Interesting new research connects the importance of empowerment in supported employment. 
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Abstract

Background: This cross-sectional study is aimed at describing and investigating empowerment 
and its relationships with level of engagement in daily activities and community life, experienced 
stigma, psychopathology, and quality of life among people with mental illness entering 
supported employment.

Method: The following scales were administered to 120 persons: Empowerment Scale, Profiles of 
Occupational Engagement Scale, Manchester Short Assessment of Quality of Life Scale, Rejection Experience Scale and Brief Psychiatric and Rating Scale.

Results: Higher scores of empowerment were associated with fewer symptoms and 
experienced stigma, a higher level of engagement in daily activities and community life, better 
quality of life and having work rehabilitation. Self-efficacy and self-esteem were in particular 
significantly correlated to depressive symptoms. Descriptive statistics enveloped the group of 
participants that said ‘Yes I want to work’ with a somewhat high mean score for empowerment, 
level of engagement and quality of life, but a low mean score with regard to both symptoms and 
experienced stigma.

Conclusions: This study advocates the importance of evaluating empowerment in supported 
employment research and practice. The findings suggest the importance of taking into account 
not only monetary aspects of having a job but also social and psychological aspects such as 
empowerment, reduction in experienced stigma and community integration.