P3 Environmental psychiatry

PSYCHIC DISADAPTATION OF REFUGEES FROM THE CAUCASUS REGION

A. Bylim, I. Bylim. Centre of Psychical Health, Hasanovsky Per. 4, Kislovodsk. Russia

The changes which have taken place in postsocialist Russia have resulted in the appearance or increase of interethnic conflicts, e.g., in Chechnya, Abkhazia, Armenia, Azerbaijan in the Caucasus region. These have led to social breakdown and to deep psychological crises, physical diseases and psycho-adaptive states. About 1520 refugees have been registered in the region and 256 were consulted. 85% showed psychic disturbance caused by prolonged stress. An analysis of the data obtained divided the refugees into three groups. The first consisted of those who were forced to flee due to the economic situation and provocation of interethnic conflicts. They had not experienced physical violence and had saved most of their possessions. The second group were victims of physical violence and oppression and had had their own and their relatives' lives threatened as well as losing part or nearly all of their possessions. The third group were thse who were forced to flee because war had begun in their region. Each group needed specific psychotherapy and psychological treatment

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SECONDARY TRAUMATISATION IN FAMILY THERAPISTS Calovska Hertzog N, Lecic-Tosevski D.

Institute for Mental Health, School of Medicine,
University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Secondary traumatisation of psychotherapists has been receiving increasing professional attention. Since family therapists express extremely high vulnerability to secondary stress disorder even in regular circumstances, it is expected to grow dramatically in situations such as war, contextually shaping political, economic, psychological, medical and other aspects in family living. At the Institute for Mental Health a self assesment of compassion fatigue and burnout among family therapists has been carried out. Obtained data indicated presence of moderate risk of compassion/empathy fatigue and high risk of burnout syndrome in family therapists working with wartraumatised families. Multiple important implications regarding treatment, education and training programmes emerge from these results. Continuing well structured education, peer-consultation, formal psychotherapeutic supervision and personal supervision are considered as preventive and theraputic procedures. Authors report their experience in peer-consultation attempting to apply seven essential elements in prevention of secondary traumatisation: respect, education, stabilisation, pampering, empowering, calming and transfering therapist at risk; acronym RESPECT denoting these.

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PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT OF WOUNDED PERSONS IN THE ABSENCE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

N. Caran, M. Caran. The Institute of Psychiatry, KCS Beograd, 1 Bajronova, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

In a sample of 15 patients treated for injury during the Bosnia war (1992-1995) in the Trauma Department of the Clinical Hospital, Zemun, the lack of sedatives and hypnotics for standard drug therapy has been observed. Following data analysis of age, social origin, type and duration of treatment, it was concluded that hospital psychiatric reatment was satisfactory. The results were obtained following the prolonged treatment of narcoanalgetics to wounded young soldiers who were previously psychiatrically healthy. Psychiatric treatment was essential for the patients who were seriously injured, whose lives had been endangered and who faced disability after surgery. The psychiatric treatment of these patients should be followed and their progress through prospective studies kept under review.

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STUDY OF NON-JUDICIALLY RECORDED DOMILIARY AGGRESSIONS AGAINST SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN CAMPINAS SAO PAULO

M. Centeville, M. A. A. Cabral. Department of Psychiatry, State University of Campinas, Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil

The study aimed to find out the most frequent types of punishment used by parents and/or tutors and to discuss the consequences that such actions have on their psychosocial development. 1456 un-named children were studied between the ages of 7 to 14 attending private and public schools in Campinas. One set of open questions was used in a way not to induce answers and also to obtain information about family composition, social-demographic data, frequency of punishment, alleged motives etc. Data obtained was elaborated statistically using the Fisher Test, Correspondence Analysis etc.

The results showed that (i) mothers punish their children more often; (b) these mothers did not work and spent more time with the children. In public school it was noticed (i) that frequently punishment consisted of being kept in one room, sometimes locked and sometimes dark; (ii) spanking, shouts and threats, prohibition from seeing loved ones or eating favourite foods were also often mentioned. In private schools (for families of higher income), punishment more often related to keisure while kecturing and disapproving looks which lasted days were also mentioned. Physical punishment was not cited in this category. Girls were found to be punished more frequently by restrictions from going out while boys were punished more often physically.