

**"The extent symptom of anxiety and its relationship with depression among children who live in orphanages in the northern governorates of Palestine."**

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**Abstract:**

The study aims to identify the extent symptom of anxiety and its relationship with depression among children who live in orphanages in the northern governorates of Palestine. The sample of the study consists of children living in orphanages aged between 12-6 years. A total number of 212 boys and girls, of whom 116 males and 96 females, has been under study.

The study used the descriptive research method. The instruments of the study included both the Revised Children's Manifest Anxiety Scale (RCMAS) and the Birlson Depression Scale.

The results of the study showed that 38.7% of the children in care homes have symptoms of anxiety while 87.3% of them have symptoms of depression. Indeed, the results of the study pointed to the presence of a statistically significant correlation between the symptoms of anxiety and depression amongst children living in orphanages in the northern governorates of Palestine. In other words, the more symptoms of anxiety, the greater the symptoms of depression found among these children.

The results indicated that there were statistically significant differences at  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  in the prevalence of anxiety symptoms among children who live in orphanages in the northern governorates of Palestine in relation to the place of residence.

also there were statistically significant differences at the level of significance ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the prevalence of anxiety symptoms among children residing in orphanages in the northern governorates of Palestine according to the variable the reason for the child's presence in care homes (divorce, separation, orphans, poverty), the symptoms of anxiety were higher in children due to the absence of one or both parents, followed by children living in care homes due to orphans, also there were differences in the academic achievement variable and the symptom were higher in children with excellent and very good school achievement and the symptom were higher in children with excellent and very good school achievement. However, there were no statistically significant differences for each of the other demographic and non-demographic variables.

The results also pointed out that there were statistically significant differences at the level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  in the prevalence of depression symptoms in children who reside in orphanages in the northern governorates of Palestine in relation to age of the child. It has been found that the symptoms of depression were more prevalence among those who age was 8 years. It has also been found out that when considering the variable of the school grade, second graders have a higher rate of manifesting of depression symptoms than other graders.

The results also indicated that there were statistically significant difference at the level of significance ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the the northern governorates of Palestine according to some of the non-demographic variables. The variable the reason for the child's presence in care homes (divorce, separation, orphans, poverty, one or both parents' illnesses, etc.) was actually found to be higher among children due to the absence of one or both parents. Besides, differences were found due to academic achievement where depression was higher among children with excellent performance.

That being said, there were no statistically significant differences in the prevalence of depression symptoms in children who reside in orphanages for each of the other demographic and non-demographic variables.

Based on the above results, the researcher has come up with a number of recommendations for the specialists working in care homes, future researchers and decision-makers, particularly those in the management of care homes. Some of recommendations include: The importance of providing counseling programs and psychosocial support to children living in care homes, In addition to dedicating studies that tackle the living situation of children who live in care homes in Palestine. Highlighting the psychological and physical problems and needs of children and ways to solve these problems is also key. Finally, the study stresses the importance of early intervention for children living in orphanages to prevent further consequences.