Prediction of Adolescent Anxiety Disorders Based on Emotional Child Maltreatment

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Abstract

Child maltreatment that includes emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect has been widely documented as a risk factor for diverse negative consequences in adolescence and adulthood (Suderman & DePrince, 2015). For adolescents, these consequences include educational problems, heightened rates of law infringement, aggressive behavior, as well as various mental disorders such as mood, anxiety and eating disorders (Moggi, 2005). According to what was said, the aim of the present study was investigation of the relationship between emotional child maltreatment and anxiety disorders.

The research design of the present study was correlation. The population of the study were all the high schools of 3 regions of Tehran that of which 200 students were selected by random cluster sampling. The students completed child abuse self-report scale (CASRS) and youth self-report scale (YSR). Data were analysed by simultaneous linear regression. The results showed that emotional child maltreatment could significantly predict anxiety disorders with power of 0.27.

In explaining the result, it can be said that emotional maltreatment occurs when parents intentionally attempt to punish their children for minor errors repeated, reject children and kick them out from home. Emotional maltreatment is meant to verbal and non-verbal threat, hostility, blame, criticism and frequent scare. Such behaviors by parents lead children to anxiety because in this situation children are constantly worried about their behaviors being not to blame and threat by parents. This trend continues to adolescence and individual constantly worry about his behavior is not to blame or criticize by other persons.

Keywords: Emotional child maltreatment, Anxiety disorders, Adolescent

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