
FETISHISM

MARIA MĂDĂLINA BOGDAN

Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Abstract

Using the data we have available, in this article we present definitions of fetishism, predominantly from DSM V. Also, we present data on fetishism between female and male gender, including information about the prevalence of this disorder in certain clinical studies.

Keywords: fetishism, paraphilic disorders, DSM V.

INTRODUCTION

Social fetishism can be found in DSM V within the paraphilic disorders, alongside with other disorders such as voyeurism, exhibitionism, frotteurism, sexual masochism, social sadism, pedophilia and transvestic.

Paraphilia is defined as any sexual and persistent interest, other than the interest for genital stimulation or having foreplay with humans that are phenotypically normal, physically mature and consenting partners. Also, there are certain paraphilias that are better described as preferential than intense sexual interests. (DSM-V, APA 2013)

Therefore, we call a paraphilic disorder a paraphilia that causes the individual emotional discomfort or dysfunction at the moment, or a paraphilia whose satisfaction involves self-harm or the risk of harming others. (DSM-V, APA 2013).

Sexual fetishism is the state of sexual arousal that a person feels about an object or situation, for example certain parts of the body or clothing. (Jin-hai, 2013)

THEORETICAL APPROACH

In a conservative society like Korea, the confession of having a fetish is equivalent to acknowledging that you are a sexual deviant who needs psychological treatment, even if you do no harm to anyone. (Jin-hai, 2013). However, an increasing number of people claim that fetishism is a private inclination that does no harm to anyone and therefore should not be incriminated.

Fetishism is not limited to men. According to Kwon Seung-jae, 31, the fetish web site he runs has more female members than expected (Jin-hai, 2013), especially because in clinical samples the fetish disorder is reported almost exclusively in men. What is also important is that it may occur concomitantly with other paraphilia, as well as hypersexuality, but it may rarely be associated with neurological disorders. (DSM-V, APA 2013, Delcea C. (2019).

Data for the true prevalence of different types of paraphilias is limited. Most published data consists of case reports or small case series (Ventriglio et al., 2019). Weinberg et al. (2010)

* Corresponding author: Mihail Kogălniceanu Street, no. 1, 400084, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; Tel: +40 264 4053; e-mail: bogdan.madaa@gmail.com

found that 88% of 262 respondents who had a shoe fetish were gay and 12% declared they are bisexual (Eusei, D., & Delcea C. (2019).

CONCLUSIONS

Fetishism or attraction to objects for the purpose of sexual gratification is not uncommon, although epidemiological data are not widely available, and thus evidence is rare. (Bhat, 2006) Often these occur in a relationship setting where both parties agree and therefore no clinical intervention is required.

Reaching a diagnosis and recognizing stress are culturally influenced values and should be viewed as such.

Classics need to place these behaviors in a proper context, understand them and explore them in a social and cultural context. (Ventriglio et al., 2019)

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