Work4Psy

An innovative model for career counselling
services to mental health NEETs

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Literature Review

(Io1 – Litterature Review)

Title	Support Needs of People with Mental Illness in Vocational Rehabilitation Programs -The Role of the Social Network
Author	Janki Shankar & Fran Collyer, PhD
Year	2002
Type (article, report, book etc)	Article
No of Pages	17
Language	English
Reference (APA style)	Shankar, J. & Collyer, F. (2002) Support needs of people with mental illness in vocational rehabilitation programs -the role of the social network. *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*. 7, 15-28
Source (link)	
Summary	This paper reports on a study of the social networks of people with mental illness who participated in a vocational rehabilitation program to gain employment. The study found that social networks were critical to employment outcomes. Furthermore the study challenged existing assumptions about the social network characteristics of this group, revealing that family networks, despite their limitations, have valuable resources to offer for the success of rehabilitation programs.
Does the paper refer to People with Mental Health Problems, NEETs or MH NEETs?	People with mental health problems
What types of intervention or methodology of career counselling / vocational training / career intervention or good practice are mentioned?	

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Does the paper mention any specific tools used during the work integration process (evaluation, counselling etc)? In case the paper refers to a good practice provide a brief description.	
Does the paper mention any barriers in the work integration process produced by family members, MH professionals or careers counselors?	• Reluctance on the part of professionals to work with family network due to preconceived notions that families cause or exacerbate mental illness may be one of the reasons for the failure of vocational rehabilitation programs • Families experience anxiety and burden even during the recovery stage of their relative's illness, especially when recovery involves milestones such as taking up employment.
Main Conclusions (in bullets)	• In keeping with previous research family members dominated the network and most respondents lived with their families. • Family dominated networks can be supportive and provide valuable resources that can enhance rehabilitation outcomes. • Job training and placement support activities be complemented by the cultivation of a supportive environment at different levels that can sustain their skills and accommodate their disabilities. • Since the family forms the largest part of the network and has several resources to offer, the first level for professional intervention should be directed towards supporting and involving this network (including periodic respite from the burden of care, education about their relative's capacity for work, alleviation of anxieties regarding relapse and loss of income support benefits if their relative starts working, education on ways to provide some forms of ongoing employment support.

		• Successful employment outcomes for people with mental illness will depend not only on the individual who is seeking employment but also equally on the coordinated efforts of professionals, family members, employers, work colleagues and several organisations.