EXHIBITIONISM

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Abstract

In this paper we present the definition of exhibitionism and the disorder itself. We also noted the prevalence of this disorder, in accordance with the data available, in which it is mentioned that it is quite high (44%). The conclusion is that the prevalence would be higher but the cases are not reported, therefore we have no concrete data.

Keywords: exhibitionism, DSM, paraphilic disorders, frotteurism.

INTRODUCTION

Exhibitionism was defined in 1950 as “the act of exposing the male sexual organ”. It can be accepted as normal or abnormal, depending on the circumstances” being considered a compulsive, pathological condition, when the behavior is the final goal (Rickles, 1950).

Although exhibitionism is not a new phenomenon, it was not included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders [DSM] until 1980.

Since then, the clinical definition of exhibitionism disorder has remained relatively unchanged and falls into the category of paraphilic disorders along with the disorder of voyeurism, fetishism, frotteurism, sexual masochism, social sadism, pedophilia and transvestic (DSM-V, APA 2013) and it is considered a sexual offense, therefore illegal (Kaylor, 2019).

Exhibitionism is defined as the act of exposing in a public or semi-public context those parts of the body that are not normally exposed - for example, the breasts, genitals, etc.

The practice may arise out of a desire or constraint to expose intimate parts to friends or acquaintances, or to strangers for their sexual amusement or satisfaction or to shock the passenger.

Exposure only to an intimate partner is not normally considered exhibitionism. In law, the act of exhibitionism can be called indecent exposure, “exposure of the person” or other expressions (Kir, 2020).

THEORETICAL APPROACH

Despite indications that acts of exhibitionism are frequent events, this sexual paraphilia has received more attention in recent years. To address this gap in our knowledge of these paraphrases, 459 student students from a major metropolitan city completed a self-report measure designed to investigate the frequency and correlations of frotteurism and exhibitionism.

The results indicate a high rate of victimization among female students for both paraphilia. Moreover, acts of frotteurism and exhibitionism took place most often in places related to public transport (for example, subway trains or platforms) in this urban setting.
addition, victims reported a number of negative outcomes as a result of victimization, including feelings of violation, behavioral changes and even long-term psychological distress. Older women were most likely to be victimized. (Clark, 2016).

The prevalence rate is high for exhibitionism, 44% (n = 203) of the sample mentioned above. Also, a smaller but still significant percentage (15%) of the victims of exhibitionism reported a long-term negative consequence. However, few victims reported these incidents to the authorities. About half of the exhibition incidents occurred on a train or subway platform and in a crowded place.

CONCLUSIONS

These findings go along with the literature, which showed that although approximately two-thirds of victims eventually reveal their aggression to someone on their social network, most victims do not report the aggression to authorities (Golding, Siegel, Sorenson, Burnam, & Stein, 1989; Koss, Money, Seibel, & Cox, 1988; Ullman & Filipas, 2001).

This reveals to us that the chances of this paraphilia being met are high, but we have no concrete data on this.

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RESOURCES