



## Sociological Evaluation of Epilepsy: An Overview

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### Epilepsy - Background

In this article, we will review how social settings influence our behavior or attitudes in this competitive world. In brief, we are not just individuals but rather we are social beings deeply tangled into this society. Individuals are the products of the society, and the most maladaptive behaviors of the individuals may affect the society at different levels. Experts analyzed social phenomena at different levels and from different perspective from concrete interpretations to sweeping generalizations of society and social behavior.

Epilepsy is considered to be the most common chronic neurological disorders in the human society. Epilepsy is a neurological imbalance within the brain chemicals that subject an individual to have recurrent unprovoked seizures. These seizures episodes are as a result of misfiring of neurotransmitters in the brain region which varies in frequency, from less than one per year to several per day [1-2].

### Epilepsy - symptoms

- Arms and legs: jerking and uncontrollable movements of the arms.
- Loss of sense of consciousness.
- Psychic symptoms such as fear and the anxiety among the host of others.

### Causes of epilepsy

- Brain tumors.
- Developmental disorders, such as autism and neurofibromatosis.

- Injury before birth, such as brain damage from an infection in the mother, poor nutrition or oxygen deficiencies.

### Sociological perspectives to epilepsy

The greatest fear of people with epilepsy and their families is the danger it posits to their day-to-day life. Are their activities needed to be restricted? If so, how? Other form of fear may arise, such as how seizures may affect family life, relationship with friends, school and work. Managing epilepsy is different from people to people. People with well-managed seizures may have different issues or concerns than people with poorly managed seizures. Also, having a lot of seizures and taking seizures prescription drugs may alter how people think, feel and their ability to cope with the efficacy of their epilepsy. Experiences and concerns will also be different if the affected person is a young person, parent, or, an adult with seizures. Cultural differences act major role on how society view epilepsy, our coping and defense mechanism to the illness. Treatment of epilepsy is more effective in middle income countries when compared with low income countries [3-5].

Diagnose someone with epilepsy can be upsetting and make the affected person feel isolated and alone. Many people in the societies view epilepsy as one of the most dreadful neurological disorders and hold the belief of discrimination against them. In many cases, individual with epileptic seizure suffers social discrimination and stigmatization. Parents prevent their children from playing with children with epilepsy from fear they will infect them with their condition. Schools tend to deny children with epilepsy the privilege to participate in perfectly safe and ordinary curriculum activities. Certain schools or educational institutions may deny admissions to students with epilepsy. Practical things like finding a home, ob-

taining insurance, making friends, and having a family is hard for the people with epilepsy. All the treatments can be traumatic and desperate experiences for the person with epilepsy.

In terms of employment, employer may avoid an individual with epilepsy from a job for safety reasons when the individual poses a direct threat. Many countries are coming to terms in providing tools in combating social discriminations experienced by people with epilepsy legally. For instance, the recent revision of Indian law removed epilepsy as a barrier to marriage. Of a fact, legislation can help, but there is also ample and growing evidence to show that this alone is not enough. Many people even in developed nations like the United State of America and the United Kingdom are still experiencing social stigmatization. If this belief is compared to developing nations like Nigeria, the social stigmatization of people with epileptic seizure will be terrific.

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