

Comparison of social adjustment and behavior problems in sexually abused adolescents with normal adolescents (Case study: Karaj city)

Amineh Kashanean (M.A)¹, Mohammad Ghamari (Ph.D)², Mojtaba Amirimajd (Ph.D)³

¹Islamic Azad University, Abhar Branch, Abhar, Iran

²Department of counseling, Islamic Azad University, Abhar Branch, Abhar, Iran

³Department of psychology, Islamic Azad University, Abhar Branch, Abhar, Iran

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ABSTRACT

The aim of present study was to compare social adjustment and behavioral problems in sexual abused adolescents and compare them with their normal peers (aged less than 18 years). The sample consists of 30 normal adolescents (15 girls and 15 boys) and 30 sexual abuse adolescents, who had case in the emergency center of social Welfare Branch in Karaj city. The first sampling method (normal adolescents) through multiple stage cluster sampling and second group (sexual abuse adolescents) through available sampling, was performed. Statistical methods were used in this study include t test and analysis of variance. The results showed that there is significant difference between adjustment and behavioral problems of sexual abused adolescents and normal adolescents ($P < 0.05$). In other words, sexual abused adolescents had less social adjustment and more behavioral problems. In addition, the results showed that there is not significant difference between social adjustment and behavioral problems of sexual abused girls and boys ($P > 0.05$).

KEYWORDS: Sexual abused; social adjustment; behavioral problems

INTRODUCTION

Based on around the world statistic, everyday thousands of children and adolescents are abused in various forms (physical, emotional and sexual). Child abuse and the abuse of children and adolescents may occur for each child or adolescent in families. The pervasiveness of the problem of child abuse and increased reports of injuries or damages are noticed in children and adolescents, have the world governments to pay more attention to children right (Rosatami zarei & Zamiri nejad 2008).

Although violence against children and the abuse of them appears to be an individual phenomenon at first sight, But due to its adverse consequences that create disruption in discipline and the health of the family and society, it is the source of many issues and predicament and it is counted as a very serious social predicament. In research and numerous articles in the field of short-term and long-term effects of child abuse have been published indicating disorders and problems in physical, emotional, social, psychological and behavioral factors on the victims. One of the most damaging and sophisticated issues of child abuse is sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse of children with chronic and stable problems in children and adolescents is including negative and undesirable effects of this phenomenon, and reveals a bad problem in behavior and risks associated with mental health.

Some of these problems include the desire to suicide, depression, anxiety disorders, and antisocial personality disorders, conduct disorder and drug misuse (Ferguson, 2008).

On the other hand, numerous evidence have shown that sexually abused children, In comparison normal children have more problem in interpersonal relationships and social adjustment, especially in trusting on others (Cashmore & Shackel 2013).

The lack of accurate statistics in field of child abuse (particularly child sexual abuse) in our country is not due to the absence of this social problem.

Rather it is a sign of neglect to the social damage, Because of lots of inserted topic in printed media, Forensic Medicine reports, Statistics published by the Support Community of Children right and eventually, setting up and development of the child abuse by the Welfare Organization is Indicative of This sad fact. This social predicament is due to the social problems in the home from the family members and relatives and this is hidden in our society and every year among the innocent children are victims.

Scientific studies and research to identify the accurate origins of the problem, Left behind negative effects of This devastating phenomenon in children, adolescents and adults is an inevitable necessity; Meanwhile research in this area in our country is very low and few. Thus, as mentioned above, understanding the adverse effects of child sexual abuse and endeavor to improve this destructive effect in the early years, without a doubt it

can promote the health of the community, maintain social Discipline balance and also reduce the high costs of economic and financial. In most societies, families, educational institutions and other major organs has always paid special attention to the population of children and adolescents and For the better growth, development and physical and mental health, they are doing their utmost . Unfortunately, despite all these efforts, many countries are faced with the phenomenon of ominous and destructive child abuse and in recent years it also had a growing trend.

As a result, a lot of concerns, warnings and notices of institutions and officials have been expressed to this related field. Child abuse can be seen in different ways: the physical, psychological and sexual child abuse. Meanwhile, sexual child abuse is the most destructive and harmful one among them. That can have a negative influence on all aspects of life in children and adolescents, including aspects of emotional, social and physical. If these children do not receive a timely manner and necessary help and not taken effective steps for their improvement.

They may drown in vortex of variety of problems such as addiction, delinquency, suicide, mental imbalance and adaptive problems (Cashmore & Shackel 2013).

Risk factors such as poverty, Drug abuse by parents, violence, chronic illness of a family member, and neglect and frequent abuse of children lead to undesirable psychosocial results in child. In other words, children who are exposed to risk factors than physical problems, psychological, social and cognitive abilities are more vulnerable. Many studies have shown that children who are living in adverse conditions lead to behavioral problems and significantly more likely they are surrender to internalized disorders such as anxiety or externalized problems and aggression and drug abuse (Reiner, 2007). The most serious of these risk factors, child sexual abuse, which can lead to many of the issues and problems among children (Cashmore & Shackel 2013).

Disorders in children and young the same as disorders in adults has been always studied based on the deviation from normal behavior. But, over the defining border in normal and abnormal, no general agreement has been reached. But most mental health specialists agree that a normal children in mental health is always mentally happy most of the time and makes a permanent positive relations with others and has a accurate perception of reality and Can organize actions and opinions to achieve sensible goals, In terms of education reaches to a close level of its own potential talent and behaves as a child by age and gender expected.

In general, behavioral problems, and debilitating and common disorders cause many inconvenience for families and teachers, and to a greater extent lead to problems and undesirable social relationships and also, teens are at risk for social and behavioral troubles (Halahan and Kaufman, skilled translator, 2008). What the most is considered in physical and mental health, is respect for personality and human dignity when a person has not restored the dignity and respect and a Healthy mind, a healthy behaviors, psychological balance and improve human relations will have no meaning (Milanifar, 2008). Thus, according to this point, respecting the character and dignity of sexually abused children molested and gradually, create problems in their behavior and personality. In general Compatibility is the ability of fusion, accommodation, compromise, cooperation and copes with their environment, and others have described (Fouladi, 2004). Psychologists considered adaptation to the environment and the characteristics of personality are considered normal that help one to adapt her own to the around world , It means to live in peace with others. And gained position for itself (Atkinson and Hylgard, 1381 Translation Baraheni) Meanwhile, social adjustment, reflecting the interaction with others, satisfaction of their roles and How It Works is the role Which is likely influenced by previous character, culture and family expectations (Weizman, 1975).

Occasionally the terms of socialization, sociability and behavior-friendly society is known the same as sense of social adjustment (MAC tattoo and Martin, 1983).

Three main aims of sociability or adaptation are:

1. Impulse control, including the expansion of conscience
2. The preparation and performance Including job roles and gender roles
3. Raising meaningful resource indicates what is important and what is the point of living life

Therefore, a process of social adjustment by which relations between individuals, groups, and cultural elements is in a satisfying situation In other words, the relationship between the person and others is established in a way to facilitate the mutual activities (Deborah, Turner, and Romano, 1993). With regard to the expressed content of social adoption could pose the terms of possibility that the process of social adoption accompanied with problems in children who experienced sexual abuse.

As mentioned above, it can be concluded that the negative consequences of traumatic abuse, create problem in their behavior and compatibility. In addition, it is necessary to pay special attention to this important aspect of life of affected children. To provide useful solutions and training in this field for lessen the pain and suffering of these children. Therefore, the main question of the research is: Is social adjustment and behavior problems in sexually abused children and normal children different? Compatibility problems related to behavioral problems among sexually abused children ; Not only can make a lot of stress on their families and People around them, But also to the communities involved in and Remedies for such a phenomenon (Such as in the event of suicide, drug addiction and delinquency) There's an enormous cost and energy to the

community. Unfortunately, In Iran has been reported cases of sexual child abuse which is neglected in some cases and more attention is required.

In order to examine the specific characteristics of these children, informing the families and other social groups on this issue and by demonstrating effective solutions for dealing with this phenomenon takes steps to be more appropriate. Therefore, to reduce and improve the adverse effects of such an unpleasant event, having Further research is better (especially the identification of protective factors and risk factors D). The Present research is done with the aims of further explore on two important characteristics of sexually abused children in social adoption and behavior problems.

Research hypotheses

The basic hypotheses of this research are as follows:

- 1- There is a difference between the social adoption of sexually abused adolescents and normal adolescents.
- 2- There is a difference among behavioral problem in sexually abused adolescents and normal adolescent.
- 3- Social adoption between who were sexually abused boys and girls are different.
- 4- Behavioral problems in sexual abused boys and girls are different.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Plan

The method of the present study is to compare the events and causal issues .The study assumes that the independent variable (exposure or non-exposure to sexual abuse in childhood) can lead to changes in the dependent variable (social adjustment and behavior problems).

Statistical Society

The population of this research, normal adolescents and sexually abused juveniles in Karaj city.

The sample research

The statistical sample included 30 normal adolescents (15 girls and 15 boys) and 30 children (15 girls and 15 boys) with sexual harassment cases in the emergency department of social welfare center in the city of Karaj. Because of the confidentiality of information; It should be noted that the number of sexually abused children in this center, is not expressed accurately and officials introduced only thirty people for this research.

Sampling method

In the present research because of the small number of sexually abused adolescents, research group selected abused adolescents through the present sampling. So that by referring to the welfare in the Karaj city, receive list of sexually abused adolescent's case at the center of social emergency and selected 30 persons who were under the age of eighteen.

Also 30 normal adolescents has been selected through the multi-level group sampling in a way that the researcher selected randomly two areas (3, 4) in the four areas of education in Karaj, between the two schools (one for boys and one for girls) and chose in the schools, in a sample of normal children (15 girls and 15 boys).

Statistical Methods

In order to determine the difference between social adjustment and behavior problems among sexually abused adolescents and normal adolescents and determining the difference between social adoption and normal adolescent , The average difference in behavior problems between sexually abused girls and boys, according to gender two independent tests and analysis and variance were used.

Analysis of the data

Descriptive data

Table 1: Descriptive characteristics of the variable study subjects and its components according to gender

| Variable | gender | frequency | Minimum score | Maximum score | average | standard deviation of |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Social adoption | male | 30 | 1 | 19 | 8/53 | 5/09 |
| Social adoption t | Female | 30 | 2 | 17 | 7/36 | 4/10 |
| behavior problems | male | 30 | 5 | 105 | 42/10 | 29/25 |
| behavior problems | Female | 30 | 0 | 98 | 33/43 | 25/21 |
| Conduct | male | 30 | 0 | 28 | 9/33 | 7/65 |
| Conduct | Female | 30 | 0 | 19 | 6/46 | 5/70 |
| Learn | male | 30 | 1 | 23 | 11/36 | 7/08 |
| Learn | Female | 30 | 0 | 24 | 8/80 | 6/60 |
| Psychosomatics | male | 30 | 0 | 11 | 2/36 | 3/14 |
| Psychosomatics | Female | 30 | 0 | 13 | 2/60 | 3/89 |
| Impulsivity | male | 30 | 0 | 17 | 6/80 | 5/04 |
| Impulsivity | Female | 30 | 0 | 12 | 5/13 | 4/05 |
| Anxiety | male | 30 | 0 | 18 | 5/86 | 4/79 |
| Anxiety | Female | 30 | 0 | 13 | 4/9 | 3/22 |

Table 2: Descriptive characteristics of the variable study subjects and its components according to abused children and non-abused children

| Variable | frequency | group | minimum | maximum | average | standard |
|---------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Social adoption | Abused | 30 | 1 | 19 | 9/46 | 5/33 |
| | non abused | 30 | 24 | 13 | 6/43 | 3/21 |
| Behavioral problems | Abused | 30 | 0 | 105 | 65/26 | 24/52 |
| | non abused | 30 | 10 | 47 | 19/26 | 14/86 |
| Conduct | Abused | 30 | 0 | 28 | 11/83 | 6/94 |
| | non abused | 30 | 0 | 13 | 3/96 | 3/89 |
| Learning | Abused | 30 | 0 | 24 | 14/43 | 5/87 |
| | non abused | 30 | 0 | 19 | 5/73 | 4/86 |
| Psychosomatics | Abused | 30 | 0 | 13 | 3/56 | 4/10 |
| | non abused | 30 | 0 | 8 | 1/4 | 2/40 |
| Impulsivity | Abused | 30 | 0 | 17 | 8/83 | 3/90 |
| | non abused | 30 | 0 | 10 | 3/10 | 3/07 |
| Anxiety | Abused | 30 | 0 | 18 | 7/83 | 3/90 |
| | non abused | 30 | 0 | 11 | 2/93 | 2/49 |

Inferential statistics**First research hypothesis:**

There is a difference between Social adoption sexually abused adolescents and normal adolescents.

Table 3: test result for comparing 2 group in variable social adjustment

| Variable | group | average | Standard deviation | Differences in averages | Error in standard differences | Degrees of freedom | t | Semantically level |
|-------------------|------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Social adjustment | abused | 9/46 | 5/33 | 3/03 | 1/13 | 58 | 2/66 | 0/010 |
| | Non-abused | 6/43 | 3/21 | | | | | |

Table 3 shows that there are semantically differences between two groups in variable social adoption ($p < 0/05$) Therefore, the first research hypothesis is confirmed. And it can be concluded that social adjustment in sexually abused children and non-abused children is different. And based on the notice of average in the two groups show that abused children have the lower social adoption. It should be mentioned that high scores in compatibility questionnaire indicates poor social adoption and that's why the abused children have the high scores.

The second research hypothesis: there is a difference in behavioral problems among the normal adolescents and sexually abused adolescent.

Table 4: Results of t test to compare the two groups in variable for behavioral problems

| Variable | group | average | Standard deviation | Differences in averages | Error in standard differences | Degrees of freedom | t | Semantically level |
|---------------------|------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Behavioral problems | abused | 56/26 | 24/52 | 37 | 5/23 | 58 | 7/06 | 0/00 |
| | Non-abused | 19/26 | 14/86 | | | | | |

Information of table 4 indicates there are semantic differences between two groups in variable in behavioral problem ($p < 0/05$). Therefore, the research hypothesis is confirmed and it can be concluded that behavioral problem in sexually abused children and non-abused children is different and based on the notice of average in the two groups show that abused children have the more behavioral problem.

The multi variable analysis of variance has been used to compare the behavioral problems on both group of abused and non-abused children and the results are presented in the table below.

Equality of variance assumptions has been examined before the Variance analysis. The result indicated that assumption of equal variance ($f = 2.765$)

Table 5: Comparison of tests for multivariable

| | values | F | Degrees of freedom | semantically | the effect (coefficient eta) |
|------------------------|--------|------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Test | 0.53 | 8.48 | 52 | 0.000 | 0.53 |
| Wilks Lambda Test | 0.46 | 8.48 | 52 | 0.000 | 0.53 |
| Hotellings Trace Test | 1.14 | 8.48 | 52 | 0.000 | 0.53 |
| Second Root Trace Test | 1.14 | 8.48 | 52 | 0.000 | 0.53 |

Table 5 indicates the variable comparison of the two groups of examinee is different

Table 6: Results of the analysis of variance components of behavioral problems

| Source of changes | variable | Sum of squares | Degrees of freedom | Average squares | f | Semantically level | the effect (coefficient eta) |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| group | Conduct | 60/3744 | 1 | 60/3744 | 09/118 | 0.000 | 67/0 |
| | Learning | 41/6100 | 1 | 41/6100 | 70/209 | 0.000 | 78/0 |
| | Psychosomatics | 07/370 | 1 | 07/370 | 68/32 | 0.000 | 36/0 |
| | Impulsivity | 06/2136 | 1 | 06/2136 | 97/161 | 0.000 | 73/0 |
| | Anxiety | 81/1738 | 1 | 81/1738 | 13/162 | 0.000 | 73/0 |

Table 7: Comparison of steps

| Variable | Group | average | Standard deviation | Differences averages | Semantically level |
|----------------|------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Conduct | Abused | 11/83 | 6/94 | 7/86 | 0/000 |
| | Non abused | 96/3 | 3/89 | | |
| learning | abused | 43/14 | 5/87 | 8/700 | 0/000 |
| | Non abused | 5/73 | 4/86 | | |
| Psychosomatics | abused | 3/56 | 2/10 | 2/16 | 0/016 |
| | Non abused | 1/4 | 2/40 | | |
| Impulsivity | abused | 8/83 | 3/90 | 5/73 | 0/000 |
| | Non abused | 3/10 | 3/07 | | |
| anxiety | abused | 7/83 | 3/90 | 4/90 | 0/000 |
| | Non abused | 2/93 | 2/49 | | |

According to Table 7 indicates the semantic differences between all variables in two groups is significant at five hundred and one hundred. The third research hypothesis: social adoption in abused boys and girls is different.

Table 8: Results of t test compare the two groups in variable social adoption (boys and girls)

| Variable | group | average | Standard deviation | Differences in averages | Error standard differences | Degrees of freedom | t | Semantically level |
|-----------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Social adoption | boys | 10/40 | 5/81 | 1/86 | 1/95 | 28 | 0/95 | 0/34 |
| | girls | 8/53 | 4/82 | | | | | |

Table 8 indicates that there is no semantic difference between two variable groups in social adoption ($p > 0/05$). Therefore, the third research hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that social adoption in abused girls and boys is not different. The fourth research hypothesis: behavior problems in abused boys and girls are different.

Table 9: Results of T test to compare the two groups of boys and girls in variable of behavioral problems

| Variable | group | average | Standard deviation | Differences in averages | Error standard differences | Degrees of freedom | t | Semantically level |
|--------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Behavioral problem | boys | 63/53 | 25/42 | 14/53 | 8/69 | 28 | 1/67 | 0/106 |
| | girls | 49 | 22/05 | | | | | |

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

First hypothesis

There is a difference in social adjustment between the sexually abused adolescents and normal adolescents. These findings of hypothesis demonstrate that the social adoption in sexually abused children and normal children is different. To be more precise, sexually abused children have the lower social adjustment. The findings of the above hypothesis are coordinated with research of cashmore and Shockle (2013), spirlich and Singh (2008), Easley & colleague (2008), Ireland (2003), Hildrard and Wolfe (2002), and Naqvi and colleague (2005).

Cashmore and Shockle (2013) in their research and studies have concluded that Children who have been sexually abused as compared with their normal counterparts in i interpersonal relationships and social adoption have more problems specifically on trusting others. In this order, Aspirlich and Singh indicate also sexually abused children have lower self-esteem and they do not have enough self -confidence and have a poor social adoption.

It can be pointed out in explanation of the findings of this hypothesis. Social adjustment is a continuous quantity as well as physical, emotional and intellectual growth and gradually reaches perfection and it can be achieved during life in dealing with different experience and it is known as the most important sign of mental health, especially in adolescents. however sexually abused children do not trust on others easily due to bad and traumatic events and invasion of privacy (body integrity) and that causes a high levels of avoidant personality disorder and isolation and face them with compatibility problems.

Due to turbulent life and mental trauma caused by rapist who is from the reliable acquaintance and people around, abused child could not trust on others easily.

This group of people has a doubt in making a good relationship and trusting on others, therefore, they cannot have a desired and effective relationship and compatibility. This group of people don't have a good view of world and consequently have no effort for social adjustment and they don't like to communicate with other. Because they think being close to others and intimacy with them, makes them feel more vulnerability and lack of control.

When someone doesn't like to get close to others and avoids being touch with them. This person considered as an avoidant personality disorder and isolated person. This assumption leads to disrupt his social adjustment.

The second hypothesis

There is a difference in behavioral problem between the sexual abused adolescents and normal adolescents.

The findings indicated abused children and normal children have a different behavioral problem. In other words, we can say that sexually abused children have more behavioral problems.

This hypothesis are coordinated with the other findings research of Jonas (2011), Shrafnagl & colleaue (2010), Katajar & colleaue (2010), Ferguson (2008), Aspatarv (2004), Nelson (2002), Candler et al (2000) and Mohammad Khani (2008)

On the study of a group of sexual abused victims, Shrafnagl and colleagues concluded that Among these people is a wide range of psychological and behavioral adverse consequences.

Also (2011) in a research Trickett & colleague demonstrated that children and adolescents who have been sexually abused are more exposed to problems such as high-risk sexual activity, stress and anxiety, alcohol misuse and educational failure than their counterpart.

In the explanation of these findings of hypothesis, it can be expressed; Due to the destructive impact of child aggression and abuse of rapist and fear and stress of that result, Child suffers from problems and difficulties in short and long term period. Furthermore, state of secrecy and fear of disclosure of sexual abuse makes turmoil and guilt in a child and Followed by the behavioral and emotional problems in her. Due to a problem and its pressure, this group of children and adolescents behave in a manner which is impulsive and unstable. Sometimes show hostility to their peers, classmates and acquaintances.

Sexually abused children have less control on their behavior and are not willing to control and manage their behavior because they think they must take their through people, Even if those were not guilty and it can increase the chance of more conduct disorder.

Due to abuse and aggression see the world as an unsafe and dangerous place. As a result, they are always on alert and anxiety. This threat perception and the constant pressure can lead to anxiety, anger and psychosomatic problems. Furthermore, children and adolescents who have been sexually abused, Suffered various mental, emotional problems and non-compatibility with their peers and classmates. It would make them

unable to focus and pay attention to their affairs or assignments. If they do not receive help from friends, learning problems and failures in education are more likely occur. Adio B (2013) well expressed this attempt in finding research based on the reduction of academic performance in abused children.

Third hypothesis

Social adjustment is different in abused boys and girls. The results indicate there is no semantically difference in average score between the two groups in social adjustment.

Thus it can be concluded that there is no difference in the social adjustment of sexually abused boys and girls. The finding of this hypothesis is coordinated with Ferguson's hypothesis (2008).

Ferguson indicates in his research there are problems and issues in social adjustment among those who have been sexually abused. The extent and severity of this problem is the same for abused boys and girls. Gender of abused person has no significant effect on its compatibility problem. In the explanation of this finding could be said Some researchers in the field of child sexual abuse emphasize more on underlying and important factors such as the characteristics of family (The conflicts and family problems), the amount and intensity of sexual abuse, support and access to social resources in abused children And also mentioned features of abused child in creation and accession of problem and issues of social adjustment. Less on the gender of factor in the occurrence of these problems have been emphasized. Therefore, in this research boys or girls are similar in compatibility problems.

Forth hypothesis

There is no difference in behavioral problems of abused boy and girls. The finding of this hypothesis indicates the behavioral problem in abused boys and girls is not different.

In other word, in this research the type and intensity of behavioral problem is not related to their gender and both genders have similar levels of experience in such a problem. This hypothesis is coordinated with findings of Ferguson (2008), Yang and colleague (2007), Dobb (2005), and Binyard and colleague (2004). Yang and colleagues (2007) believe that the sexually child abused makes a same problem and unfavorable consequence in a male as well as female.

It means gender does not have a role and both sexually abused victims suffer a same intensity of behavioral problem. The present result is not coordinated with the finding hypothesis of Katajar and colleagues (2010), and mi an (1999), O'Lry (2009) and Klir vatr.

These researchers emphasized on gender as a factor in the consequences of sexual harassment. For instance, Katajar and his colleagues believe that Sexual harassment leave an adverse consequence on females rather than males. Opposed to this view klirvatr have pointed out compared to girls Sexual abused boys are more likely exposed to inner problem of shame and guilt feeling. However, in the present research, semantically differences in aspect of intensity of behavioral problem between boys and girls does not achieved. Amount and the intensity of behavioral problems in both (male and female) are equally affected.

In the explanation of this finding we can say important principles such as Socio-cultural, type and duration of sexual abuse, family environment factors (the level of mental health and marital satisfaction of parents) And access to sources of support, the development of behavior problems in that group of people has more effect rather than the factor of gender differences

This risk factor has been proven in many researches including research of Frank and Putnam (2003).

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