



Effective Psychotherapy for Low-Income and Minority Patients

Frank X. Acosta, Joe Yamamoto, Leonard A. Evans

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Psychotherapy involves a deep ethical commitment to self-knowledge, personal change, and mutual respect by both the therapist and the patient. Unfortunately, therapists have not always lived up to that commitment in understanding and treating low income and minority patients. Too often they lack the skills to understand and adjust to the patient's community and cultural experiences. The result has been ineffective and misguided treatment. *Effective Psychotherapy for Low-Income and Minority Patients* is a handbook for psychotherapists interested and committed to correcting this situation and pursuing effective treatment strategies. This book is based on the author's ongoing innovative research project at the University of Southern California School of Medicine's Adult Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic. Located in East Los Angeles, the clinic serves this nation's largest Hispanic American community and has service commitments to residents of the central Los Angeles region. Over the years the authors have noted not only a marked need to improve mental health services, but also a need to make them more accessible to minority and low income patients. Generally these patients have very negative ideas about treatment of emotional problems. They typically react to treatment with skepticism: no one has really listened to them or understood them before—why should this therapist do so now? In describing this pessimism the authors discuss the need to listen to and respect each other.

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