

Oral 8

✓ Psychosocial Well Being & Its Influence on School Performance of Children from Institutions and Children Live with Parents

Thadshajini sivalingam, Priyanthy Swarnaraj

Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Background: Number of children institutionalized is increasing nowadays. In Sri Lanka the poverty is the most common cause of institutionalization of children. Internal war in country for last few decades also increased the number of children getting institutionalized. The emotional needs and some fundamental rights of children are rarely met in institutional settings. So the psychosocial well being of children will be affected by institutionalization.

Methodology: This is a comparative study conducted among institutionalized children (aged 11-16 years) and age and sex matched children live with parents from same class to compare the state of psychosocial well being. 170 institutionalized children (males =73) and 170 controls living with parents were compared using validated Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) self report, SLIPSS-C (Sri Lankan Index of Psycho Social Scale for Children) and self administered questionnaire to assess school based activities.

Results: This study found that Institutionalized children have higher level of risk for developing clinically significant emotional and behavioral problems (OR=3.96, CI=2.33-6.71) and they showed the higher level of distress (t test value=7.925, p=0.05). Educational performance of institutionalized children also was significantly lower than that of children living with parents. But institutionalized children showed better extracurricular activities than children living with parents.

Conclusion: Findings of this research suggest that the psychosocial well being of children was significantly affected due to institutionalization. Educational performance of institutionalized children is also lower than that of family reared children. Children living with parents had lower level of extracurricular performance than institutionalized children.