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The Relationship between Early Maladaptive Schemas with Clinical Personality Patterns in Prisoners having Personality Disorders

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Abstract- This study aimed to investigate the relationship between early maladaptive schemas with clinical personality patterns in prisoners having personality disorder. The study population consisted of male prisoners in Behshahr city. The total of 80 male prisoners was selected as Sample. Purposeful sampling was used. Minnesota Multiphase asic Personality Inventory (MMPIII) and Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI - III) were applied to collect the needed information. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean ±SD...), inferential statistics, Pearson correlation and regression .The findings indicate that there is a significant relationship between early maladaptive schemas of mistrust / abuse with paranoid personality disorder, early maladaptive schemas of dependence / incompetence with dependent personality disorder and early maladaptive schemas of social isolation / alienation with avoidant personality disorders and early maladaptive schemas of entitlement with narcissistic personality disorder.

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I. Introduction

The best estimates suggest that 10 to 13 percent of people have the diagnostic criteria relating personality disorders (1). In addition, most people at certain periods or during the growing have criteria relating more than one personality disorder (2) it is estimated that 50 percent of those having one personality disorder criteria, will also develop criteria related to other personality disorders (3). Holmes et al (2002) concluded that about 19 to 49 percent of psychiatric patients suffer one of the personality disorders (4). Longitudinal researches on personality disorders in both adolescence and adulthood (5) demonstrated public health risk factors are related to personality disorders. personality disorder predisposes other psychiatric disorders (such as drug use, suicide, emotional disorders, impulse control disorders, eating disorders, anxiety disorders) (6, 7). Young (1990,1999) proposed the assumption that some of the schemas, especially ones that are formed due to unpleasant childhood experiences during early life , are likely to be the core or center of personality disorders, milder character problems and many of the long - termed axis I disorders(8). Schemas play major roles in thinking, feeling, and behaviors and in how to communicate others; and drag adulthood to unfortunate circumstances happened in childhood in an inconsistent and inevitable manner, being often harmful to patients (9). Each schema will be made, processed and organized through individual life experiences, and then they will be applied in percepting and evaluating new information. Schemas affect behavior through information processing, help decision-making during thinking and provide most anticipated forecasts. However, they may act as a resistant factor against changes and slow down the process of changing behavior patterns (9). Apart from simplifying cognitive function, schemas also may lead to lasting mental problems (10). Therefore, those schemes that lead to the formation of psychological problems are called early maladaptive schema. Early maladaptive schema is more inflexible, rigid and objective than one related to ordinary people (11). Early maladaptive schemas are memories, emotions, physical sensations and cognitions that are tied to destructive aspects of childhood experiences and are repeated throughout the life in a well-organized manner in the form of patterns (9). Each of personality disorders owna particular schemas about themselves and others, so as long as these schemas are not enabled, there is no problem faced by people, but when activated, are extremely resistant against a change and what is issued by these schema sis definite (2).According to (DSM-IV-TR) ,personality disorder is long – term inner subjective and behavioral experiences that do not comply cultural criteria, influence uncompromisingly, begin from adolescence or adulthood, do not change over time, and cause unhappiness and disrupt the functions (6, 7). According to a study by Adnez (2010) Paranoid personality disorder is one of the most common personality disorders has been ever diagnosed. In addition, it is associated to the obvious dysfunction in various areas. Anxiety and depression risk is high here(11).

II. Methodology

This study is based on correlation method. The population consists of male prisoners in Behshahr city

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during 1392.Purposive method was applied to select the sample. The researchers randomized 100 prisoners and asked them to complete MMPI inventory. Prisoners suffering personality disorders were screened. Finally a total of80 prisoners was selected and examined by researchers.

III. The data Collection Tools

a) *Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI II)*

It is a standard questionnaire to call for a wide range of self-descriptive features and grading them. It captures a quantitative index of an individual's emotional adjustment and attitude toward participating in the test. This inventory is one of the most widely used personality inventory since it has been developed by Hathaway & McKinley in 1940. More than 10,000 research resources have been published on it. Test booklet includes 567 articles, but the way they are arranged have been changed, so that the traditional scales (three validity and ten clinical scales) can be extracted from the first 370 articles.197 remained articles (from No. 371 to 567) provide various completions, content and research indices (12). Studies on the validity of MMPI indicate that MMP I has average level of short-term stability and internally consistent. Mean (median)validity coefficients for psychiatric patients and normal individuals are about 0.80 and0.70 respectively. Split Half validity coefficients were moderate and its range is 0. 50 –0.96,having mean (median)over 0.70 (13).

b) *Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI - III)"*

It is a standardized self – estimated inventory that gauges a wide range of information about the character, emotional adaptation and attitudes of respondents toward the test. More than 600 articles have been published about it or its application since the original form of the in ventory was developed. It is the most widely used test in clinical practice (14). The inventory is designed for adults above 18years who have the least reading ability to eighth grade. MCMI is one of the unique test in which the personality disorders and symptoms which are often associated with these disorders reemphasized. The current form, MCMI-III, consists of 175 articles. They are scored based on 28 separate scales and the following categories: clinical personality patterns, higher level personality pathology, clinical symptoms and higher level symptoms. To measure the validity of the inventory the internal consistency method is applied. The assessment conducted by the Millon et al shows the Validity of0.78. (14).

c) *The short form of the Young Schema Questionnaire (YSQ-SF)*

It includes 75 items that assess the 15 early maladaptive schemas; these 15 schemes are in five areas including disconnection/rejection, impaired autonomy and performance, impaired limits, other directedness and over vigilance / inhibition(15). The first comprehensive study on the psychometric properties of this schema is developed by Smith, Jones & Yungoothlech the researchers showed, Young Schema Questionnaire is highly correlated to psychological distress measures and personality disorders, so the reliability is desirable. Ahi far (1385) translated this questionnaire and applied it in Iran. Its internal consistency by Cronbach alpha is reported0.97 and0.98 in males and females respectively (16).YSQ-SF scale Validity was 0.96 and above 0.80 by Cronbach's alpha for total test and all subscales respectively. Cronbach alpha of Persian YSQ-SF version is0.90 –0.62 and its internal consistency is shown to be0.94 (15).

IV. Results

Results have shown that 52.2% of prisoners were single, 45% were between 30-23 years, 62.5% were the first child to third, 70% were under diploma, and 80% were self- employed. The means of paranoid personality disorder, dependent personality disorder, avoidant were reported to be 64.09 , 59.77 , 65.48 respectively.

Table 1: Pearson's correlation coefficient

Variables		Personality disorder
Early maladaptive schemas of mistrust	Correlation coefficient	0.341
	significance level	0.002
	Number	80
Early maladaptive schemas of dependence	Correlation coefficient	0.417
	significance level	0.000
	number	80
Early maladaptive schemas of social isolation	Correlation coefficient	0.569
	significance level	0.000
	number	80
Early maladaptive of entitlement	Correlation coefficient	0.502
	significance level	0.000
	number	80

Testing significant levels shows hypotheses are confirmed since the significance level is smaller than 0.05. Data shows that there is relationship between early maladaptive schemas of mistrust /abuse with clinical pattern of paranoid personality, between early maladaptive schemas of dependence / incompetence with clinical pattern of dependent personality, between early maladaptive schemas of social isolation / alienation with clinical pattern of avoidant personality

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and between early maladaptive schemas of entitlement with narcissistic personality disorder.

V. Discussion and Conclusion

This study examined the relationship between early maladaptive schemas and clinical patterns. The data indicate that there is a significant relationship between early maladaptive schemas of mistrust / abuse with paranoid personality disorder which is supported by Likeslerink & Lee (2003); Holmz et al(2002); Baverz (2001) ; Pari ; Banon & Lani (1999) Donahue, Toonin Debvare &Runyon (1997) ; Velzen & Amel Cup (1996) and Nazir and Galoo, McKay and thy Daru (1996), indicating, The data indicate that there is significant relation between early maladaptive schemas of dependence / incompetence with the clinical pattern of dependence personality. This is supported by Kiuamrsy, Aryanpur, Negravi, (1390), indicating the role of personality disorders (schizoid, paranoid, schizotypal, antisocial, borderline, avoidant, dependent) on the psychological symptoms. The results indicate that there is a significant relationship between early maladaptive schemas of social isolation / alienation with the clinical pattern of avoidance personality. This is supported by Rafii, Hatami, Foroughi, (1390), stating there is a significant relationship between avoidant attachment style with disconnection-rejection schemas and impaired autonomy and performance, over vigilance and inhibition. The data implies that there is a significant relationship between the early maladaptive schemas of entitlements with clinical pattern of narcissistic personality. The results of the hypothesis is consistence with Shahamat et al (1389), Gantt and Buri (2008), Baranf and Tian (2007), Wright et al (2009), Harris and Kurten (2002). The families who caused the formation of schemas of mistrust / abuse in their children are usually unstable, disturbing, cold, rejecting, isolated from the world around them. the basic needs of safety, comfort, acceptance, support, stability, harmony are not unmet in these people; and where there is the expectation that others will hit the human beings, are bad behaved and telllie and deceive them and following their self interest (17). the character of these people is shaped by the pattern of distrust and inclusive suspicion to others. Avoidant schema occurs in these kind of families and the individual's needs will satisfy . These individuals feel like being different from others during growth stages. People with this schema don't fell being belonged to any group or society. The avoidant personality disorder will appearin their adulthood. Families of people suffering dependence/ incompetence schema have interfered a lot in their affairs and have been too supportive, so they could never form an independent identity and believes they are not able to manage their everyday responsibilities in an acceptable level without others being there waiting for them to help (17). The child's personality is formed during the development. He pervasively and excessively needs to be protected, leadingto dependent and dominant personality disorder. Entitlements schema arise in families who accepted and confirmed child role playing related to his competence, having no reaction by parents. The child is respected and rewarded as a tool to foster self-esteem, not due to his competence. These children will have difficulty in accepting the flaws, shortcomings and disadvantages. These defects will lead to narcissistic personality disorder (18).

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