Accessibility and Effectiveness of Mental Health Services for Female Prison Inmates in Ghana: A Pre-Post Assessment Study

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Abstract

Female prison inmates in Ghana face unique challenges related to mental health, including stigma, limited access to services, and inadequate resources. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative data from standardised questionnaires with qualitative interviews to understand service utilization and patient satisfaction. Findings indicate that despite increased access to mental health resources post-intervention ($p < 0.05$), there remains a significant gap in the proportion of inmates utilising these services (38% vs. 25%). While improvements have been made, further interventions are needed to enhance service uptake and effectiveness. Implementing culturally sensitive support groups and improving communication strategies could significantly improve mental health outcomes for female prisoners in Ghana. Female Prisoners, Mental Health Services, Accessibility, Effectiveness, Ghana Treatment effect was estimated with $text\{logit\}(\pi) = beta\,0 + \vec{\beta}\,p\,X_i$, and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

Keywords: *Ghana, Female Prisoners, Stigma, Mental Health Services, Accessibility, Interventions, Pre-Post Assessment*

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