

“THAAGATCHARI”

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At the initiatives of the Addictive Disorders Specialty Section and the Manipur State Branch of the Indian Psychiatric Society, the National CME on Opioid Substitution Therapy is held at Classic Grande, Chingmeirong, Imphal on 6 January 2018. To commemorate the event, this souvenir, titled “Euphoria” is released.

We are honoured to edit this souvenir and are grateful to the Organising Committee for having the trust upon us. We express our heartfelt ‘thank you’ (Thaagatchari) to all the authors for making this souvenir a reality. Simanta Talukdar did a marvelous job to adorn it with a fitting cover. On behalf of the organisers, the Society for Mental Health in LAMIC (SoMHIL) published this souvenir.

Eighty per cent of the world population lives in the LAMIC, i.e. low and middle income countries.[1] Obviously, the burden of mental illness is highest in these regions. Unfortunately, the human resources catering mental healthcare services is scarce here.[2] On one hand, there is a huge gap between service users and service providers, and at the same time, the mental health professionals have a tremendous experience and expertise in terms of clinical exposure due to the large number of patients they have to cater to.

Unfortunately, when the question of translating this clinical exposure into research work is concerned, there is a prominent lacuna. Agreed that in such a busy clinical setting, research-related activities often take a backseat. But, even then with some extra effort we can imagine how much strive such activities can bring forth. In reality, professionals serving 80% of the global people is following what professionals catering to the rest 20% is saying.

Ideally, it should have been the reverse.

This is so not without reasons. Research activities are reflected in published works. And if we look into them, some interesting facts come to light. As of 2006, only 4.1% of the psychiatric journals indexed in major international bibliographic databases like Web of Science and Medline are from LAMIC; the rest 95.9% are from high income countries.[1] This '5/95' gap is causing hindrance as far as fair representation of global mental health scenario is concerned.[3]

A LAMIC-focused journal from a LAMIC is the need of the hour. In this regard, SoMHiL steps in by joining hands with Academia Dysphrenia and Academy Publisher in the publication of the Open Journal of Psychiatry & Allied Sciences (OJPAS®), formerly Dysphrenia.[4] In addition, it is involved with publication of books in the field of psychiatry as well. Following the success of 'Cultural diversity and mental health' released in November this year,[5] SoMHiL comes up with this one, i.e. Euphoria.

Happy reading!

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