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The comparative study of male and female boarding school students' love and marriage, interpersonal, moral and sexual, job, and dormitory problems in Mahneshan (based on a content analysis of letters received by advisor)

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Abstract

The adolescence period is associated with many biological, psychological, and social developments. These may cause crisis and problems for them. The behavioral science experts emphasize on mental and behavioral innate differences of these two sexes such as strong emotion and intuitive thinking of women, strong spatial and reasoning thinking of men, tendency of women to relationships with individuals, the attention of attention to practical matters, and tendency of men to aggressive behaviors. It is important and necessary to investigate these developments, problems, and differences. However, this study aimed to compare the level and type of adolescent girls and boys problems according to issues and problems which they mentioned in their letters.

The research method was content analysis. This study aimed to examine the problems of adolescent girls and boys in their own terms. For this purpose, 100 female students and 100 male students in boarding schools in Mahneshan were asked to state their problems. The obtained data were analyzed by independent t-test.

The findings showed that 29% had problems in relation to having relationship with opposite sex and 16.5 percent had problem in not having close friend and inability to communicate with others. Also, there was significant differences between girls and boys in relation to academic, personal, virtual environment, and interpersonal communication problems. It was concluded that given the importance of young people familiarity with problems of adolescence period and methods of dealing with problems, it is necessary that the mental health programs will be developed considering the needs and problems of adolescents and their age and academic conditions.

Keywords: Adolescence, Love and Marriage Problems, Interpersonal Problems, Moral and Sexual Problems, Job Problems, Dormitory Problems.

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Introduction:

The adolescence period is the time of biological, social, emotional, and cognitive growth. If it is not considered satisfactorily, it will probably lead to emotional and behavioral problems in adulthood. Usually, this period begins in ages 10 to 13 and ends in 18 to 22 years old (Nejati, Bikaran, 1997).

This age range generally belongs to people who are generally single, have low share of employment, have more leisure time, are students, have more group solidarity with their friends, mostly address their parents as past generation, address themselves as new generation, and have new needs (Pahlavan, 2005).

Undoubtedly, the problems of children and adolescents are inevitable consequence of poverty, disease, ignorance, abuse and family conflicts, and educational, cultural, and social shortcomings. However, the future of countries, societies, and world relies on children, adolescents, and young adults. Therefore, more scientific research is necessary to recognize these groups. One of the major concerns of parents and school authorities is the recognition of general and specific needs and problems of students. Therefore, they may use scientific and legitimate methods to satisfy their needs and problems. Unfortunately, there are few studies on problems of students. If the type and frequency of students' problems will not be determined, the parents and education authorities will not be able to plan for preventing and solving their problems (Shah Moradi, 2002).

The research on problems of adolescents is one of the important missions of researchers. The recognition of individual, family, and social problems of adolescents will enable planners to take further steps to solve their problems. However, the research questions of this study are as follows:

- Whether there is difference between male and female boarding high school students' love and marriage problems?
- Whether there is difference between male and female boarding high school students' interpersonal problems?
- Whether there is difference between male and female boarding high school students' moral and sexual problems?
- Whether there is difference between male and female boarding high school students' job problems?
- Whether there is difference between male and female boarding high school students' dormitories problems?

Research Hypothesis:

1. According to Ilves Eva, Giddens, and Bauman's theory, it seems that there is difference between girls and boys love and marriage problems.
2. According to Mead's interaction-orientation theory and Bakhtin's dialogue-orientation and polyphony theory, it seems that there is difference between boys and girls interpersonal relationship problems.
3. According to Emile Durkheim's normative theory, it seems that there is difference between girl sand boys' sexual and moral problems.
4. According to Hafshted's cultural socialization theory, it seems that there is difference between girls and boys' job problems.
5. According to functionalism and social cohesion theories, it seems that there is difference between girls and boys dormitories problems.

Methodology:

The research method was content analysis-comparative study. This study aimed to examine the problems of adolescent girls and boys in their own terms. For this purpose, 100 female students and 100 male students in boarding schools in Mahneshan were asked to state their problems. The obtained data were analyzed by independent t-test.

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Findings:

According to table 1, most of the female students' love and marriage problems was related to relationship with boys (28%); few female students (2%) had the problem of one-sided love. The relationship with girls was the most frequent problem (30%) of male students; few male students (2%) had the problem of interest in marriage and fear of past relationships.

Table 1

Love and marriage problems			
Gender / Problem type	Girls	Boys	Total
One-sided love	%2	%6	%4
Relationship with opposite sex	%28	%30	%29
Severe emotional love	%11	%11	%5.5
Thinking about opposite sex	%12	%4	%8
Interest in marriage and fear of past relationships	%22	%2	%12

According to Table 2, most of female adolescents' interpersonal problems (23%) were related to lack of close friend and the inability to communicate with others; none of the female students (0%) had the problem of smoking. In contrast, the smoking and going to coffee with peers (20%) and wasting time with friends (14%) were the most frequent problems of male students.

Table 2

Interpersonal problems			
Gender / Problem type	Girls	Boys	Total
Smoking and going to coffee with peers	0	%20	%10
Not having close friends and inability to communicate with others	%23	%10	%16.5
Inability to say 'no'	%3	%9	%6
Wasting time with friends	%9	%14	%11.5
Being ridiculed by friends	%9	%14	%11.5

According to Table 3, most of female adolescents' moral and sexual problems (11%) was related to having sex dreams; few female students (3%) had the problem of experiencing sex. The sex dreams (28%) and masturbation were the most frequent problems of male students.

Table 3

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Moral and sexual problems			
Problem type \ Gender	Girls	Boys	Total
Having sex dreams	%11	%28	%19.5
Masturbation	%5	%13	%9
Experience of sexual relationship	%3	%8	%5.5

According to Table 4, most of female adolescents' job problems (8%) was related to fear of not achieving the desired job. The unemployment of educated people (11%) was the most frequent problem of male students.

Table 4

Job problems			
Problem type \ Gender	Girls	Boys	Total
Unemployment of educated people in community	%1	%11	65
Lack of job opportunities in community	%4	%4	%2
Do part-time work	0	%9	%4.5
Concern about achieving the desired job	%8	%7	%7.5

According to Table 5, most of female adolescents' dormitories problems (11%) was related to homesick. The inappropriate behavior of guardians (14%) was the most frequent problem of male students.

Table 5

Dormitory problems			
Problem type \ Gender	Girls	Boys	Total
Guardians inappropriate behavior	%4	%14	%7.5
Nutrition and welfare in dormitory	%5	%9	%7
Lack of appropriate place and time for study	%8	%7	%7.5
Lack of transmission service to and from school	%7	%4	% 5.5
Homesick	%11	%4	%7.5

Conclusion:

The findings showed that 29% had problems in relation to having relationship with opposite sex, and 16.5 percent had problem in not having close friend and inability to communicate with others. Also, there was significant differences between girls and boys in relation to academic, personal, virtual environment, and interpersonal communication problems.

It was concluded that given the importance of young people familiarity with problems of adolescence period and methods of dealing with problems, it is necessary that the mental health programs will be developed considering the needs and problems of adolescents and their age and academic conditions.

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