

Child abuse among preparatory school students in Cairo and its psychiatric sequelae

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The aim of this work was to study child abuse among a sample of preparatory school students in Cairo.

A total of 1500 preparatory school students, age ranged between 12-16 years, 900 from governmental schools (60%) and 600 from language schools (40%), 801 males (53.4%) and 699 females (46.6%). The following tools are used : 1- The arabic version of Child Maltreatment Questionnaire (Straus, 1990) translated by Hassan et al, (1999). (2) The arabic version of Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview for children and adolescents (Sheehan et al). (3) Revised Behaviour Problem Checklist (RBPC) (Achenbach, 1991). (4) The arabic version of Copper smith Self-Esteem Inventory (Mussa and Dusuki, 1991). In most of cases, the headmaster referred the researcher to the school sociologist to facilitate the research conduction.

Results: Adolescents living in large families, illiterate mother, lower level of father education, unemployment of

mother and father are in the higher risk for being exposed to all types of abuse and neglect.

Adolescents from governmental schools, eldest or middle in position, with chronic health status problems are of great risk to abuse and neglect.

Sexual abuse is more common in males. Low self-esteem is related to exposure to all types of abuse and neglect. About half the children who exposed to sexual abuse suffer from major depressive episode; also anxiety is related to sexual abuse.

Conclusion: A significant proportion of Adolescents living in large families, illiterate mother, lower level of father education, unemployment of mother and father suffer from all types of abuse and neglect. Low self-esteem, a major depressive episode and anxiety withdrawal are related mostly to sexual abuse.