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Objective

To evaluate the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a Community-Based Intervention for improving symptoms and social functioning in people with schizophrenia

Background

Schizophrenia is a severe mental disorder that usually has an onset in early adulthood, and is often associated with chronic persistent or relapsing symptoms. People with schizophrenia experience thought disturbances such as delusions or hallucinations, and disturbances in speech, behaviour or emotions.

Most people with schizophrenia in developing countries such as India receive facility based treatment i.e. medical care in outpatient and inpatient mental health institutions. However such care is expensive causing a severe strain on health resources of these countries and on patients and their families, who bear heavy out-of-pocket costs. Moreover, there is only one psychiatrist for every 3000-5000 persons with schizophrenia, showing that a large proportion of people receive little or no treatment.