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A SURVEY OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC, PERSONALITY AND PSYCHOPATOLOGY
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RUNAWAY GIRLS

G.R. Dehbozorgi

Psychiatry, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

The problem of runaway girls is one of the social problems having become more prevalent and common subject for families, welfare centres and government in Iran. Escaped girls from their home, which have been prevalent, recently have been the problematic social subject for family, aid agencies and government.

Objective: This study aimed at determining the demographic, personality and psychopathology characteristic of runaway girls from home in Shiraz.

Method: Fifty girls who escaped from home and referred to the Women's Social Emergency and Rehabilitant Centre were compared with fifty girls who lived with their parents. They were assessed by semi-structured interview based on DSMIV-TR criteria, demographic questionnaire, GHQ-28 and EPQ-R-106.

Results: The results showed that %86 of the runaway girls were resident in cities, and %40 of them was the first child of the family. Considering the familial stability, addicted parents, death and divorce of parents; the runaway girls did not have significant differences with control group, although they had significant differences in psychiatric disorders and physical abuse. Also they had more problems in social function and extroversion, lying, addiction and crime seeking.

Conclusion: The high prevalence of psychopathology and social victims of the runaway girls demands serious attention by the non-governmental and governmental organizations for increasing their mental health and social supports.