again and they decided to admit him in the psychiatry unit.

Discussion: psychotic symptoms are commonly present in schizophrenia along with these symptoms there are variety of other symptoms that persist in the schizophrenic patient. As in this case the the patient showed multiple symptom I.e. hyper-religiosity, destructive behaviour, extreme suspiciousness,

increase aggression, self smiling and decreased sleep and appetite. The patients with schizophrenia sometimes tends to become hyper or over religious and use it as defence mechanism to fight against their illness. An exploratory study conducted in 2017 showed on religiosity among patients with schizophrenia showed that out of the 100 patients of schizophrenia, 99% believed in God, about 60% of schizophrenic patients had attended religious places either once a week or more than that and 56% of patients preferred themselves to be in private religious activity at least once a day. Two-third of the patients showed high intrinsic religiosity score.

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References:

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