

A descriptive study of eating disturbances in a French university student population: the EAT-26 utility

Emilie BOUJUT*

University Paris Descartes, France

Stephan DOMBROWSKI

Institute of Health & Society, Newcastle University, England

Abstract

University students are a population at risk of developing eating disorders, especially when they arrive at university. During this period of developmental and educational transition, medical examination is mandatory in France giving the opportunity of screening for these disorders. However, physicians and nurses administering these screens refrain using tools with psychometric properties. EAT-26 was administered to 1096 first year university students during the medical check and socio-demographic variables were measured. The results showed that the EAT-26 is an effective tool to describe the prevalence of eating disorders in a non-clinical population and at identifying profiles of students at risk according to demographic characteristics.

Key words: eating disturbances, anorexia nervosa, bulimia.

*
* *

The Abuses On Gifted Children And Young People – Counteracting Strategies

Gratiela ALBISOR*

PsyArt Counseling Center, Bucharest, Romania

Abstract

The present study aims to investigate the abusive situations /abuses of gifted children and young people. The gifted children and young people that we refer to in the present research are those capable of superior performance in intellectual, academic and / or artistic domains. The main objective of this study is constituted of determining the bias types of abuse these children and young people are subjected to, and also to highlight possible strategies to deal with abuse. In the present study we refer to the abuses that may occur in the children's relation with school, family or social environment. Literature in this domain is almost inexistent in Romania, therefore this study is based on theoretical assumptions and observations of foreign researches and is sustained by the empirical observations made after a Pilot Program for selecting gifted children, held in Bucharest (on children with ages between 7 years old and 13 years old). I also used in this study, observations made during psychological counselling sessions of gifted children and young people that I had the opportunity to work with in private practice. The conclusions of this study are actually a warning sign for the particular situation of the gifted children and young people at the moment in our country. Ignoring the different needs of education, the neglect, rejection and social isolation, ridicule, stigma or flattening, intellectual exploitation by family or school, etc. are only some of the most visible forms of

abuse on these children and youth. Strategies to counteract these abuses can only start from a good knowledge of the specific developmental needs of these children and youth. It is necessary for these strategies to integrate dynamic factors related to the triad family - school – society.

Key words: gifted children and young people, abuses, developmental and educational needs, counteracting strategies.

*
* *

The Hand Test in clinical assessment of children and adolescents

Elena Otilia VLADISLAV*

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Psychology, University of Bucharest, Romania

Gabriela MARC

Child Welfare Bucharest sector 5, Romania

Elena Mirela AGAVRILLOAEI

Alexandru Obregia Hospital, Pediatric Neurology Clinic, Bucharest, Romania

Irina MĂRĂCINEANU

Bucharest Emergency University Hospital, Romania

Abstract

The research study discussed here was meant to test the clinic validity and usefulness of the Hand Test (HT) widely used as a diagnostic instrument in the assessment of children and adolescents with psychological disorders. The test was administered to 131 non-clinical children and adolescents with ages between 7 and 17 and to 160 clinical subjects of the same age.

For this study, we included the analysis of the Interpersonal, Environmental, Maladjustive, Withdrawal, AOS, and Pathological scores as well as qualitative Hand Test variables. The investigation showed significant differences between the variables of the Hand Test for each clinical category: epilepsy, internalizing disorders and externalizing disorders.

Case studies that show the applicability and usefulness of the Hand Test conjoined with the DAP test in the clinical evaluation of children and adolescents are discussed in the second part of this articles.

Key words: epilepsy, internalizing disorders, externalizing disorders.

*
* *

Assessing The Quality Of Pediatric Care From Children's Experience

Francisca GONZÁLEZ-GIL*

Faculty of Psychology, Salamanca University, Spain

Cristina JENARO

Faculty of Psychology, Salamanca University, Spain

Elena Martín PASTOR

Faculty of Education, Salamanca University, Spain

Abstract

The purpose of the current study was to examine the impact of disease and hospitalization on children's quality of life. METHOD: Three measures were administered to 105 participants ranging in age from 6 to 15 years, from public hospitals in Castilla y Leon (Spain). Data were collected throughout 9 months. Measures were the Survey on Subjective Perception of Hospitalization and Hospital (CPSH), the quality of life survey KINDL, and the health survey SF-36. Internal consistency coefficients were acceptable for most of scales and subscales. Results indicated that children experience a decrease in their quality of life, mainly in daily living activities and psychological well being; that emotional states impact their quality of life, and that hospitals need to make some changes to better meet the needs of hospitalized children. CONCLUSIONS: Interventions, at an organizational and individual level, may help improve the well-being of hospitalized children.

Key words: hospitalized children, quality of life, needs, assessment, health.

*
* *

The Influence Of Parental Style On Emotional Intelligence And Self-Esteem At Adolescents

Laurențiu MITROFAN*

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Psychology, University of Bucharest, Romania

Abstract

This study proposes, as an objective, to call attention to relationships existing between the parental style perceived by children at the postadolescent age, their emotional intelligence and their current self-esteem.

Through this study we want to highlight the fact that relations between parents and children influence the development of the child's personality in a positive or in a negative negative way. In order to illustrate that it will be mentioned that a satisfying relation between parents and children based on understanding, love and support can lead to positive effects in the child's development, he can be more self confident, he can emotionally answer to environmental stimuli, he will be prepared for every situation in life. By contrast, a parental behaviour based on strict rules, amplified control, less affection shown in an obvious manner can determine certain confusions and the child's lack of trust in his

own strength, his incapacity of admitting his and others' emotions, of being empathetic to someone's suffering.

This study can be considered a guide for parents, who can discover on these lines how important is their behavior towards their children, how it can influence them in their subsequent development. This paper points out the parental style, the way in which parents educate and approach their children. There are several types of parental styles, in this study being investigated only three of them, considered by Diana Baumrind as prime, and those are: the democratic, authoritative and permissive style. As it was proven by other authors, in this research we demonstrate the fact that the democratic parental style is the most efficient in educating a child, and according to the hypotheses of this study, this style influences positively the emotional intelligence of the child as well as his self-esteem.

Key words: parental style, self-esteem, emotional intelligence.

*
* *

The Effect Of Unifying Creative Meditation Technique And The Dark-Ambient Music On The Level Of Aggression, The Kinesthetic, Cognitive And Physiological Functioning

Sorina Daniela DUMITRACHE*

“Titu Maiorescu” University, Bucharest, Romania

Emil Răzvan GÂTEJ

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Psychology, University of Bucharest, Romania

Abstract

Introduction: We are permanently exposed, voluntarily or involuntarily, to a series of auditory stimuli. These can generate positive or negative effects on the psychosomatic level.

Objectives: In this research we are trying to reveal the effects of auditory stimuli (unifying creative meditation technique versus dark-ambiental music) on the level of aggression, kinesthetic and cognitive performance, and on heart rate and blood pressure.

Method: For the present experiment were selected by simple random sampling 75 subjects among the first year psychology students population, female and male, aged between 19 and 35. In the experiment were used the following tests and devices: Aggression Inventory (Brian A. Gladue), Memory test, blood pressure and heart rate monitor, driving simulator device, Two hand coordination test (Struktura), and a computer as a source of sound. The subjects of the experimental groups were exposed to a series of auditory stimuli (the first group to unifying creative meditation exercises, and the second group to dark-ambient music). Subjects were asked to keep their attention focused. After applying stimuli, subjects were tested using the same tests and devices used for the control group (for control group no particular stimuli were applied).

Results: The results are showing that unifying creative meditation technique correlates with increased cognitive-kinesthetic performance and with a low aggressiveness and decreased heart rate and blood pressure. The results are also indicating that dark-ambient music correlates with decreased cognitive, kinesthetic performance, with high levels of aggression and extreme values of the pulse.

Conclusions: We may conclude that some stimuli, the subjects can be voluntary or involuntary exposed to, could cause psychological useful or harmful changes.

Key words: unifying creative meditation technique, dark-ambient music, pshychological and physiological functioning.