

Self-harm behaviors among adolescent females who have been sexually abused "case study research"

Prepared by: Mahde Husian Mahmoud Al-Hafeth

Supervisor: Dr. Eyad Al-Halaq

Abstract

The aim of the study was to obtain information on the behavior of adolescent self-harm and the role of sexual assault. The study was conducted to determine the degree of severity of self-harm and sexual attack in adolescent girls in the Hebron governorate. In order to achieve the objective of the study clinical and qualitative method were employed. Adolescents and adults responded to questions asked during an interview. The age of the sample girls was between 11-21 years old.

This population practiced self-harm after being sexually assaulted. The study came to the following conclusions:

- The severity of self-harming after sexual assault depends on the reactions of the family, especially the mother.
- The strength of the relationship between the aggressor and the victim before the sexual assault. The stronger the relationship the harder the severity of self harming behaviors.
- The fragility of initial relationship with the mother, lack of solid bonds and low self esteem are factors that greatly contribute to vulnerability.
- Feeling responsible for what happened to them, thus inflicting punishment to oneself and as a form of revenge towards family members.

Sometimes as a way to seek attention. Recommendations:

- More training should be provided to doctors in government health facilities, private clinics, especially in the emergency department.
- With knowledge on how to proceed, these patients can be transferred to centers which provide psychological treatment.
- Enactment of legislation so employees report these cases.

- Design psychological intervention programs and work with centers that treat self-harming and sexual assault victims.
- Design programs to teach parental skills to help parents build a safe and secure relationships with their children.
- Continue studying sexual abuse in order to create awareness of this daunting issue