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A study to assess psychosocial problems among adolescent girls living in orphanages and families of selected Pune area

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Abstract

Introduction: An orphanage is a residential institution developed to the care of orphans– Children whose parents are deceased or otherwise unable or unwilling to care for them and family is the most important factor in shaping the child’s pre-knowledge. Orphan children experience high rates of mind disturbance such as psychological problems as they feel isolated from the society.

Problem statement: A study to assess psychosocial problems among adolescent girls living in orphanages and families of selected Pune area

Materials and Methods

Research Approach: Descriptive approach.

Research Design was used exploratory survey design.

The Neumans model was used for this study

The setting of the study was selected orphanages and families in PCMC, Pune. Non probability purposive sampling technique was used of 120 samples of which 60 adolescent’s girls from orphanages and 60 adolescent’s girls from families. The tool developed which includes section 1= demographic variables, section 2= consist of Likert scale to asses psychosocial problems. Tool validity was done and tool was found reliable. Study was found feasible after pilot study.

Results: It has been observed that 16.7% of adolescents girls living in Orphanages had severe psychosocial problems and 15% of adolescent’s girls living in families had severe psychosocial problems. This indicates that average psychosocial score of families group was 45 which was 43.6 for orphanages group. Association of psychosocial problems with selected demographic variables shows that the p-values > 0.05. So null hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion: It has been observed that that Average psychosocial score of families group was 45 which was 43.6 for orphanages group. This indicates that psychosocial score of the families group was not significantly higher than that of the orphanage group. After association of psychosocial problems with demographic variable p-value greater than 0.05 hence null hypothesis is accepted.

Keywords: Assess, psychosocial problems, adolescents, families and orphanage

Introduction

An orphanage is a residential institution developed to the care of orphans– Children whose parents are deceased or otherwise unable or unwilling to care for them and family is the most important factor in shaping the child’s pre-knowledge. Orphan children experience high rates of mind disturbance such as psychological problems as they feel isolated from the society. Naturally sympathy, and willingness to bear a distributed burden for the common good, rather than to enforce an individual one, contributes to the acceptance of the care of orphans as a public duty. The family is a group of people forming the smallest unit of a society. It is known as the “Basic Building Block” of human society which has its own specific structure. Sharing and togetherness is the basic feature of the family. All the family members are expected to cooperate, have unity and togetherness to achieve the common family goals. Family is the most important factor in shaping the child’s pre-knowledge. It is seen that orphanage children are having various psychosocial problems in some aspects. Therefore various problems are faced by orphanage children such as, isolation, guilt, maladjustment, antisocial behavior, depression and so on.

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Methodology

Research Approach

Descriptive approach.

Research Design

Exploratory survey research design

Variables under Study

Dependent Variable

In this study the dependent variable is adolescent's girls.

Independent Variable

In this study the independent variable is psychosocial problems.

Research setting

The setting for this study was the selected orphanages and families in PCMC, Pune.

Population

The population of the present study comprises the adolescent's girls living in orphanages and families living in PCMC, Pune.

Sample

The sample selected for the present study comprised of adolescent's girls from orphanages and families in Balikagram Dehuroad, Royal rose foundation Sanghavi, Sparsh Balgram Bhopodi, Vallabhagar and Kalewadi.

Sample selection criteria

Inclusion criteria

Adolescents living in orphanages. Adolescents of age group 12- 17 years.

Exclusion criteria

Girls who are critically ill. Visually and handicapped girls. Mentally unstable girls.

Sample size: 120 in which 60 samples are of adolescent living with families and 60 samples are of adolescent living in orphanage.

Sampling technique

Non probability purposive sampling technique

Development of tool

Opinions and suggestions were taken from the experts, which helped in determining the important areas to be included.

Description of the tool

It includes three sections

Section I

This section involves items searching the information on demographic profile of a sample such as age, educational qualification, religion and nature of caretaker.

Section II

It consists of Five Point Likert Scale to assess the psychosocial problems of adolescent's girls living in orphanages and families. Scores were given base on the rating given by sample which includes: Strongly agree,

Agree, uncertain, Disagree, Strongly disagree. Psychosocial problems score: SA= 5marks, A= 4marks, UN= 3marks, DA= 2marks, SD= 1mark.

Validity

The data collection tool was sent to experts along with a scoring sheet for content validity. Tool was sent to 25 experts out of whom, 15 were received back with their valuable suggestions and guidance for the perfection. The validity of the tool was established by experts from the different departments i.e. Pediatric Medicine, Pediatric Nursing, Psychologist, Psychiatric Nursing, Sociologist and Community Health Nursing. The valuable suggestions from the experts were used to receive a positive direction for the study. Certain items were modified as per their suggestions.

Reliability

Reliability for psychosocial problems was assessed using test-retest method. Reliability for tool was 0.84. Hence the tool is found to be reliable for the study.

Plan for data collection

1. Ethical committee clearance
2. Permission from authorities of the selected orphanages and corporator in P.C.M.C, Pune.
3. Consent from the adolescents
4. The investigator approached the selected samples, informed them regarding the objectives of the study and obtained their consent after assuring the confidentiality of the data.
5. The investigator had given the questionnaire to the children to assess the psychosocial problems of adolescent's girls living in orphanages and families.
6. The duration of the data collection for each sample was 25 to 30 minutes.

Data analysis and interpretation

1. Items related to the background variables would be analyzed in terms of frequency and percentages.
2. Scores would be graded in 3 categories i.e. mild, moderate and severe.
3. Frequency distribution would be plotted to represent the final score.
4. Mean, standard deviation of the test would be computed. The findings would be documented in tables, graphs and diagrams.

Pilot study

The pilot study was done in orphanages and families. It was conducted by Test- Retest method. After doing pilot study investigator found that it is feasible to carry out actual study.

Result

The major findings of the study were based on the objectives of the study.

Section I Demographic variables

I have included Age, religion, educational qualification and nature of care taker in demographic variable.

It shows that the girls with families, 21.7% of them had age 12-13 years, 31.7% of them had age 14-15 years and 46.7% of them had age 16-17 years. In girls with orphanages, 35% of them had age 12-13 years, 46.7% of them had age 14-15

years and 18.3% of them had age 16-17 years. Whereas girls with families, 23.3% of them were Hindu, 11.7% of them were Muslim and 65% of them were Christians. In girls with orphanages, all of them were Christians. The educational qualification of the girls with families shows that 53.3% of them were secondary students and 46.7% of them were higher secondary students. In girls with orphanages, 93.3% of them are secondary students and 6.7% of them are higher secondary students. The nature of caretaker of the girls with families 11.7% of them had loving and caring taker, 60% of them had kind hearted caretaker and 28.3% of them had over protective caretaker. In girls with orphanages 15% of them had loving and caring caretaker and 85% of them had kind hearted caretaker.

Section II: Analysis of data related to the psychosocial problems of adolescent girls living in orphanages and families

The psychosocial problems of adolescents living with families is severe than orphanage. The psychosocial

problems of adolescents living with families is 85% than in orphanage which is 83.3%.

Section III: Analysis of data related to the comparison of psychosocial problems of adolescents girls living in orphanage and families.

It shows that Average psychosocial score of families group was 45 which was 43.6 for orphanages group. Psychosocial problems in adolescent girls living with families and orphanages group were not significantly different. Even if the psychosocial problems score of the families group was higher than that of orphanages group, it is not significantly higher

Section IV: Analysis of data related to associate the psychosocial problems with demographic variable

Since all the p-values were large (greater than 0.05), there is no evidence against null hypothesis. None of the demographic variables was found to have significant association with psychosocial problems of adolescent girls from orphanages.

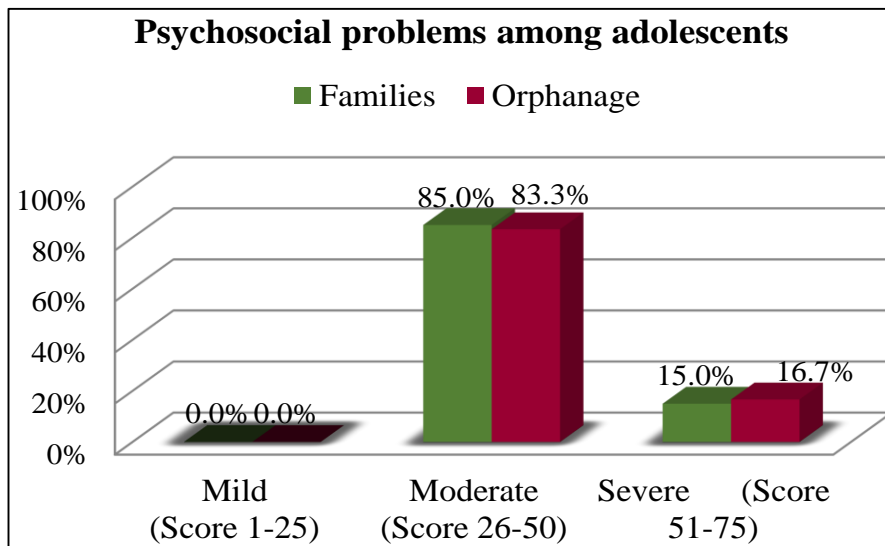


Fig 1: Bar graph shows description of psychosocial problems among adolescent’s girls living in orphanage and families.

Table 1: Description of samples (adolescent girls in orphanages and families) according to their personal characteristics in frequency and percentages N=120

| Demographic variable | Families | | Orphanages | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
| Age | | | | |
| 12-13 years | 13 | 21.7% | 21 | 35.0% |
| 14-15 years | 19 | 31.7% | 28 | 46.7% |
| 16-17 years | 28 | 46.7% | 11 | 18.3% |
| Religion | | | | |
| Hindu | 14 | 23.3% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Muslim | 7 | 11.7% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Christian | 39 | 65.0% | 60 | 100.0% |
| Educational qualification | | | | |
| Secondary | 32 | 53.3% | 56 | 93.3% |
| Higher secondary | 28 | 46.7% | 4 | 6.7% |
| Nature of caretaker | | | | |
| Loving and caring | 7 | 11.7% | 9 | 15.0% |
| Kind heartedness | 36 | 60.0% | 51 | 85.0% |
| Over protective | 17 | 28.3% | 0 | 0.0% |

Conclusion

It has been observed the structured questionnaire score was 45 and 43.6 of adolescent's girls in orphanages and families. This indicates that the psychosocial problems of families' psychosocial problems in adolescent girls living with families and orphanage group were not significantly different. This result shows there is no association with demographic variable.

Discussion

This study involved assessment through questionnaire, non-probability purposive sampling technique used to draw samples. The size of the sample was 120 adolescent girls from orphanages and families were taken according to inclusion and exclusion criteria. In this study majority of the adolescent's girls from families had age 16-17 years, 31.7% of them had age 14-15 years, 21.7% of them had age 12-13 years and majority of the adolescent's girls from orphanage had age 14-15 years, 35% of them had age 12-13 years, 18.3% of them had age 16-17 years. 23.3% of the girls with families were hindu, 11.7% of them were muslim and majority of the adolescent's girls from orphanages were christians. Educational qualification of girls with families were 53.3% of them were secondary students, 46.7 were higher secondary students and of orphanages girls 93.3% of them were higher secondary students, 6.7% were higher secondary students. Nature of care taker of girls with families 60% of them had kind hearted caretaker, 28.3% of them had overprotective caretaker, 11.7% of them had loving and caring and with orphanages girls 85% of them had kind hearted caretaker, 15% of them had loving and caring caretaker. Majority of the girls from families among which 85% of them had moderate psychosocial problems, 15% of them had severe psychosocial problems and in orphanages girls 83.3% had moderate psychosocial problems, 16.7% had severe psychosocial problems. The comparison of psychosocial problems living in orphanages and families was done using Z-test. The Z value for comparison was 0.8. Corresponding p-value > 0.5 was 0.224, so null hypothesis is accepted. A similar study was conducted to compare orphans development in two care systems. Based on age, sex psychological orphans in the traditional poster (n=94) and orphanages (n=48) in a middle large in Iraqi Kurdistan. At an index interview, child behavior checklist (CBCL) Harvard Uppsala trauma questionnaire for children & post-traumatic stress symptoms for children were administered to the caregivers. Although both samples revealed significant decrease in the means of total competence and problem scores over time the improvement in activity scale, externalizing problem scores and post-traumatic stress disorder related symptoms proved to be more significant in the poster care than in the orphanages. Even if the two orphan care systems showed more similarities than difference the poster care revealed better outcomes over time. The result are discussed in relation to gender, age, socio economic situation, cultural values and the characteristic of each care system.

Limitations

1. This study was limited only to 120 samples. Hence the findings cannot be generalized.
2. This study was limited to those who were willing to participate

3. This study was limited to adolescent's girls residing in selected setting and areas.
4. Data collection period was limited

Recommendation

Keeping in view the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

- A similar study may be replicated on small samples; there by findings can be generalized for a small population.
- A comparative study may be conducted of boys and girls living in orphanage.
- An experimental study may be conducted to assess the psychological problems among adolescents.
- A study may be conducted to assess the self-esteem among adolescent's girls living in orphanage.
- A similar kind of study can be undertaken in different settings and different target population.

Acknowledgement

"Lord, thank you for walking with us through the seasons of our lives. Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

It is something beyond one's human ability to put in words one's sincere feeling of gratitude to those whom one Owens's something.

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