



Reply to Indian contribution to the cultural formulation interview and the DSM-5: Missing details from the position paper

Sir,

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-5 (DSM-5) Task Force of the Indian Psychiatric Society thanks the authors for highlighting the Indian contribution to the validation of the Cultural Formulation Interview (CFI). The approach to cultural contextualization in the DSM-5 represents a substantial improvement in the cultural understanding of mental illness. The DSM-5 recognizes specific cultural idioms of distress and cultural syndromes (e.g., Dhat syndrome) found in specific cultural groups and contexts. It notes that cultural explanations affect clinical presentations, perceptions about causation, help seeking, treatment adherence and outcome. Culturally driven criterion modification, notes and considerations in diagnosis, allow for a culture sensitive assessment. Many issues emphasized by cross-cultural psychiatry have now found a place, albeit primarily in the introduction and appendices rather than in the main section of the manual. The CFI, a semi-structured interview, will empower clinicians in eliciting patient and informant perspectives and in increasing the cultural contextualization of mental distress and illness.

The process of assembling of the Task Force and its deliberations had to be completed within a span of 3 weeks so that the Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) could submit its report to the American Psychiatric Association, within the short window allowed for comments. The very short time frame meant that all deliberations of the Task Force were by e-mail. In addition, members of the society were also invited, through e-IPS group, to send in their comments and suggestions. The Task Force examined all comments submitted and the issues were discussed in the position paper. We thank the authors for reiterating the Indian contribution to the CFI.

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Announcement



Bombay Psychiatric Society

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Dr. V. N. Bagadia – Bombay Psychiatric Society Lifetime Achievement Award

Bombay Psychiatric Society confers the Dr. V. N Bagadia – BPS Lifetime Achievement Award annually. It was constituted by the family of Late Dr. V. N. Bagadia who was a pioneer in the field of psychiatry. The recipient of this award in 2013 was Dr. P. Raghurami Reddy from Hyderabad. We invite nominations from eligible Life Fellows of the Indian Psychiatric Society across the country for the year 2014.

The following are the eligibility criteria for application:

- 1) Any psychiatrist in the country who has at least 30 years experience of continuous service in the field of mental health.
- 2) The person must be at least 60 years of age at the time of application and from India and his work should have been within this country.
- 3) Experience includes:
 - a) Service (innovative work, new service development, community work)
 - b) Teaching & training (academic/other teaching/public awareness)
 - c) Research: Good Quality research publications in indexed journals, presentations at national/ international forum are desirable but not mandatory.
- 4) Exceptional work in clinical or service related field or teaching and training is also desirable.

Proposals including the bio-data and consent of the nominee should reach us by 31st Dec, 2013. Applications received in the last 5 years (year 2009 & thereafter) will remain valid for consideration and they need not reapply. Any updating in your bio-data may be forwarded. Others can send a fresh application. Selection will be done by the Awards Committee of BPS. The award consists of a memento & a scroll of honour. It is necessary for the recipient to be present on the annual day of BPS, which is scheduled in April 2014. BPS will provide for one night's accommodation in Mumbai, if required.

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