

Study of the Prevalence of Psychiatric Morbidity Among a Sample of Egyptian Children Age Between (6-12) in Primary School, Orphanages, Street Children and Working Children

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Background: Psychiatric morbidity in children and adolescents considers as important problems of the family and society. In the last decade there has been increasing research into the prevalence, correlates, and consequences of homelessness, street life and the work on vulnerability and susceptibility for psychiatric disturbance in children and adolescent.

Objectives: Is to assess the prevalence of psychiatric morbidity among a sample of working children, street children, orphans in comparison with primary school children

Subjects & Methods: The sample for this study was (1003) 120 street children (84 boys, 36 girls). Collected from two

emergency street children agencies, 265 male children living in these orphanages, 68 working male children and 550 children in two primary schools (328 boys, 222 girls) from February till Augusts 2008. All children who met the inclusion criteria.

Results: About 80% of street children, 64.53% of orphans, 54.5% of working children and 25.3% of primary school children suffer from one or more of the psychiatric disorders. Nocturnal enuresis, conduct disorder, ADHD, GAD, Depression and oppositional defiant disorder. Are the most prevalent disorder among them.

Conclusion: We needs another large sample and deep researches.

Keywords: Psychiatric morbidity, Street children, Orphanes, Working children, Primary school age children.

Abbreviations:

DSM IV: Diagnostic and Statistically Manual of Mental Disorder Fourth Version

PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

SCID: Semistructure Clinical Interview Diagnosis

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INTRODUCTION

The childhood is the most important stage in the human life, which needs multiple forms of care, educational social, mental health care. In spite of the legal and social controls which guarated by the Egyptian law to protect children against the dangers of delinquency, exploitation and mal treatment, but it can not be achieved in real life and in sequence leads to appearance of the street children, There are more than 100 million street children in the world (Barker and Knaul, 1991), and more than 180 million working children age between 5-14 years old; there are as well 7837 orphans in 232 orphanages. The Egyptian studies showed that the prevalence of mental disorders in children was (4,7%-23%) (El-Sherbibi, et al. 1981 and El-Defrawi, et al. 1995), the prevalence of mental disorders among orphans was (34,2%-64,1%), (Hussein, 1996), in working children (17.9%-54.2%) (Bandeali, et al. 2008 and Omokhodion and Omokhodion, 2004), Wagner said that the prevalence in street children about 50% (Wagner and Menke, 1991) while Kerfoot et al. (2007) showed that 70% of street children suffer from conduct disorders and emotionl disorders; 74% suffer from depression (Kerfoot, et al. 2007)

Sample

This study was conducted on a total 1003 Egyptian children age between (6-12). 550 students in two primary schools in Kafr El Sheikh province (328 males, 222 females). And 265 male orphans, Living in 3 orphanages in Cairo, 120 street children attending the reception centers of Nor El Haya assembly in Imbaba (84 males and 36 females) and 68 males children who working in workshops for cars in El-herrafein, Gesr El suez, cairo, from February till August 2008, *The tools:* all 1003 children were subjected to *the following:* Socio-demographic tool and CBCL, I.Q. testing for the children who are suspected to be mentally retarded, and SCID for. Children with positive score on CBCL.

RESULTS

Table (1) notice that the most presented age group is 10-12 yrs while the age group 6-7 yrs is not represented, families having (3-5) children show high significant among street children and workers, the child with middle birth order show significant increase in the over all samples and most of the families the parents are still married.