

Psychosocial and psychiatric comparison between high and low achievers in primary schoolchildren

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Aim: To discuss the factors affecting academic achievement among school children.

Design of the study: Cross sectional study.

Method: 60 children were selected, 30 high achievers (26 males and 4 females) and 30 low achievers (20 males and 10 females). High achievers were selected from the 1st preparatory grade, low achievers were selected from the failures in the 5th primary grade, and they were aged from 12-14 years, both sexes were included. They were subjected to a semi structured interview, physical and neurological examination and psychometric tools including: Questionnaire measure of achievement motivation, Depression scale for children, Test of primary mental abilities and Anxiety scale for children.

Results: It was found that the percentage of psychiatric disorders in low achievers is higher than in high achievers and there is high statistical significance ($P=0.009$). Regarding nocturnal enuresis the percentage in high achievers is nil while in low achievers is (16.67%). Regarding anxiety the percentage in high achievers is (50%) and in low achievers is (3.33%) while in low achievers is 13.33%.

Conclusion: Low achievers have lower achievement motivation, lower IQ and higher scores on depression and anxiety scales. They also have disturbed concept about themselves. The first step in building any community is the building of an educated community to solve many social, economical and political problems.