Prevalence of Social Phobia and its Influencing Factors in Abhar’s Students

Masoumeh Asgari¹, Faeze Sahbaei², Shiva Salehi³, Ebrahim Ebrahimi⁴

¹Faculty of Nursing, Abhar Islamic Azad University, Zanjan, Iran
²Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
³Department of Public Health, University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
⁴Medical Sciences Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

Abstract
Social phobia is one of the most common disorders between adolescents and young adults. The aim of this study is to investigate the prevalence of social phobia in Abhar’s high school students, at the risk-period for developing social phobia, and its influencing factors. In this cross-sectional study, a total of 5526 high school students of both genders from Abhar were selected using a census sampling method. Participants were assessed for social phobia disorder using the Liebowit Questionnaire anonymously. Information was also collected for some socio-demographics. Descriptive and inferential statistical methods with SPSS-17 used for data analysis. The prevalence of social phobia disorder was 17.2%. The study showed that sex (female); age- early age of adolescence; being single; from small family; with low educated and housekeeper mother; With a father who work in private job; Living in town; from family with average income are associate with higher prevalence of disorder. Social phobia is highly prevalent among high school students in Abhar region. Study findings can help health decision makers implement a more comprehensive strategy in this community for interventions to promote mental health and prevent social phobia.

Keywords: Social phobia, Prevalence, High school students, Adolescences, Abhar

*Corresponding Author: Masoumeh Asgari
E-mail: