Assessment of Borderline Personality Disorder In Mosul University students according to the variables of Gender, Field of Study and Study Grade

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Abstract

The current descriptive study was carried out on a population of Mosul University students to evaluate the Borderline Personality Disorder according to the following variables:

- Gender (Male – Female).
- Study field (Scientific –Humanitarian).
- Study grade (4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st).

The population sample of the study consisted of two-hundred male and female students were selected from the University of Mosul /College of Nursing and the College of Education and the duration of the study was from December, 10th 2006 to March 11th, 2007.

The data was collected by using The Borderline Personality Disorder Scale consisting of 45 items distributed among nine standards of borderline personality and its validity was determined through a replication on a limited sample with (r=0.79).

The results have shown that borderline personality disorder exists in all the nine standards covered by the study. The results also showed that significant differences exist in disorder related to the gender and no significance exist related to field of study and study grade.

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The researchers recommended utilizing the borderline personality disorder scale in the diagnosis of this type of disorder in psychiatric clinics and institutions in addition to carrying out further studies concerning other personality disorders including antisocial personality disorder, narcissism, and obsessive compulsive.

Introduction

A personality disorder is a severe disturbance in the character logical constitution and behavioral tendencies of the individual, usually involving several areas of the personality, and nearly always associated with considerable personal and social disruption. Personality disorder tends to appear in late childhood or adolescence and continues to be manifest into adulthood. (Perry,2001 (

A personality disorders is described as anon – psychotic illness characterized by maladaptive behavior, which the person uses to fulfill his or her needs and bring satisfaction to self. these behaviors begin during childhood or adolescence as away of coping and remain throughout most of adulthood , becoming less obvious during middle or old age. As a result of his or her inability to relate to the environment, the person acts out his or her conflicts socially emotional, economic, social, or occupational problems are often seen as a result of such conflicts due to anxiety.(Shives, 2005, p 338)

Personality Disorders is Classify into many types including Borderline Personality Disorder. (ICD 10, 2006)

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is defined as serious and complex mental illness that affects 2 – 3 % of the population. Once thought to be on the " border " of schizophrenia, BPD is now believed to be more closely related to mood disorders such as depression, or possibly to impulse control disorders like Attention – Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder. People with BPD have difficulty

regulating their emotions and controlling their impulses. They often act out their emotions or impulses, either through intense inappropriate displays of anger, or through self – injurious or suicidal behavior.

Although self – injury often occurs without suicidal intent, a significant number of people with BPD die by suicide. (Vizek, 2004,p.p297-304)

INTERVIEW

DSM -IV - IR Define Borderline personality disorder (BPD) A Pervasive pattern of instability of interpersonal relationships, self image , and effects, and marked impulsivity beginning by early adulthood and present in a variety of contexts, as indicated by five (or more) of the following :

1. Frantic efforts to avoid real or imagined abandonment.
2. A pattern of unstable and intense interpersonal relationships characterized by alternating between extremes of idealization and devaluation.
3. Identity disturbance : markedly and persistently unstable self – image or sense of self.or sense of long – term goals ; or career choices, types of friends desired or values preferred.
4. Impulsivity in at least two areas that are potentially self – damaging: for example; spending. sex, substance abuse, binge eating.
5. Recurrent suicidal behavior, gestures, or threats, or self – mutilating behavior.
6. Affective instability: marked shifts from baseline mood to depression, irritability, or anxiety usually lasting a few hours and only rarely more than a few days.
7. chronic feelings of emptiness.

8. inappropriate, intense anger or difficulty controlling anger ; frequent displags of temper

9. transient, stress – related paranoid ideation or severe dissociative symptoms.(APA,2005)

Borderline Personality Disorder called Cyclical personality because of the erratic moods or an impulse control disorder because of unpredictable behavior.(Fortaine,2003,p482)

Individuals with borderline personality disorder may exhibit impulsive, unpredictable behavior related to gambling, shop-lifting , sex, and substance abuse. Contributing to unstable, intense interpersonal relationships are inappropriate, intense anger unstable affect reflecting depression, dysphoria, or anxiety ; disturbance in self concept, including gender identity ; and the inability to control one's emotions. Behaviors such as paranoid ideation, severe dissociation, masochism, frantic efforts to avoid real or imagined abandonment, and suicidal ideation may occur. The client often reports feeling empty, lonely, unable to experience pleasure, and unable to maintain employment,   self – mutilating behavior also may occur. (shives, 2005, p342)

Individual's almost always appear to be in a state of crisis, Mood swings are common. These individuals can be argumentative at one moment and depressed at the next and then complain of having no feeling at all, at another time (Mayo, 2002,p.p104-106)

Adolescents with BPD have disturbed thinking patterns and always seen to be in crisis. They can be rational and calm one moment, and then explode into inappropriate anger in response to some perceived rejection or criticism the next. The disorder occurs in all races, is prevalent in females (female – to – male ration as high 4 : 1) and typically presents by late adolescence (APA, 2005)

People with BPD are characterized by things are either all good or all bad, for example,people with BPD are unable to see both

positive and negative qualities in the same person or in themselves at the same time. (Fontaine,2003,p 483)

Common BPD thinking their assumptions may include " I must be loved by all the important people in my life at all times or else I am worthless, I must be completely competent in all ways to be a worthwhile person, Some people are good and everything about them is perfect. Other people are thoroughly bad and should be severely blamed and punished for it. My feelings are always caused by external events. I have no control over my emotions or the things I do in reaction to them. Nobody cares about me as much as I care about them, so I always lose everyone I care about despite the desperate things I try to do to stop them from leaving me. If someone treats me badly, then I become bad. When I am alone, I become nobody and nothing " (Adshead,2003,p.p146-150)

Most Borderlines have a very difficult time being alone. Most frantically will do almost anything to avoid bring. Borderlines do not have a stable sense of identity and often inspite of many overwhelming affects mention most often, depression. Functionally, Borderlines are known to put people in either " all good, or all bad " categories. This is known as splitting. The good person is idealized and the bad person is devalued, there is no in between. It is the black and the white, there is no gray area in the world of the unrecovered Borderline.(Mason, 2004)

Over the last 10 years, increasing awareness and research are helping improve the treatment and understanding of borderline personality disorder. At the some time, it remains a controversial condition, particularly since so many more women than men are diagnosed with it. It occurs in about one in every 33 women, compared with one in every 100 men, and is usually diagnosed in early adulthood. (PAR,2005)

BPD is Become world wide spread in this time and premature death among patient with BPD may be due to the increased risk of suicide in this population approximately 70 – 75 % of patient with BPD have a history of atheist one deliberate act of self –harm. According to Linehan et al, mean established rate of completed suicides 9 % (Fortinash, 2004, p 280)

Theorists state that borderline personality disorders may be a result of a faulty parent – child relationship in which the child does not experience a healthy separation from mother and therefore is unable to interact appropriately with the environment. Parent and child share negative feelings and are bound together by mutual feelings of guilt. Another possible cause is trauma experienced at a specific stage of development, usually 18 months, weakening the person's ego and ability to handle reality. A third theory states that the person experiences an unfulfilled need for intimacy. As a result of attempting to establish an ideal relationship, the person becomes disillusioned and experiences rage, fear of abandonment, and depression. (Shives, 2005, p 344)

Study Objectives

The objectives of the study is to determine the differences in percentages in borderline personality disorder according to the following variables : -

1- Gender (Male – Female).
2- Study field (Scientific –Humanitarian).
3- Study grade (4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st).

Methodology

1- Selecting the Samples:

Two-hundred male and female students were selected from the University of Mosul /College of Nursing and the departments of Psychology and History in the College of Education in the number of 100 male and female students from University of Mosul /College of Nursing and 100 male and female students from University of Mosul /College education from both psychology and history departments subdivided into 25 students from each study grade as show in the following table:

Table (1)

Type of study	Study grade	No. of students	Total
Scientific	1st	25	100
	2nd	25	
	3rd	25	
	4th	25	
Humanitarian	1st	25	100
	2nd	25	
	3rd	25	
	4th	25	
			200

2-The study's Instrument.

The Borderline Personality Disorder Scale consisting of 45 items devised by Saleem (Saleem 1999) was adopted for College students.

The scale covers the nine standards of borderline personality with an alternative answer of (YES) versus (NO). Each standard is covered by five items thus the scores of each standard ranges between (0 –5) while the total score of the scale ranges between (0-45). Appendix (3) depicts the correction table of the scale, the person considered borderline personality disorder if have at less (5) from (9) from the scale range.

3. Pilot Study

(A) The Validity of the scale

Validity is considered one of the most standard properties that must be available in the psychological scale before being applied (Ebel,1972,p.435), because it expresses the scale ability to measure the property targeted (Tyler and Walsh,1973,p.24)(Martin and Batosen,1986,p.88), The Face validity of the scale was verified by presenting the current scale to a number of professionals is psychiatry and psychology in order to expound the validity of the items by showing which of the items is appropriate or inappropriate in presenting and conforming to the symptoms described in the standards. The scale was formulated into its final form after considering the notes and comments of those professionals relying on an 80% quorum of the specialists as a standard for validity (Appendix 2)

B) reliability of the scale

Reliability is defined as the conformity of scale items with no contradiction with it self by the results it provides us about individual behavior (Marchal,1972,p.104), or most commonly ; it is defined as an indication of harmony among it is items (Guilford and

Erachter,1978,p.407), Reliability aims at estimating the scale errors and proposing methods for reducing such errors (Murphy,1988,p.60),

The reliability of the scale was estimated using test-retest approach on a sample that consist of (20) student by a period of (21) day. Persons correlation coefficient was found between the first and second test with a result of (r=0.79) which is considered significant at the level of (0.01)   as shown in table (2) below.

Table (2) the reliability by the method of replication

No	Test	R-Test	
1	14	14	
2	11	11	
3	10	10	
4	10	10	
5	16	16	
6	19	19	
7	22	22	
8	25	25	
9	9	9	
10	22	22	
11	15	32	
12	7	33	
13	13	33	
14	22	22	
15	12	20	
16	2	2	
17	21	21	
18	22	22	
19	28	28	
20	18	18	
Σ 20	318	389	r=0.79

Results and discussion

1) In order to expound the differences in the percentages of borderline personality disorders between the genders, the difference between the two percentages of disorders according to the variable of gender were chosen and it was found that the number of males suffering borderline personality disorders are (26) students representing (13%) of the total male population of (95) while the number females suffering borderline personality disorders are (49) female students representing (24 %) of the total female population of (105) . Table (3) shows the percentages and numbers according to the variable of gender (male – female) and borderline personality disorder (non suffering from disorders - suffering disorders).

Table (3) is a cross table that shows the percentages and numbers according to the variable of gender and Borderline Personality Disorder.

Borderline personality	Statistical properties	Male	Female	Total
Suffering disorders	Number	26	49	75
	Percentage within disordered	34.5%	65.5%	100%
	Percentage within gender	27%	46%	37%
	Percentage within total	13%	24%	37%
Not suffering disorders	Number	69	56	125
	Percentage within disordered	55.5%	44.5%	100%
	Percentage within gender	72%	53%	63%
	Percentage within total	34.5%	28.5%	63%

Total	Number	95	105	200
	Percentage within disordered	47%	53%	100%
	Percentage within gender	100%	100%	100%
	Percentage within total	47%	53%	100%

When comparing the Z table - value of (1.96) it was found that a significance difference exists between the males and females in suffering borderline personality disorders in favor for females which conforms to previous studies

2) In order to expound the differences in the percentages of borderline personality disorders between the two field of studies (humanitarian – scientific), the difference between the two percentages of disorders according to the variable of field of study were chosen and it was found that the number male and female students suffering borderline personality disorders studying in the scientific field of study are (36) male and female students representing (18 %)of the total of (100) students in scientific studies while the number male and female students suffering borderline personality disorders studying in the humanitarian field of study were (39) male and female students representing   (19 %) of the total of (100) students in humanitarian studies .

Table (4) shows the percentages and numbers according to the variable of field of study (scientific – humanitarian) and Borderline Personality Disorder (non-suffering from disorders   - suffering disorders).

Table (4) is a cross table that shows the percentages and numbers according to the variable of field of study (humanitarian – scientific) and Borderline Personality Disorder

Borderline personality	Statistical properties	Humanitarian	Scientific	Total
Suffering disorders	Number	39	36	75
	Percentage within disordered	52%	48%	100%
	Percentage within field of study	39%	36%	37%
	Percentage within total	19%	18%	37%
Not-suffering disorders	Number	61	64	125
	Percentage within disordered	48.8%	51.2%	100%
	Percentage within field of study	61%	64%	63%
	Percentage within total	30%	33%	63%
Total	Number	100	100	200
	Percentage within disordered	50%	50%	100%
	Percentage within field of study	100%	100%	100%
	Percentage within total	50%	50%	100%

When comparing the Z table-value of (1.96) it was found that no significance difference exists between the field of studies (humanitarian - scientific in suffering borderline personality disorders although a higher percentage of borderline personality disorders is shown among students studying in the humanitarian field of studies. the results indicate that the field of study has no

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impact on the emergence of borderline personality disorder symptoms.

3) In order to expound the differences in the percentages of borderline personality disorders between the study grade   (4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st), the difference between the two percentages of disorders according to the variable study grade were chosen and showed the following:

- The number male and female students suffering borderline personality disorders studying in the 1st grade are (14) male and female students representing (7%) of the total   of (50) students in this grade

- The number male and female students suffering borderline personality disorders studying in the 2nd grade are (26) male and female students representing (13 %) of the total   of(50) students in this grade

- The number male and female students suffering borderline personality disorders studying in the $3rd^{t}$ grade are (17) male and female students representing   (8 %) of the total   of (50) students in this grade

- The number male and female students suffering borderline personality disorders studying in the 4th grade are (18) male and female students representing (9%) of the total of (50) students in this grade.

Table (5) shows the percentages and numbers according to the study grade (4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st) and Borderline Personality Disorder (non-suffering from disorders - suffering disorders).

Table (5) is a cross table that shows the percentages and numbers according to the variable of study grade (4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st) and Borderline Personality Disorder

BORDERLINE Personality	Statistical Properties	1St	2Nd	3Rd	4Th	Total
Suffering disorders	Number	14	26	17	18	75
	Percentage within disordered	18.6%	34,6%	22,6%	24,2%	100%
	Percentage within study grade	28%	52%	34%	36%	37%
	Percentage within total	7%	13%	8%	9%	37%
Not-suffering disorders	Number	36	24	33	32	125
	Percentage within disordered	28.8%	19.2%	26.4%	25.6%	100%
	Percentage within study grade	72%	48%	66%	64%	63%
	Percentage within total	18%	12,5%	16,5%	16%	63%
Total	Number	50	50	50	50	200
	Percentage within disordered	25%	25%	25%	25%	100%
	Percentage within study grade	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Percentage within total	25%	25%	25%	25%	100%

When comparing the Z table- value of (1.96) No significant difference exists among the study grades although the 4th grade showed the higher percentage in suffering borderline personality disorders.

The results conclude that no statistical significant exists although a difference in percentage exists for 4th grade students which is a difference that can be explained as a difference in age leading more obvious symptoms.

Table (6) is a cross table that shows the significant differences Of borderline personality disorder according to gender variable

N	Mean	Std.Deviation	T-test	Sig.
95	3.2211	2.07917	-2.101	0.5
105	3.8190	1.94531		

Regarding the first objective to find the difference significance between gender variable (male – female), male grade mean was (**3.2211**), With a standard deviation of (**2.07917**),and female grade mean was (**3.8190)**, with a standard deviation of (**1.94531**), A significant difference was found in grade in favor of female at the level **(0.5%)**.

Table (7) is a cross table that shows the significant differences Of borderline personality disorder according to Specialization variable

N	Mean	Std.Deviation	T-test	Sig.
100	3.3500	2.10519	-1.293	N.S
100	3.7200	1.93886		

Regarding the second objective to find the difference significance between specialization variable (scientific – humanitarian), scientific grade mean was (**3.3500**),With a standard deviation of (**2.10519**) , and humanitarian grade mean was (**3.7200**), with a standard deviation of (**1.93886**), No significant statistical difference was found,where T-test counted value (**-1.293)** with a degree of freedom of (**198%**),   which is less than T- tabulated value of (**1,96**).

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Table (8) is a cross table that shows the significant differences
Of borderline personality disorder according to Study grades
(4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st) variable

ANOVA TEST

Degree	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Group	22.615	3	7.538	1.858	N.S
Within Group	795.140	196	4.057		
Total	817.755	196			

As to the third objective know the significant difference between study grades (4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st), No difference has been shown between these four grades including scientific and humanitarian disciplines.i.e. there is no effect of study grades on sufferins from borderline personality disorder.

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Recommendations

The researchers recommend the following :

1. Conducting further studies aiming at expounding the percentages of occurrence of borderline personality disorders among hospitalized and non- hospitalized patients suffering psychological disorders .

2. Utilizing the borderline personality disorder scale in the diagnosis of this type of disorder in psychiatric clinics and institutions.

3. Conducting further studies concerning other personality disorders including antisocial personality disorder, narcissism, and obsessive compulsive.

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تقييم اضطرابات الشخصية الحدية لدى طلبة جامعة الموصل على وفق متغيرات الجنس والاختصاص والمراحل الدراسية

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الخلاصة

دراسة وصفية أجريت على طلبة جامعة الموصل لتقييم اضطراب الشخصية الحدية على وفق المتغيرات الآتية :

– الجنس (ذكور، إناث)

– الاختصاص (علمي، أنساني)

– المراحل الدراسية الأربعة (الأول، الثاني، الثالث، الرابع).

شملت عينة الدراسة (٢٠٠) طالب وطالبة تم اختيارهم من كلية التمريض وكلية التربية للفترة من ١٠ / ١٢ / ٢٠٠٦ إلى ١١ / ٣ / ٢٠٠٧ م.

تم جمع المعلومـات باستخدام مقيـاس أضـطراب الشخصيـة الحديـة المكون من (٤٥) فقرة موزعة على الأبعاد التسعة للشخصية الحدية.

تم تحديد صدق المقياس من خلال عرضه على مجموعة من الخبراء، كذلك تم التأكد على من ثباته من خلال أعادة الاختبار على عينة محدودة وكان معامـل الارتبـاط Pearson's (r = 0.79) أشارت نتائج الدراسـة إلى أن هنـاك اضطراب في الشخصية الحدية في كل المعايير التسعة التي شملها البحث. وكذلك أشارت نتائج الدراسة إلى وجود فروق ذات دلالـة معنويـة في حدوث الاضطراب تبعاً لمتغير الجنس ولـم تظهر فروق ذات دلالة معنوية بالنسبة للاختصاص والمراحل.

ويوصـي البـاحثون باستخدام هذا المقيـاس في الإفادة من مقيـاس اضطراب الشخصية الحدية لتشخيص هذا الاضطراب في عيادات ومؤسسات الصـحة النفسية، وكذلك يقترح

البـاحثون إجـراء دراسـات حـول اضـطرابات أخـرى للشخصـية مثـل الشخصـية المضـادة للمجتمع، والشخصية الوسواسية – القسرية.