

MAPP

A Dutch project for asylum seekers with mental health problems



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- Goals and how it was established
- Psychological examination
- Results of the MAPP

Interview

Officer: For what reasons have you left your country?

K: (remains silent)

Officer: Do you not want to speak about this?

K: It is very difficult to discuss this.

Officer: Do you prefer to be interviewed by a female officer and have a female interpreter?

K: No.

Officer: Why are you here?

K: I am not yet ready to discuss this.

Officer: Can you explain to me why not?

K: I am still reliving the terrible things that I have been through. It whirls through my mind.

Interview

After an interruption where the interviewer talks with a colleague the interview continues

Officer: I have decided to continue the interview, following the medical advice. Consequently, not answering these questions will be interpreted as a refusal to cooperate with the procedure. You will have to bear the consequences of your refusal to cooperate. Do you understand what I am saying?

K: Yes.

Officer: I ask you again – for what reasons have you left your country?

K: I cannot talk about that, please do not ask me about that.

Officer: If you refuse to talk about this I will have to consider this as a refusal to cooperate with the procedure.

MAPP

Early detection of mental health problems

- To focus attention on asylum seekers with mental health problems in the asylum procedure
- To start medical care as soon as possible

MAPP procedure

- Lawyer or Dutch Council for Refugees recognizes signs of mental health problems
- Contact MAPP
- Examination in reception centres
- Report – to lawyer and medical office

Part 1 Observable behaviour checklist

1. Client's appearance

- Appearance is consistent with their calendar age Yes / No
- Well cared-for Yes / No
- Clear rings under the eyes Yes / No
- Red eyes Yes / No

2. Body posture

- Tense body posture Yes / No
- Motor unrest Yes / No
- Tics Yes / No
- Not sitting facing you Yes / No
- Cannot sit still Yes / No
- Sits as if transfixed Yes / No

3. Eye contact

- Client only makes brief eye contact Yes / No
- Client stares ahead Yes / No

4. Shock responses

- Certain noises make the client jump Yes / No
- Client is always watching the surroundings closely Yes / No

5. Respiration

- Client is short of breath Yes / No
- Client sighs a great deal Yes / No
- Client's respiration is very fast Yes / No

6. Emotions

- Client gives the impression of being sad Yes / No
- Client gives the impression of being mistrustful Yes / No
- Client gives the impression of being anxious Yes / No
- Client gives the impression of being gloomy Yes / No
- Client shows no emotions at all Yes / No
- Client gives the impression of being angry Yes / No

7. Visible emotions

- Client cries a lot Yes / No
- Client appears not to trust you Yes / No
- Client flares up with anger Yes / No
- Client appears subdued Yes / No
- Client has a very neutral facial expression Yes / No

8. Speech

- Client stutters Yes / No
- Client speaks excessively quickly Yes / No
- Client does not speak Yes / No
- Client speaks very slowly Yes / No
- Client completes his/her sentences Yes / No
- Client's thought processes jump around Yes / No
- The client's story is easy to follow Yes / No

9. Awareness

- Client is able to concentrate Yes / No
- Client gives a vacant impression Yes / No
- Client seems to hear the questions Yes / No

10. Was other noteworthy behaviour observed? Yes / No
If so, please give a description:

Part 2 Health problems questionnaire

11. Do you feel physically healthy? Yes / No
12. Do you have difficulty concentrating? Yes / No
13. Are you sometimes frightened for no reason? Yes / No
14. Do you feel very gloomy and sad? Yes / No
15. Do you regularly suffer from nightmares or scary dreams? Yes / No
16. Do you have clear memories of the events in your homeland? Yes / No
17. Do you feel that you can never really trust others, or that it is hard to do so? Yes/No
18. Have you ever had a sudden attack of panic or fear for no reason? Yes / No
19. Do you have any wounds or scars relating to your experience or flight? Yes / No

Psychological effects of traumatisation which may interfere with the asylum procedure

- Memory problems, such as hypermnesia, amnesia and 'tunnelmemory'
- Avoidance as part of a PTSD or as a survival strategy
- Distrust as a result of PTSD and as a self-enforcing mechanism throughout the asylum procedure
- Shame
- Limited ability to concentrate due to stress, depression, PTSD or physical head trauma's

Research question

“Are there mental health problems interfering with the applicant’s ability to render a coherent and consistent account in the asylum procedure?”

The MAPP protocol

- psychiatric interview
- a non-verbal concentration test
- a PTSD questionnaire (Harvard Trauma Questionnaire)
- inventory on all psychiatric problems (Brief Symptom Inventory)
- if necessary: a non-verbal IQ-test

Psychiatric evaluation of the asylumseeker throughout the examination

Results of the MAPP- statistics

June 2006 – januari 2009:

782 asylum seekers referred
306 asylum seekers examined

Women: 163

Men: 143

31 nationalities

Armenian: 14%

Iraqi: 9%

Burundi: 7 %

Results of the MAPP- statistics

9 % impossible to examine

271 persons fully examined

PTSD	77%
Depressive symptoms	77%
Somatic symptoms	60%
Anxiety symptoms	72%
Lack of concentration	79%

70 % futher examination and therapy required

Results of the MAPP- statistics

- 1) Problems which *surely interfere* with the applicant's ability to render a coherent and consistent account: 54%
- 2) Problems which most *likely interfere* with the applicant's ability to render a coherent and consistent account: 21%
- 3) Problems which *potentially interfere* with the applicant's ability to render a coherent and consistent account: 17%
- 4) Problems which *do not interfere* with the applicant's ability to render a coherent and consistent account: 8%

Results

Aims

- More attention for asylum seekers with mental health problems
- Better access to medical care for this group

Results

Asylum seekers with mental health problems in the extended procedure.

2008: pilot project Immigration Service

- Individual approach
- Specific expertise

Political support for a medical advice for all newly arrived asylum seekers.

Medical care

Cause for concern

New project:

- Care for asylum seekers with mental health problems (ZAPP)

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