Foreword

As twenty first century is known as a century of stress and anxiety, prevalence of mental disorders is found to be increasing and so is the focus of mental health professionals on their adequate diagnosis and devising successful intervention and treatment strategies. Considering the global data, mental illnesses share more than one tenth of the burden of diseases and their prevalence among the adult population is alarming in the sense that it is fourth among the ten leading causes of disability. Evidences are that around ten percent of the global population is affected by psychological disorders. The cause of concern is that as per the trends, in the coming half decade the prevailing mental and behavioural disorders will come into the category of being classified as chronic and disabling. Although these type of mental illnesses are not out of the sight of the mental health problems, their elimination has not yet become feasible due to various reasons including lacunae in proper diagnostic outcomes and relatively lesser effective treatment and intervention practices.

The efforts of researchers have though been relentless and a dedicated sense of commitment to upkeep human mental health is well evident in the researchers, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists and other mental health problems. However, the reach to the outcomes of their efforts remains quite restricted and such scientific knowledge sharing is relatively scarce. The current edited volume Chronic Mental Illness and the Changing Scope of Intervention Strategies, Diagnosis, and Treatment in the book series on ‘Advances in Psychology, Mental Health and Behavioural Studies’ presents rigorous efforts of the editor Dr. Barre Vijaya Prasad, Associate Professor in bringing together the voluminous current research in the area. The volume addresses under-researched crucial aspects and various correlates of chronic mental illnesses in different populations ranging from childhood through adolescence and adulthood to old age. Having a broad spectrum of coverage at its basis, the volume attempts to uncover and extend to reader wide latitude of scientific knowledge related to chronic mental illnesses.

The very systematic outline of the volume, presented in the form of six logical cohorts beginning with a focus on in-depth conceptual information on the target area and concluding with a synthesis of attention towards advanced treatment strategies, provides the readers and professionals a comprehensive scope of insight into the mental and behavioural disorders with chronic and disabling impacts on human population. The section formation has been very concise and focused clustering of specific issues related to chronic mental illnesses. The editorial competencies are visible in a nice blend of conceptualizations and reconceptualization in light of the changing research scenarios. The conceptual background created in the first section along with an addressal of rehabilitation practices takes a systematic way to proceed smoothly to deliberate upon the issues related to comorbidities existing in relation to the chronic psychological disorders. Issues related to families, caregivers and management practices have also been well documented upon at the relevant places and in the forthcoming sections. Specific focus exists on
the current research based intervention strategies for all ages from elderly to down the childhood have been explored, evaluated and synthesized for the optimum use of mental health professionals and researchers so as help improve the quality of life and well of the human race. For reaching this primary objective, the volume’s strongest aspect lies in highlighting the newly emerged and emerging advanced treatment strategies to effectively deal with chronic mental illnesses and checking them from causing global disabling effects. 

Incorporating 18 specifically dedicated chapters contributed by the eminent scholastic researchers, academicians and practitioners from across the country, the volume is an exemplary academic product which will serve as a path illuminating torch for all kinds of mental health professionals. It will fill a big void and will prove to be a very handy reference to the budding clinical psychology scholars, practicing clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, the scientific acumen of mental health profession. It will also prove to be a beneficial insight provider to the care givers and policy makers to serve the people in need. Most importantly the volumes will guide the emergence of new researches and devising new intervention strategies to cure chronic mental illnesses. I appreciate the enormous efforts of Dr. Barre Vijaya Prasad in bringing in such a comprehensive volume and call the readers to help it reach to the people suffering from mental and behavioural illnesses.

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