The role of Clinical Psychologists in Healthcare Institutions From the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors.



ibriam Samia

Oum El Bouaghi University, Algeria. samia.ibriam@univ-oeb.dz

Received date: 06/03/2026 **Accepted date: 17/04/2026** **Publication date: 01/07/2026**

Abstract:

The current study aimed to determine the role of Clinical Psychologists in Healthcare Institutions. The study relied on the Descriptive analytical research, in which the researcher applied a survey on the role of Clinical Psychologists in hospitals, prepared by Al-Otaibi (2011), to a sample of 89 Clinical Psychology Professors of both genders at several Algerian Universities. The study concluded that: Clinical psychologists play an important role in Healthcare Institutions from the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors.

Keywords: *role; Clinical Psychologist; Healthcare Institutions; Professors; Clinical Psychology.*

*** Corresponding author: ibriam Samia ,** samia.ibriam@univ-oeb.dz

Introduction:

Psychology seeks to understand behaviour and help people resolve their psychological crises, behavioural disorders, Mental Disorders and life difficulties. There are many specialisations within psychology, each focusing on a specific field. Among these specialisations is Clinical Psychology, which is the field of applying psychological principles that are primarily concerned with the psychological well-being of individuals. It includes psychological well-being and issues of happiness in individuals, as well as their relationships with others and the demands of the larger society in which they live, its goals and customs.(Zainab, 2002, p. 14)

Clinical Psychology aims to apply psychological principles to behaviour, diagnose and treat psychological and mental illnesses and behavioural disorders, and provide psychotherapy. and thus attempting to change the basic structure of the personality. To achieve this, it uses scientific tools and methods. This diagnosis is carried out in places designated for this purpose, most notably clinics, and is performed by a Clinical Psychologist, who is considered the link between individuals and accurate diagnosis. Therefore, they must possess a set of characteristics and traits, most notably that they have received intensive training in both theory and practice, as well as a desire to help others, accept them, and believe in the principle of individual differences.

Goldenberg defines the roles of the Clinical Psychologist as follows:

1. Administering Psychological Tests and Interviews for the purpose of Clinical Diagnosis.

2. Providing counselling and Psychotherapy to individuals, couples, families and groups.

3. Conducting Psychological Research on personality development and functions, the causes of mental illness, methods of Psychotherapy, etc.

4. Testing and training non-professional groups such as mental health assistants and volunteer groups, and supervising them.

5. Providing Psychological Consultation to treatment institutions in order to develop programmes for the treatment and prevention of Psychological Disorders.(Goldenberg, 1973, p. 05)

There are many fields and places of work in which Clinical Psychologists work, including hospitals, where they perform diagnosis and Psychotherapy within an integrated system of specialists, each according to their specialisation, which usually consists of (the treating physician according to their specialisation, nurses and other specialists) whose presence is required for the success of the treatment process.

The above clearly illustrates the role of Clinical Psychologists in hospitals, which prompted the researcher to conduct this study in order to highlight and identify their role in this healthcare institution.

1- **Problem statement:**

The hospital team consists of an integrated system of individuals, each according to their specialisation. This team is made up of (doctors according to their specialisations, nurses, psychologists, and other staff). In order for this team to perform its work to the fullest, each member must have a proper understanding of the tasks and roles performed by other team members.

Among the members of this team is the Clinical Psychologist, who is a person with a university degree in psychology from a recognised university and whose focus and specialisation is in the field of Clinical Psychology, with training in the Clinical Psychology field.(Shihata, 1989, p. 05)

Clinical Psychologists in hospitals perform several indispensable roles that no one else can perform and that all patients need, ranging from simple anxiety in patients at the time of admission or when they visit the clinic, to psychological disorders and illnesses that affect a person's behaviour, life, family and community and constitute a serious turning point for those patients and society in general. The roles of Clinical Psychologists include classifying, diagnosing and treating mental illnesses and their degrees, assessing the mental capacity and personality traits of psychiatric patients, those with below-average mental capacity or those with academic, family or psychological problems that require direct psychological intervention. The roles of the clinical psychologist include, but are not limited to, diagnosis, Psychotherapy, administering and interpreting psychological tests, studying Individual Psychological Cases, conducting clinical interviews, working with the Clinical Team to develop a treatment plan, and providing narrow psychological consultations.(Al-Otaibi, 2011, p. 04)

Despite the importance of the role of Clinical Psychologists in hospitals, there is still some ambiguity or lack of clarity regarding their roles in Algeria in general, or ignorance and lack of conviction on the part of some members of the treatment team in other cases. This prompted the researcher to conduct this study in order to shed light on the role of the Clinical Psychologist as understood by members of the treatment team, raising a key issue that the current study attempts to explore, namely, revealing the role of the Clinical Psychologist from their perspective. The current study's problem is precisely defined in the following main question:

- What role does the Clinical Psychologist play in healthcare institutions from the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors?

2 - Study hypothesis:

- The Clinical Psychologist plays an important role in healthcare institutions from the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors.

3 - Study objective:

- To reveal the role played by Clinical Psychologists in healthcare institutions from the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors.

4 -Importance of the study:

- To enrich research on the role of Clinical Psychologists in hospitals.

- To shed light on the reality of clinical practice in Algeria.

- To provide recommendations and suggestions based on the study's findings for the development of the Clinical Psychologist profession in Algerian hospitals.

- The current study may serve as a new addition to previous studies on the role of Clinical Psychologists in healthcare institutions.

5 - Study limitations:

The study limitations were as follows:

a. Human limitations:

The study is limited to a sample of University Professors specialising in Clinical Psychology at certain Algerian Universities.

b. Temporal limitations:

The study was conducted during the second semester of the academic year 2024/2025.

c. Spatial limitations:

The current study was conducted at the universities of Biskra, Annaba, Setif-2, Batna-1, and Algiers-2.

6 - Definition of study terms:

a. Clinical Psychologist:

Definition by Sarason&Sarason(1984):

A Clinical Psychologist is a psychologist who holds an advanced degree, often a doctorate, and specialises in abnormal behaviour. They are trained to diagnose and treat Personality Disorders and other Psychological Disorders of non-organic origin, and also conduct Psychological Research and studies.(Al-Rabiah, 2005, p. 09)

For the purposes of this study, a clinical psychologist is defined as a person who holds at least a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology and works in one of the health hospitals affiliated with the Health Ministry of Algeria.

b. Role of the Clinical Psychologist:

The role refers to the tasks assigned to the Clinical Psychologist, which are to diagnose and treat Psychological Disorders, provide Psychological Consultation to individuals and treatment institutions, and conduct Psychological Research and Aesthetic Research.(Al-Rabiah, 2005, p. 09)

In the current study, it is defined procedurally as the activities and work expected to be performed by Clinical Psychologists in accordance with their tasks, duties, and job responsibilities in government hospitals. as seen by a sample of Clinical Psychology Professors, which is determined by the total score obtained by the study sample on the survey prepared by (Al-Otaibi, 2011).

c. The hospital institution:

It is a complex social system consisting of a group of departments and sub-structures, each of which performs a function that contributes to the continuity and sustainability of its sub-system as a social entity. This structure has several pillars and components that help it to function and be effective in order to preserve the fundamental social value of health.(Derouach, 2017, p. 99)

Procedurally, it is defined as a social health organisation that performs a range of therapeutic and preventive roles under the Health Ministry of Algeria.

d. Clinical Psychology Professors:

Clinical Psychology Professors are defined procedurally in this study as academics specialising in Clinical Psychology at Algerian Universities. Their work includes teaching students Clinical Psychology according to the training programmes specified by the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education, supervising bachelor's and master's theses, conducting scientific research, participating in scientific conferences, and publishing scientific research in scientific journals and magazines.

7 - Field study procedures:

a. Study methodology:

To verify the hypotheses of the current study, the Descriptive analytical research was used due to its suitability for the subject and objectives of the study.

This approach is defined as one that examines existing events, phenomena and practices that are available for study and measurement as they are, without bias on the part of the researcher.(Ihsan, p. 43)

b. Study population:

The study population consisted of Clinical Psychology Professors at the universities of Biskra, Annaba, Setif-2, Batna-1, and Algiers-2.

c. Study sample:

The study sample consisted of 89 Clinical Psychology Professors of both genders, including 29 male Professors and 60 female Professors, who were selected using a purposive (deliberate) sampling method. The latter is suitable for this type of study, especially since the members of the research community are numerous and unknown to the researcher, and also to ensure that the sample includes individuals of different genders and ages.

d. Study tools:

- Survey on the role ofclinicalpsychologistsinhospitals:

This survey was prepared by Al-Otaibi (2011) with the aim of identifying the role of clinical psychologists in hospitals. The survey consists of two parts:

- The first part relates to the independent variables of the study, which include variables related to the personal and functional characteristics of the study participants, represented by (gender, age, educational level, type of work, nationality, name of hospital, length of service, years of experience in the specialisation, and number of courses in the specialisation).
- The second part of the survey consists of the following:

1- The tasks and roles performed by clinical psychologists, comprising 41 statements.

2- The extent of knowledge and skills possessed by clinical psychologists, comprising 50 statements.

3- The extent to which clinical psychologists adhere to professional principles, comprising 13 statements.

4- Obstacles faced by clinical psychologists, comprising 13 statements.

5- The proposed solutions for improving the performance of clinical psychologists, comprising 13 statements.

Each statement in the first section is accompanied by a list of the following options: (always, often, sometimes, rarely, never). Each of the above statements has been given a score to be processed statistically as follows: (always 5 points, often 4 points, sometimes 3 points, rarely 2 points, never 1 point).

Each paragraph of the second axis corresponds to a list containing the following phrases: (highly available, moderately available, slightly available, not available at all). Each of the above phrases was given a score to be statistically

processed as follows: (Highly available 5 points, available 4 points, moderately available 3 points, slightly available 2 points, not available at all 1 point).

Each item in the third axis corresponds to a list containing the following statements: (High commitment, moderate commitment, low commitment, no commitment), and each of the above phrases has been given a score to be processed statistically as follows: High commitment 5 points, commitment 4 points, moderate commitment 3 points, low commitment 2 points, no commitment 1 point) .

Each paragraph of the fourth and fifth axes corresponds to a list containing the following statements: (agree, neutral, disagree). Each of the above statements was given a score to be processed statistically as follows: (agree 3 points, neutral 2 points, disagree 1 point) .

The survey was prepared by calculating both validity and reliability, with validity being determined by expert judges and reliability being calculated using internal consistency.(Al-Otaibi, 2011, pp. 89-92)

In the current study, the first axis related to the tasks and roles performed by clinical psychologists will be used, which includes 41 statements from the second part of the survey, as it is appropriate for the purposes of the study. The psychometric properties of this axis of the survey were verified by applying it to a sample consisting of 30 psychology professors from the University of Batna-1, Setif-2, and Algiers-2, comprising 8 male professors and 22 female professors, as follows:

1. Validity of the survey: The validity of the first axis of the survey was calculated by calculating each of the following:

- Discriminant validity (extreme comparison):

From the lowest scores on the survey for the sample, which is (27%) of the highest scores on the survey and (27%), the researcher took

consisting of (30) individuals, and after arranging these scores in ascending order, they became two groups, each consisting of (08) individuals because (30 × 0.27 = 08), From this, we took eight individuals from the upper group and eight individuals from the lower group, then used an appropriate statistical method, namely the t-test, to indicate the differences between them, using the SPSS 22.00 statistical package. The results are shown in the following table:

Table No. (01): Shows the value of **'t'** to indicate the difference between the lower group and the upper group on the second axis of the survey on the role of the clinical psychologist in the hospital

the survey on the role of the clinical psychologist in the hospital	Groups	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	"t" Value	SignificanceLevel
	Lower Group	08	78.11	14.25	13.82	0.01 (Significant)
	Upper Group	08	82.13	6.35		

Source: Prepared by the researcher

Table 1 shows that the value of 't' is statistically significant at the significance level (0.01), which means that the first axis of the second part of the survey has the ability to distinguish between the lower and upper groups, and is therefore considered valid in its measurements.

B – Survey stability:

To determine this, the researcher calculated the stability of the survey on the role of the clinical psychologist in the hospital using Cronbach's alpha stability coefficient using (Spss,22.00), and a stability coefficient of **(**0.772) was obtained, indicating that the survey has a high level of stability.

2. Presentation and discussion of results:

a. Presentation of results:

Hypothesis: 'Clinical psychologists play an important role in healthcare institutions from the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors.'

To verify the validity of this hypothesis, the arithmetic means and standard deviations of the responses of the study sample to the survey on the role of the clinical psychologist in the hospital were calculated. After statistical processing using the SPSS 22.00 system, we obtained the results shown in the following table:

Table 2: The role of the Clinical Psychologist in healthcare institutions from the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
1 - Receiving the patient upon admission to the hospital.	2.23	1.21
2 - Introducing the patient to who they are and what will be provided to them.	3.02	1.26
3 - Referring the patient to the appropriate specialist or department.	2.69	1.23
4 - Daily rounds with the treatment team on hospitalized patients.	2.03	1.12
5 - Working in the field of mental health and with psychiatric patients.	3.29	1.29
6 - Collaborating with the treatment team to develop the patient's treatment plan.	3.15	1.24
7 - Obtaining the patient's medical and psychological history through the file, the patient themselves, or their family.	3.91	1.77
8 - Measuring intelligence and general abilities in certain cases.	3.99	1.80
9 - Administering relevant personality tests.	4.02	1.91
10 - Diagnosing mental and emotional disorders of the patient.	3.92	1.79

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
11 - Preparing a detailed report about the patient's psychological, social, economic, and cultural condition and attaching it to the medical file for review by the treating physician and the treatment team.	3.90	1.75
12 - Consulting with the medical team about the patient's condition regularly.	3.01	1.23
13 - Modifying unhealthy habits and expectations in patients that negatively affect treatment progress.	3.27	1.29
14 - Informing patients about their illness and involving them in the treatment process.	3.09	1.12
15 - Holding regular meetings with the treatment team and providing them with a comprehensive picture of the patient's psychological condition and their usual and unusual behavior.	2.99	1.02
16 - Reducing stress and anxiety for a group of patients through relaxation training or other techniques.	3.94	1.78
17 - Monitoring the patient's condition and their progress with the treatment plan.	3.24	1.29
18 - Conducting appropriate medical and psychological assessments.	3.21	1.28
19 - Evaluating the psychological and mental abilities of patients.	3.88	1.66
20 - Evaluating behavior and personality traits of patients.	3.90	1.76
21 - Identifying psychological needs not yet recognized by society.	3.75	1.70
22 - Contributing to addressing mental illnesses in their early stages before they develop further.	3.68	1.65
23 - Contributing to preventive work against mental illnesses before they occur and worsen.	3.55	1.61
24 - Preparing to deal with psychiatric patients with different types of disorders.	3.49	1.60
25 - Collaborating with social and charitable organizations in the field of social awareness.	3.26	1.32
26 - Effectively communicating with families and individuals and raising their awareness.	3.34	1.36
27 - Conducting surveys to understand the impact of psychosocial factors on overall health.	3.72	1.69
28 - Conducting studies on mental health services provided in hospitals.	2.23	1.09
29 - Organizing seminars and lectures related to mental health.	2.96	1.19
30 - Identifying individuals at risk for mental illness.	2.12	1.12
31 - Explaining the main factors leading to mental illness.	3.29	1.22

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
32 - Contributing to preventing patient relapse and crises, and reducing the need for hospital stays.	2.98	1.19
33 - Coordinating with families and following up on matters that benefit the psychological well-being of patients.	3.20	1.20
34 - Developing preventive programs to avoid or reduce the spread of mental illnesses.	3.02	1.18
35 - Comparingdifferenttreatmentmethods.	2.45	1.26
36 - Training newly graduated clinical psychologists.	2.56	1.28
37 - In-depth and documented scientific study of the causes of mental disorders in society.	3.06	1.19
38 - Staying updated in their specialty.	3.09	1.20
39 - Keeping files on patient cases.	3.85	1.67
40 - Monitoring advancements in psychotherapy.	3.02	1.20
41 - Ensuring follow-up for patients after discharge from the hospital or through outpatient clinics.	2.06	1.10
Overall Score	4.26	1.29

Source: Prepared by the researcher

Table 2 shows that the average responses of the study sample to the survey on the role of Clinical Psychologists in hospitals from the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors as a whole were 4.26 , which is an average score indicating that specialists play an effective role in hospitals, while their average responses to the items ranged between 2.06 and 4.02, with scores varying between low and high.

Item No. (09) received the highest arithmetic mean (4.02), which stated **(application ofPersonalityTestsrelatedtothecase)**. In second place was item No. (08) with an arithmetic mean (3.99), which stated (**measurement ofintelligenceandgeneralabilitiesinsomecases)**, followed by paragraph (16) with an arithmetic mean of (3.91), which stipulated (**reducingstressandanxietyamongpatientsthroughtraininginrelaxationorother techniques**). The fourth place went to paragraph (10) with an average score of (3.92), which stated (**diagnosingMentalandemotionaldisordersof the patient**). This was followed by paragraph 7, with an average score of 3.91, which stipulated (**identifyingthemedicalandpsychologicalhistoryof the patientthrough the fileorthepatienthimselfand his family),** then paragraph 11, with an average score of 3.90, which stipulated

(**Preparingadetailedreportonthepatient'spsychologicaland socio-economicandculturalstatusand attaching ittothemedicalfiletobepartofitandreviewedbytheattendingphysicianandthecaseteam).**

The paragraphs that ranked last are paragraph 4, with an average score of 2.03, which states **(dailyroundswiththe treatment teamoninpatients**), and paragraph (41) with an arithmetic mean of (2.06), which stipulates (**ensuringthefollow-upofpatientsaftertheirdischargefromthehospitalorthroughoutpatientclinics**), followed by paragraph (30) with an arithmetic mean of (2.12), which stipulates (**identifyingindividualsvulnerabletomentalillness**).

3. Interpretation and discussion of results:

a. Interpretation and discussion of results related to the study hypothesis:

The data obtained from presenting the results related to the study hypothesis, which states that clinical psychologists play an important role in healthcare institutions from the perspective of Clinical Psychology Professors, and using both arithmetic means and standard deviations, as shown in Table 2, it is clear that Clinical Psychologists play an effective role, with their most prominent roles being the application of relevant Personality Tests, measuring intelligence and general abilities in some cases, working to reduce stress and psychological anxiety in groups of patients through relaxation training or other techniques, then diagnosing the patient's Mental Disorders and Emotional Disorders, identifying the patient's medical and psychological history through the file or the patient themselves and their family, preparing a detailed report on the patient's psychological, social, economic and cultural condition, and attaching it to the medical file so that it becomes part of it and can be reviewed by the attending physician and the case team.

The results of the current study are consistent with the results of several studies, including a study by Schindler et al. (1987) that addressed the general public's perception of the role of clinical psychologists. and showed that clinical psychologists play a prominent role in the treatment of Mental Disorders and were rated equally to psychiatrists. The study also revealed that clinical psychologists were more attentive and caring towards patients.

It also agrees with the study by Wood et al. (1986) which is a survey of 201 members of the general public to determine their attitudes towards clinical psychologists and the tasks they perform. The results of this study showed that the majority of the sample had positive attitudes towards clinical psychologists, with 84% of the sample stating that psychology is an applied science. and 58% of them stated that psychology is not used to exploit people, but rather aims to achieve

their happiness. The results of this study also indicated that the general public views clinical psychologists as behavioural scientists.

This is consistent with a study (Al-Rabia, 2005) that aimed to understand the role of clinical psychologists as perceived by psychiatrists. The study sample consisted of 64 psychiatrists working in Mental Health hospitals in Saudi Arabia. The researcher designed a tool to measure the main tasks of clinical psychologists, namely diagnosis, psychotherapy, and psychological consultation, and applied this tool to the current study sample. The results of the study revealed differences between male and female psychiatrists in terms of diagnosis and psychological consultation, with female psychiatrists scoring higher. The results of the study also showed differences between less experienced male and female psychiatrists and their more experienced counterparts on all axes of the study tool. These differences were in favour of the more experienced. Finally, the study results did not reveal any differences between male and female psychiatrists according to job rank (consultant, resident specialist).(Al-Rabiah, 2005, pp. 01-14)

This is consistent with a study by Al-Otaibi (2011), which aimed to reveal the role of clinical psychologists from the perspective of hospital workers in Riyadh. The study population consisted of employees of several hospitals in Riyadh (doctors, nurses, specialists, and psychiatrists). The study sample consisted of 181 individuals, and the researcher used a descriptive survey methodology and a survey as a study tool. The most important results were as follows:

1- The study sample mostly agreed that the most important roles of a Clinical Psychologist are, first and foremost, measuring intelligence and general abilities, followed by identifying the patient's medical history.

2- The study sample mostly agreed that the most important skills of a Clinical Psychologist are, first and foremost, identifying the role of the family in the onset of mental illness, followed by the ability to establish a strong relationship with patients.

Conclusion:

It is clear from the above presentation that clinical psychologists play a very important role in healthcare institutions, and the results of the current study confirm this, as the researcher concluded that the most important roles of clinical psychologists at the Alia Saleh Hospital in Tebessa are: administering relevant Personality Tests, measuring the intelligence and general abilities of some cases, working to reduce the stress and psychological anxiety of the patient group through relaxation training or other techniques, then diagnosing the patient's mental and emotional disorders, identifying the patient's medical and psychological history through their file or from the patient themselves and their family, and preparing a detailed report on the patient's psychological, social, economic and

cultural condition and attaching it to their medical file so that it can be reviewed by the attending physician and the Clinical Team.

Psychiatrists in hospitals work with an integrated team whose goal is to treat patients, where they They perform many important roles, including diagnosing psychological and mental disorders and illnesses, providing diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, working with the medical team on the patient's treatment plan, and studying psychological cases and providing psychological consultations.

Based on the findings of the current study, the following recommendations can be formulated:

1 - Coordination between the Health Ministry of Algeria and Algerian Universities to organise days and seminars explaining the roles of Clinical Psychologists working in Healthcare Institutions. These days and seminars should be dedicated to the entire Clinical Team so that each member understands the role of the Clinical Psychologist.

2 - Conducting further studies on the role of Clinical Psychologists as perceived by other members of the treatment team, especially doctors.

3 - The Health Ministry of Algeria should adopt a guide that clearly explains the tasks of each Clinical Psychologist.

4 - Coordination between Algerian Universities and the Health Ministry of Algeria to develop and train Clinical Psychologists.

5 - Work to improve training in universities and post-graduate training for Clinical Psychologists.

Finally, we would like to point out that this study is merely an attempt to identify the role of Clinical Psychologists in Healthcare Institutions by conducting a field study on a sample of Clinical Psychology Professors. and therefore its results are not definitive and require further research and study in order to better control these variables by improving the research conditions, such as applying the tools to a larger sample size to make better use of the results.

Bibliography

1. Al-Otaibi, S. b.-D. (2011). The role of the clinical psychologist from the perspective of employees in government hoc spitals in the city of Riyadh. Riyadh: unpublished master's thesis, Naif University for Security Sciences.
2. Al-Rabiah, F. b. (2005). The Role of the Clinical Psychologist as Perceived by Psychiatrists: A Study of a Sample of Psychiatrists Working in Mental Health Hospitals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Riyadh: King Saud University.

3. Derouach, K. R. (2017). The Role of the Hospital in Achieving Health Requirements. Afaq Al-Sosiya Magazine(02).
4. Goldenberg, H. (1973). Contemporary Clinical Psychology. California: Brooks/Cole, Monterey.
5. Ihsan, A.-A. (n.d.). Educational Research: Its Elements, Methods and Tools. Gaza: Al-Amal Commercial Press.
6. Shihata, M. R. (1989). Professional Responsibility and Draft Code of Ethics for the Psychological Profession in Saudi Arabia. Riyadh: King Saud University Press.
7. Zainab, S. (2002). Clinical Psychology. Cairo: Al-Nahda Al-Masriya Library.