

RESULTS OF PSYCHOMETRIC ASSESSMENT

Personal Adjustment (Table 16):

In our cases, the results of psychometric assessment by Hana personality test showed impairment of personality in various aspects related to personal adjustment and social adjustment.

The abused children showed nearly the same degree of self reliance. This is expected because they have to depend upon themselves since their parents have had neglected them.

The sense of personal worth was impaired both in males and female children. The impact of neglect and abuse gives them no chance to feel that they worth something.

Sense of restricted personal freedom was significant only in males but not in females. This may be because ordinary parents are permissive for their male children and restraining for females. So, abused male children feel restricted.

On the other hand, abused female children feel that this is the normal make up, if they compare their freedom to that of ordinary female children.

Sense of belonging was highly impaired in both males and females. This is expected in children where parents payed them little attention and the community provided little care. It is as if they ask: "how to belong to people who do not belong to us?".

The abused children showed marked tendency to withdrawal symptoms. Being neglected at home, they protect themselves from the abusive community. The abused children showed a higher tendency to neurotic symptoms as a consequence to the act of abuse.

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SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT Table (7)

As regards social adjustment, it was found that the abused children showed impairment of their social adjustment.

Social standards were impaired only in male children but not in females. This may be because their trials to express themselves socially were not supported by neglectful parents. Lastly, they failed as their expression of themselves is not highly needed in our society.

Social skills were impaired only in females but not in males. Chances to express social skills outside home are more available for males more than females in our community.

Antisocial tendencies were high only in males but not in females. The total results of both males and females are equivocal. However, the higher tendency of male to antisocial acts can be a result of the anxiety which they suffer. Female children might be less anxious.

Family relation were highly impaired in both females and males. This is expected in abusive families where punishment is prevalent and respect is absent.

School relations are impaired only in males but not in females. School may be the only place outside home for a female child to make relationship.

Male children transfer their bad relation at home to school. Abused children may yearn for substitutes to love and often make great efforts to find a friend among youngsters of their own sex. But these attempts tend to fail because their demands are excessive and are not understood by either their friends or their parents (Kempe, 1978).

C O N C L U S I O N S

AND

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

Child abuse and neglect is a serious condition with relatively high prevalence in school-age population(1.9%).

School staff have no precise idea about child abuse; its nature, manifestations and how to detect, complications and how to handle.

There is no laws in Egyptian legislations that require physicians and school staff to detect and/or report any case of child abuse.

No statistics are available on the extent of the problem in school-children and even in the general populations.

The problem is increasing year after year because of the fore-mentioned defects in detection, reporting and management.

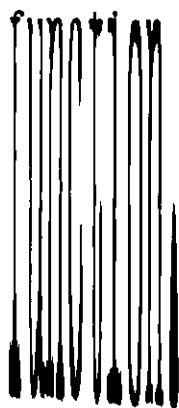
Most school child abuse does not involve injuries severe enough to require hospital reference. The child of physical abuse usually attend school with bruises, welts and occasionally burns but in most cases injuries are not of sufficient severity to necessitate care by a physician. So, many cases are not identified.

Cases were reported from all social classes but the most susceptible groups were children of handicrafts, clerks and those of no specific or constant job.

Illiteracy, especially among females is a main millieu for abuse to flourish, illiteracy should be eradicated. Family problems as financial stress, divorce, separation, death or large family size and unemployment are the major initiators of abuse. Few, if any of families with the previous problems were in contact with or received support from appropriate agencies.

Abused children are victims of not only their parents but also victims of a careless society. There were no interference on behalf of these children by any institution involved in child care.

Psychiatric disturbances are more prevalent among abused children than in school population in general. Aggressiveness, withdrawal, absenteeism led the list of these disturbances. Teachers are the premedactors of abuse. They should be educated and supported in this



Medical diseases are more commonly encountered in abused children like iron deficiency anemia, allergy & bronchial ⁵asthma. However, other diseases as rheumatic heart disease, epilepsy, .. have the same distribution in the general population.

The scholastic achievement of abused children is markedly deranged.

Personal and social adjustment of abused children is highly impaired.

The handicrafts, clerks and parents with no constant jobs are the main occupations with high potential to abuse their children.

Death of one or both parents, marital conflicts, addiction to narcotics by the father, chronic parental illness, poverty and large family size are the main factors that initiate abuse among school children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Establishment of procedures for detection, recording, and reporting child abuse and considering school staff responsible for these procedures.

The problem of child abuse should be explained to school staff as a part of their responsibility in care and education of school children.

There must be a law in the Egyptian legislation that requires physician and school staff to report about any case of abuse among school population.

The balance of social stability should be regained by education of handicrafts, finding a constant job for the unemployed parents, and financial support for the clerks.

Illiteracy is a main cause of abuse and should be eradicated as a first step to solve most of our society problems.

There must be a specialist in child abuse in every city. This specialist should be well qualified for consultation, examination and management of cases of abuse.

Centres specialized in guidance for solution of marital problems as divorce and separation should be established in every district of the city. Sound family relations is a safeguard against child abuse preposi-
tion.

Birth control to keep the number of children in every family as small as possible is one of steps in prevention.

Addiction to narcotics is a damaging habit that should be eradicated from our society.

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