

Historical Highlights on Mental Health Education and Training in Iraq

Maha Sulaiman Younis

Abstract

This article aims to cast a shadow over the history of mental health education and training in Iraq and a projection of Islamic scientific heritage in Baghdad during the seventh century. It also discloses the foundation of first teaching and training centers in psychiatry focusing on the marked contribution of the pioneer psychiatrists. Despite the presence of vast literatures documenting Arab Muslims medical heritage, concise related articles are few due to spreading of the original references along the western scientific community. The attention to the outstanding contribution of Iraq in mental health and medical education in general which appeared to be established during the golden era of Abbasid Caliphs in Baghdad during the seventh century. After several decades of scientific and cultural deterioration associated with Ottomans colonization, Baghdad intellectuals started to build the first medical school in Iraq at the end of twentieth century, teaching mental illnesses as part of the curriculum took place and continue to progress through establishing the national training program (DarAl-Shafaa) was established at 1922 as the first mental asylum by the British physician, later on it was a teaching center of psychiatry for medical students. While the first neurosciences clinic was established at 1938, ECT was introduced to Iraq at 1942.

Biography:

I Maha Sulaiman Younis graduated from Yuan Ze University with a master degree in Management. I work at St. Paul's Hospital as a head nurse. Since I was a child, I looked forward to being a nurse and wearing uniform of a nurse which we say "the angel of the white coat." I enjoy taking care of people who need to be cared and I like to interact with different people. So that is the reason why I aimed to be a nurse. As a proverb says, "It is never too old to learn." We are living in a stressful and competitive society and it changes rapidly, so I remind myself to keep a positive learning attitude and focus on self-improvement all the time. And it will help me to get more opportunities in my life.

Rosnah Sutan

*Department of Community Health, Medical Faculty, University
Kebangsaan Malaysia*