Likelihood of Development of Oppositional Defiant Disorder in Children with Respect to Age, Gender and School System

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ABSTRACT:

INTRODUCTION:

Oppositional Defiant Disorder is a childhood behavioral problem. It consists of negativity, defiance, disobedience and hostility. Persistence of such behavior can raise suspicion that child is suffering from this disorder. Such children have trouble in schools with teachers as well as friends and they develop antisocial behavior.

OBJECTIVE:

To study the likelihood of development of oppositional defiant disorder in children with respect to age, gender and school system.

METHOD:

A cross-sectional study was conducted by distribution of questionnaires based on Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM IV) criteria for ODD. The questionnaire was distributed among students of both private and government schools. Inclusion criterion was children aged 7 to 18 years. Parents were asked to fill the questionnaire. Out of 500 distributed, 362 questionnaires were returned back i.e. response rate was 72%. The data was analyzed using SPSS 17.

RESULTS:

The likelihood of children suffering from oppositional defiant disorder was observed in 24% of the children. The likelihood came out to be more in females (26%) compared to 8% in males (P=0.007). While relating data according to type of school, students from government schools (31%) were found much more likely to suffer from ODD compared to students from private schools (16%, p=0.036). When the trend was analyzed among different age groups, children aged from 12 to 15 showed more tendency for developing ODD.

CONCLUSION:

This study brings to light the likelihood of prevalence of oppositional defiant disorder in children of our society. It is found to be more common in students studying in government school systems, female gender and in age group from 12 to 15. Considering this, students from these groups should be evaluated on a regular basis so that this disorder can be managed at an earlier stage. This cannot only affect studies of children but can also shatter their personalities. Children suffering from ODD develop antisocial behavior and this also becomes precursor of severe personality disorders.