

THE EFFECTS OF ABUSE UPON THE CHILD'S BEHAVIOR

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Abstract: The following study presents the problems of the physical abuse upon the child's behaviour in the social, cultural, political and economical context he has been raised, the effects upon his actions, because of the discipline methods the parents have adopted, in order to correct and educate a defective behaviour.

Key words: abuse, behaviour, consequences

In the following essay I intend to answer several questions regarding this occurrence: “In what way are the children mishandled?”; “Who are the persons that abuse and neglect them?”; “What kind of behaviour can be defined as abusive?”; “Which are the consequences of these abusive actions upon the child who is going to grow up as an adult and future parent?”; “What does the Romanian Government do in order to stop this phenomenon?”. Thus, the following work intends, on one hand, to demonstrate a better knowledge of this phenomenon of abuse and the disregard of the child in the context of his family: causes and factors of risk, forms of abuse and neglect.

On the other hand, the essay presents the study of this phenomenon in the context of our country. In this way, I tried to identify the factors of risk for these minors belonging to an abusive and neglecting background in their families, the most frequent forms of this

phenomenon, the socio-demographical distribution of these victims, as well as the consequences of this ill-treatment upon the physical and psychological development of the child. We cannot deny the fact that the problem of abuse has become a very important social issue. The interest for this case has enhanced, especially in the past 16 years, since the Government decided to accord a special attention to the consequences of abuse, as well as, to its causes. Every parent, academic teacher, that carry a not very easy duty, that of raising and educating the children, should be informed about the phenomenon of abuse, about its causes, the factors of risk, and lastly, about its consequences, on a short or long period of time, upon the physical and psychological development of the one who is being abused, regardless of the form it takes. When we discuss about the subject of abuse, it is necessary to underline the fact that we are dealing only with victims, this means, the ones who abuse is tabulated as a victim, as well as the one being abused. The abusive person becomes a victim because he does not benefit from a good information about this phenomenon, without knowing how to deal with his own child; this applying only in the cases in which the abusive person does not suffer of psychological disturbances.

The physical, psychological or social violence that occur in the background of a family is one of the most serious problems the modern societies is confronting with. The quality of a child's life can be observed from the abusive context he has been placed in, sometimes even since his birth. Also, many adults are restricted of their own happiness, because of the uneffective relationships they have, as consequences of the damaged treatments they have been exposed to, since their childhood.

This essay intends to demonstrate the fact that many parents adopt an abusive behavior without knowing that this kind of acting is very

detrimental to their children. This influences the way the child will evaluate himself, how he will retrospect to the others, as well as his confidence and the value he will adjust to his qualities. In fact, the entire image a person creates of himself, and this image, is often formed through the permanent reference to the others, to the models offered by the others, to the appraisals these may give to this person.

Children are very different from one another, each of them growing in his own particular way. One child can be different from those of the same age, but the way he will be considered normal or not depends on the expectations of those around him. (Dinah Jayson 2008).

Family, as a principal institution of the society represents "a necessary condition for the personal and professional fulfilment." Furthermore, beside these qualities, it can represent a group where tensions and conflicts can occur, and they will affect the child's life.

The assumptions framed within the research are the following:

Assumption no.1 – There are considerable differences for the aggressive degree, between children coming from a favourable background and children coming from a traumatizing background.

Assumption no. 2 – There are considerable differences for the anxiety degree, between children coming from a favourable background and children coming from a traumatizing background.

Assumption no. 3 – There are considerable differences for the loneliness degree between children coming from a favourable background and children coming from a traumatizing background.

The pattern is composed in 30 subjects, pupils found between the ages 10-11 years, 17 girls and 13 boys.

In the following study, there has been used range instruments validated on the Romanian population and exploited by scientific

researches. One questionnaire contains desolation scale, one contains the aggression scale and another one, the anxiety scale, each of them has been individually and deliberately administered to the subject.

For the assumption no.1, it can be assumed the great influence between the type of a background (favourable or traumatizing) and the aggressive behaviour a child aged between 10-11 years can adopt, thus obtaining higher scores (higher aggression) for the subjects belonging to a unfavourable environment than the subjects belonging to a pleasant background. Pointing lower scores of aggression, the results are the following:

a) Descriptive results for assumption no.1:

- within a traumatizing background 60% (n=9) presents a higher aggression and 40 % presents a medium physical aggression. (table no. 3)

- within a favourable background 20% (n=3) presents a higher physical aggression and 80 % (n=12) develops a medium aggression.

- none of the subjects presents a lower physical aggression (table no. 1)

Table no. 1

The physical aggression degree according to a favourable or traumatizing background.

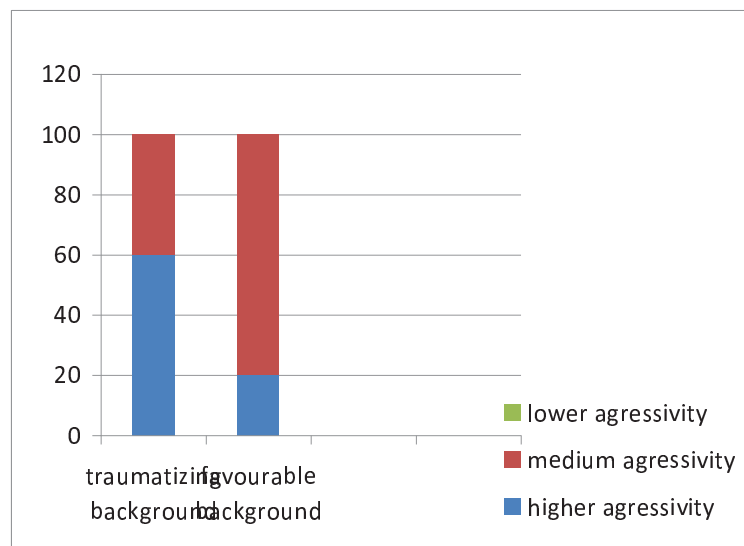
Subjects	Traumatizing		Favourable		Total group		Physical Aggression
	No	%	No.	%	No	%	
	9	60	3	20	12	40	Higher
	6	40	12	80	18	60	Medium
	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lower
Total	15	100	15	100	30	100	

Table no.2

Statistic values of the phisical agressivity variable according to the background type of family.(favourable or traumatizing)

Phisical Agressivity	N	Min.	Max.	Average	Standard Declination
Traumatizing Background	15	24.00	33.00	28.5091	2.4561
Favourable Background	15	22.00	31.00	25.9524	2.7846

Phisical Agressivity



b) The result of the inferential elaboration for assumption no. 1:

On the score of the application of One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smimov Test, it resulted that the distribution is relatively simetrical having two independent patterns, thus I proceeded for applying the “t” test for the equality of the averages, obtaining the following results:

Table no.3

The "t" test for the equality of the averages

	Coefficient	Liberty Degree df	Significance Bar	The Average Differences
Physical aggressivity	-4.793	95	.000	2.5567

In the train of the inferential adaptations it has resulted a value for the $t(95)$ rest equal with -4.793 at the bar of $p = 0.000 < 0.01$ one-sided test, consequently, the research hypotesis is supported by both types of family background found in the study, but existing several distincitons to the phisical aggresivity.

ASSUMPTION NO.2 – There is a significant influence of the family enviroment (traumatizing or favourable) upon the anxious behavior of a child aged between 10-11 years, in the sense of obtaining a higher score (high anxiety) than a child belonging to a favourable background obtaining a lower score of anxiety.

Within the traumatizing family background 66,67% (n=10) presents a higher anxiety and 33,33% (n=5) presents a medium anxiety. (table no.3).

Within the favourable family background 33,33% (n=5) presents higher anxiety, 60% develops a medium anxiety and 6,67% (n=1) presents a lower anxiety.

The subjects belonging to a traumatizing background do not present a lower degree of anxiety.

Table no. 4
The anxiety Degree according to the family background
(favourable or traumatizing)

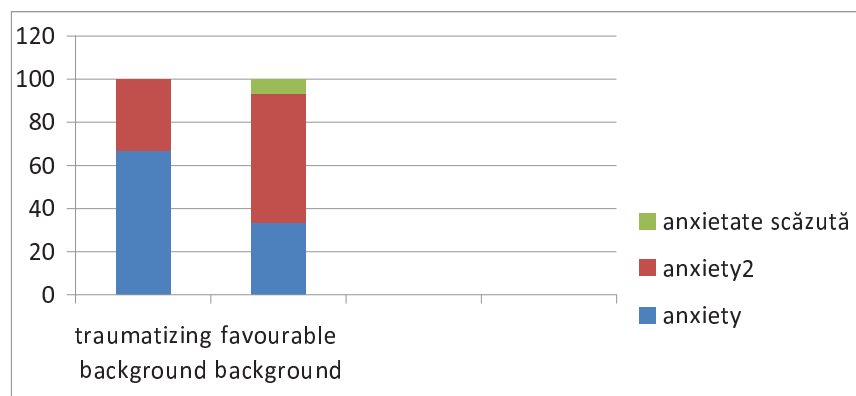
Subjects	Traumatizing Background		Favourable Background		Total group		Anxiety
	No.	%	No.	%	N o.	%	
	10	66,6	5	33,3	15	50	Higher
	5	33,3	9	60	14	46,67	Medium
	-	-	1	6,67	1	3,33	Lower
Total	15	100	15	100	30	100	

Table no.5

Statistic values of the anxiety variable according to
the family background (favourable or trumatizing)

Anxiety	N	Min.	Max.	Average	Standard Deviation
Traumatizing Background	42	12.00	41.00	29.7636	6.1913
Favourable Background	55	17.00	29.00	23.7143	3.3150

Anxiety



Tabel no. 5

“T” test for the equality pf the averages

ANXIETY	Coefficient t	Degree of Liberty df	Significance Bar	The Average Differences
Anxiety	-5.731	95	.000	6.0493

On the score of the inferential adaptations it resulted a test value $t(95)$ equal with -5,731 at the bar of $0.000 < 0.01$, one-sided test, the assumption of the research is supported by the two types of relations resulted in the test regarding the several differences for anxiety. In order to observ the differences it is necessary only to study table no.5. Thus, it ascertained that children who come from traumatizing background present a higher level of anxiety than those who come from a favourable enviroment.

ASSUMPTION NO.3 – There can be seen a significant corelation between the background (trumatizing or favourable) and desolation regarding children aged between 10 and 11 years, it has resulted higher levels of desolation for children coming from a truamatizing background than a chikd belonging to a favourable family enviroment.

Within the traumatized background type 66,6% (n=10) presents a medium desolation and 33,33% (n=5) presents a lower level of desolation. (tabel no.6).

Within the favourable background 40% (n=6) presents a medium level of desolation, 60% (n=9) develops a lower level of desolation. None of the subjects presents a higher level of desolation.

Table no. 6

Statistic results for levels of desolation regarding a traumatized or favourable background

Subjects	Traumatizing background		Favourable Background		Total group		Desolation
	No.	%	Nr.	%	Nr.	%	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	Higher
	10	66,67	6	40	16	53,33	Medium
	5	33,33	9	60	14	46,67	Lower
Total	15	100	15	100	30	100	

Table no. 7

Statistic result regarding levels of desolation within a favourable or traumatized type of family background.

Desolation	N	Min.	Max.	Average	Standard Deviation
Traumatizing Background	42	28.00	41.00	36.2857	3.3297
Favourable Background	55	18.00	36.00	24.9818	4.5684

Loneliness

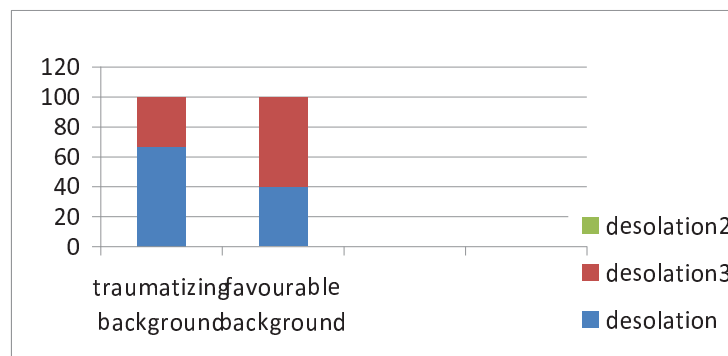


Table nr. 8

“T” test for the equality of the averages

DESOLATION	Coefficient	Levels of Liberty df	Significance Bar	The Average Differences
Desolation	13,520	95	.000	11,3039

The inferential researches show a result of the test $t(95) = 12,52$ to the significance bar $p = 0,000$, thus the resulted differences are statistically significant for $p = 0,05$, attesting the discharged assumption.

Conclusions:

According to the assumptions and objectives that have been done, the results regarding the child’s behaviour (agressive, anxious, lonely) depending on the background he has been raised in, came into our light.

The comparative analysis presents the fact that the behaviour is influenced by the family background revealing significant differences between children belonging to different type of environment in their families.

In order to grow up, being capable to survive and take care for the family, the child needs not only food, physical comfort and a shelter, but also a favourable climate for his psychological development. A pleasant environment, a united family, the respect of physical and psychological integrity, special medical care, everything of these and more have to be present in his life.

A child’s placement in the center of a society’s preoccupations needs to constitute a priority of all the implicated factors and be responsible for his protection. If we understand that the child is a person who needs respect, love, appreciation, guidance and support, we could talk about a respect of his rights and a good protection.

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