

## **Prevalence of anxiety symptoms in a sample of Egyptian children**

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This work was done to study the prevalence rate of anxiety symptoms among a sample of Egyptian primary schoolchildren, to investigate the psychopathology underlying these anxiety symptoms and to identify the associated socio-demographic factors and abnormal psychosocial situations. Three private and two public primary schools in Greater Cairo were surveyed. The estimated sample size was 1699 pupils, one third of whom were taken from public schools and two thirds from private schools. The sample was assessed for socio-demographic profile, personality traits, psychopathology, psychosocial stresses and manifest anxiety states. Anxiety negative pupils were taken as control for the anxiety positive group regarding comparison on demographic and family factors.

The study concluded that anxiety disorder is not a rare occurrence among Egyptian children and deserves more attention than has been directed to it up till now.

Psychosocial factors are important in the generation of anxiety symptoms in children, hence the role of early identification and intervention may play a major role in reducing this morbidity.