

Broken families in deliberate self poisoned teenagers

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Objective: The short-term effect of an adverse parental child rearing style on suicidality in adolescence has been extensively discussed. Nevertheless, it seems that acts of deliberate self-harm in teenagers are due to an accumulation of earlier family and parental distress, and adolescent's externalizing and internalizing problems (1-2). To compare incidence of deliberate self poisoning (DSP) in broken families and control group the present study was done. **Material:** A cross sectional prospective study using a questionnaire carried out for all hospital admissions of teenagers during 4 month. Age, gender, marital status, history of previous repetition, current smoking and substance abuse and psychiatric diagnosis were measured in two different groups categorized as broken or intact families. Broken family was assumed when the parents were divorced or separated. Intact family was defined when father and mother were alive and live together. Data were computed and statistical analysis by chi- square test was performed using SPSS 15 and $\alpha=0.05$ considered as the level of significant. **Results:** Totally 738 teenagers hospitalized. Of whom 77 patients (11.7%) filled out our inclusion criteria for broken families and 580 patients (88.3%) for intact families. The mean age was 17.3 ± 1.4 (range 13-19). There was female predominance in 70.2% of individuals. Most of the teenagers were students (54.2%). Housewives and college students consisted 23.1% and 2.1% respectively. Literacy level was 2.7%, 21%, 75.6% for elementary, middle and high school respectively. Less than 1% was more educated. Unmarried participants were the most teenagers (561, 85.4%) while 50 patients (7.6%) were engaged, 43 patients (6.5%) were married and the 3(0.5%) remaining was divorced or widowed. There was no significant correlation between broken family group and intact group regarding mentioned epidemiological data, but significance correlation was found in repeatation (41.6% vs. 28.8%, $P<0.017$), Suicide attempts in family members (31.2% vs. 17.1%, $P<0.004$) and depression diagnosed by psychiatrists (33.8% vs. 22.6%, $P<0.024$). Although current smoking and substance abuse was higher in broken family group (16.9% vs. 13.4% and 11.7% vs. 7.6%), but they were not significant. **Conclusion:** Acts of deliberate self poisoning in teenagers can be due to an accumulation of earlier chaotic family which could lead to divorce and separation. More efforts are necessary to better describe the paths that lead from child-rearing behavior or genetic vulnerability to suicidality in adolescence and adulthood. **References:** (1)Crane C, Mark J, Williams G, et al. The Association between Life Events and Suicide Intent in Self-Poisoners with and without a History of Deliberate Self-harm: A Preliminary Study. [Suicide Life Threat Behav](#) 2007; 37(4):367-78. (2)Sourander A, Aromaa M, Pihlakoski L, et al. Early predictors of deliberate self-harm among adolescents. A prospective follow-up study from age 3 to age 15. [J Affect Disord](#) 2006; 93(1-3): 87-96.