Integration of 5S Concepts & Elements into Ward Operation in a Male Psychiatric Informal Admission Ward

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Introduction
5S is one of the practical management tools to excel our service regularly. Besides, it is a way of providing systems and process with attached roles and responsibilities to improve work flow. The integration of 5S concepts and elements into ward area can increase staff efficacy, ensure safe, healthy and structured environment, and facilitate smooth ward operation. To take advantage of ward renovation, this program is initiated in a male psychiatric informal admission ward as a pilot.

Objectives
To testify applicability and sustainability of integration of 5S concepts and elements in psychiatric inpatient setting.

Methodology
A 5S workgroup has been set up in March 2015. The major components of the pilot are cultivation of staff’s attitude, infrastructure improvement, software enhancement. To ensure staff having better understanding on 5S and practicing it in daily operation, briefing sessions on the pilot have been given to nursing and clinical supporting staff in May 2015. Furthermore, three comprehensive 5S notice boards are created to enhance staff awareness and knowledge. Besides, tailor-made storage spaces with specific containers and storing devices are either purchased from JOS or outside to make storage in a structured and tidy manner. For software enhancement, three newly computer systems “document retrieval system”, “furniture/ inventory flow system” and “minimum stock order system” are developed to facilitate smooth workflow. Questionnaire and semi-structured interview were used to evaluate the outcome.

Result
This pilot had been proved to be successful. Nearly 95% and 92% of ward staff considered their work efficiency improved, and ward environment/facilities became safer and tidier. Over 95% responded that their understanding on 5S increased. More than 90% believed integration of 5S could be successfully and sustainably implemented. Around 90% thought the culture of 5S could be cultivated and showed willingness to support in 5S work. From interview, the concerned staff claimed 50%
saving in time for document retrieval, stock taking and ordering. To conclude, the vast majority of ward staff welcome the application of 5S into working setting as they could all witness obvious improvement both in infrastructure and daily operation as well as appreciate substantial benefits like time and cost saving soon after implementation of 5S.