

Agoraphobia in Children

Agoraphobia disease

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USPA NEWS - Assist. Prof. Dr. Besma Kareem Shamikh Al-saadi

Abstract

Agoraphobia is defined as the number of associated and interrelated phobias that include leaving home or entering shopping markets or crowded areas, buses or airplane, and although the strong anxiety and the extant of avoidant behavior.

Still this disorder is the most type of phobia disorders that causes helplessness.

The present research aims at knowing the following:

1- Agoraphobia in male children.

2- The significance of differences of Agoraphobia in male children who lost their parents in comparison with those who did not.

The present research is limited to pupils in the primary schools from the fifth grade/ morning study. Accordingly the researcher has chosen the sample by using the random equalized method, however, the sample consists of (200) male pupils only.

However, the researcher has relied on the tenth international classification of behavioral and mental illnesses (ICD/10) (world health organization, 2013) in constructing and interpreting the scale of agoraphobia. (16) verbal items have been formulated by using self-report statements and (16) pictures represent the verbal items where there are two alternatives (yes- no) in front of each one, when scoring they are given (2-1) respectively.

The researcher has exposed the scale in a form of a special questionnaire on (14) experts from psychological counseling, mental health, psychiatry and measurement and evaluation whereby a number of items has been modified.

However, the researcher has ascertained the discriminatory power of the items and their validity by applying the scale on a sample consists of (200) pupils.

The researcher has ascertained the construction validity through the correlation of the item with the final grade and through the internal correlations array. The reliability of the scale has been ascertained by using two methods: by using re-test, where the reliability coefficient is (0,84) when administering the test on (20) pupils; and by using the half division method where the correlation coefficient between the two halves is (0, 6906) through using Pearson coefficient. And by using Spearman formula the the reliability of the whole test is (0,82).

The other statistical means that have been used are t-test for on independent sample and t-test for two independent samples; however, the results show the following:

1- The sample of the present research suffers from agoraphobia.

2- There are no statistically significant differences in agoraphobia in male children who lose their parents in comparison with their peers who have parents.

In the light of the above results, the researcher has put forward a number of recommendations and suggestions such as:

Recommendations:

1- The researcher recommends the necessity of activating the role of the psychological therapist in primary schools.

2- The necessity for the parents in working on acquiring the trust of their children which helps in knowing the problems and -----in order to be a positive factor in their children life.

Suggestions:

1- The researcher suggest conducting a study for constructing a scale for measuring agoraphobia in particular for female children.

2- Conducting an empirical study for the purpose of constructing a therapeutic program to moderate agoraphobia of children especially male children.

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