



Original Article

A survey of psychological features of violence criminals

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Abstract

Introduction: Violence as a social problem preoccupies the minds of researchers and the general public. The aim of this study is to explain psychological causes of violence (homicide, strife) and relationship between psychological features and commitment violence actions.

Materials and Methods: The sample of this comparative-analytical study consisted of 223 male violence criminals and financial criminals in Kermanshah, Kurdistan, Ilam provinces and normal people who were selected by using random sampling method. For data collection demographic questionnaire, checklist of symptoms of mental disorder (SCL-90) and semi-structured interviews based on DSM-4 were used, and for data analysis, descriptive statistics, t-test and ANOVA were used by SPSS-22 software.

Results: The results showed significant difference between three groups of subjects in phobia, anxiety, depression, obsessive thoughts, somatization, interpersonal sensitivity, aggression, psychosis, self-esteem and total symptoms ($P=0.001$) but in the dimensions of paranoia, introversion-extraversion, emotional control and self-confident the differences between groups were not significant ($P>0.05$).

Conclusion: The results indicate that the criminals groups of violence have more symptoms, and probably morbid symptoms mentioned can be effective in the incidence of aggression that requires special attention in the area of crime.

Keywords: Criminal, Psychological, Violence

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Introduction

Violence is a common concept which is presence frequently in our words. Violence is a term that everyday had seen and heard in a variety of media, Kakoli has define violence as: a physical act that is performed regardless of her/his and other's health or is committed to hurt another person and damage to his/her assets (1). Violence is an extreme form of aggression, such as assault, rape and homicide. Violence has many causes, including frustration, exposure to violent media, violence in the home or neighborhood and a tendency to see other people's actions as hostile even when they're not. Certain situations also increase the risk of aggression, such as drinking, insults and other provocations and environmental factors like heat and overcrowding (2). Among the types of violence, homicide is the most dangerous and the most macabre and yet the rarest type of violence in society.

Homicide at any time and in any case is the most serious types of crime and violence, because the damage to the victim is not compensated in any way for relatives and friends of the person are also very heavy and difficult. Violence from different psychological perspectives is studied and there is increasing recognition of the public health importance of violence (3). It is currently among the top twenty causes of worldwide loss of disability-adjusted living years, and predicted to increase in importance by 2030 according to the World Health Organization (4). In view of psychoanalysis, Freud believed that all human behavior generates from living and dying instinct. The instinct of life that is trying to eke out a living and productivity and the death instinct for destruction and the end of life's endeavors and aggression in the first place, from the shifting destructive death instinct, from self, to others stems (5). In Erikson's developmental perspective, the excitement is inherently has an adaptive action, but older children should learn how to adjust and modify their emotional expression to be

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compatible, unique adaptive anger action is to provide the energy to do the activity. This robust physical arousal, leads individuals to shouting and hurting people in response to the perceived error itself and Because of the potential consequences of destructive rage, all of the societies make physical and mental punishments to limit overt anger (6). Based on the behaviorism theory individuals under the influence of social environment enter the field of crime and the violent behavior from them seen. In Bandura's view, humans are attacked together because of their past experiences they have learned violent behavior (5). In The cognitive theory, aggressive tension arising from the perception of unpleasant events considered being unfair, it assumes that the way of thinking about violence led to the emergence of violence. For example, positive attitudes to violence with attributions that reduce responsibility increase the likelihood of violence (7). In research of Allely "Neurodevelopmental and psychosocial risk factors in serial killers and mass murderers" emphasize on brain injury in criminals (8). However, little research has examined the psychological aspects of the criminals, Research of Bahrami(9) To determine psychiatric disorders in prisoners and normal people, Indicate significant differences in the prevalence and severity of mental disorders in nine dimensions of phobias, anxiety, somatic complaints, psychosis, depression, paranoid thoughts, aggression, obsession, compulsion and interpersonal sensitivity between prisoners and normal people, The rate of them in prisoners was more than normal people. In research of Imam Hadi et al. (10) to investigate the prevalence of psychiatric disorders in first-degree homicide offenders was performed, Results showed that dimensions of aggression, anxiety and somatization have the most cases and obsessive compulsive and phobia have the least cases. In a study conducted by Barrat et al. (11) Also noted that psychological symptoms have significant correlation with violence. Julian et al. (12) found that many psychological symptoms such as depression, anxiety, hostility, and phobia, paranoid and violent behavior in men are associated together. Pan et al. (1994) in a sample survey of 11,700 men that had severe or mild violent behavior to their wives, Found that depression was a major factor in the emergence of violence (13). The latest figures provided 39% of armed robbery, rape 44 percent, coercion and rape of 46 percent, kidnappings and hostage-taking 45 per cent, 23 per cent of wickedness, homicide of 45 percent, Total 20 percent and robberies supply and the discovery

of alcohol has been reduced by 65%(14). Research of Zaki (15) also showed that 45 percent of Iran's social homicide, honor killings and sexual 25%, 18% and other 12% have been reported economic homicide. The results of a systematic review published in 2002 showed that one in seven prisoners has psychological disorders or major depression, and also half of men and one in five women prisoners are prisoners with antisocial personality disorder(16) that this rate was higher compared to the general population. Various other studies, have mentioned the prevalence of mental disorders in the prison population is more than general population (17-19). Bolhari et al. in a study of 87.5% of 1201 prisoners were selected from seven different prisons in five provinces were diagnosed with suspected mental disorder (20). In a study by Ashkani et al. 75.1% of the samples tested were found to have mental disorder (21), Shariat et al. in their study examined the prevalence of psychiatric disorders in 351 prisoners 46.9% reported. Most abnormalities are mood disorders and adaptation to 13.7% and 12.6 respectively (22). In a study that examines the status details of personality disorders among prisoners, 55.2% of the samples had a personality disorder and antisocial personality has highest among the samples accounted for (18.2%) (23). Arasteh and Sharifi Saghez in their study of prevalence of personality disorders in a sample of prisoner 55.8% reported that 26% of the samples had a psychological disorder in axis I(24). Despite such little research limited to survey of mental disorders in the issue of crime and violence, Also cultural differences in the West provinces of Country, And also the need for attention to psychological findings in formulation theories of crime, and Rehabilitation and behavior modification programs, led This study to Reviews psychological causes of violence (homicide, assault) Among financial crimes, homicide and assault And normal people and compare them together.

Materials and Methods

This study is a comparative analytical that the population of it is consists of all men in the three provinces: Kermanshah, Ilam and Kurdistan who were in prison due to violent crime (homicide, assault). In order to compare the psychological features of aggressive individuals, from men of financial population and men of normal population (merchants, students, staff, etc.) were also selected. The sample size was determined based on Morgan table, for selecting sample by simple random sampling method, from the offenders, homicides

and financial criminals, In each group to select 112 people and for selecting normal people Among students, merchants and employees by using the accessible sampling method 111 persons were chosen and questionnaires of research was conducted on them. entry criteria for the prisoners include: male gender, one year of jail time is past, lack of physical and psychiatric chronic diseases and disorders, acute and chronic diseases such as hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus, disabilities, drug addiction , drugs, entry criteria for the normal population, including male gender, don't have any criminal record, no drug addiction and acute and chronic physical illnesses such as hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus, and psychiatric disorders .exit criteria for both groups: is lack of informed consent to participate in research. For collecting data, the demographic questionnaire, Check list of mental disorder symptoms (SCL-90-R questionnaire) and semi-structured interview based on DSM04 was used. After obtaining the necessary permits and going to jail with the consent and volunteer of the prisoner, Questionnaires were implemented and information of Expletory of questionnaire is completely confidential. This study was commissioned and funded by Kermanshah province police chief and supervision of Kermanshah Razi University has been done. In this study, for data analysis, statistical software SPSS-22 and descriptive statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation and inferential statistical methods including correlation, t test for independent groups, ANOVA was used.

Research instrument

- *Checklist of symptoms of mental disorder (Scl-90-R questionnaire):* The questionnaire includes 90 questions for evaluating mental symptoms that with using it, it's possible to diagnose normal individual from abnormal. This questionnaire by Dragotis et al 1976 (25) was introduced, and revised based on clinical experience and psychometric analysis, and test-retest reliability coefficient of this test 0.78, 0.90 have been reported. Drogatis et al 1976 have reported satisfactory internal validity of the questionnaire by using Cronbach's alpha. The highest and lowest correlation coefficient for depression 0.95 to 0.77 obtained respectively. In about 94 heterogeneous mental patients by computing-retest reliability a week after the first run, correlation coefficients between0 .70 to 0.90 is obtained. About the validity of several studies most correlation for depression dimension 0.73 and the lowest for morbid fears dimension reported 0.36. In addition, internal consistency coefficients of

outpatients are in the range of 0.79 for paranoia thoughts to 0.90 for depression, respectively. The internal consistency coefficient of individuals with clinical signs, in the range of 0.77 for psychosis to 0.90 for depression is obtained. This test has a very high correlation with MHQ test and about 0.92 reported.

- *Demographic questionnaire:* that included information on age, family size, education, individual and family, the economic situation.

- *Semi-structured interviews:* based on DSM-4 by a qualified psychologist for evaluation of self-esteem, introversion-extroversion-oriented, emotional control and self-esteem were conducted.

In data analysis, descriptive statistics methods, including calculating mean, standard deviation and inferential statistical methods, including correlation, t-test for independent groups and ANOVA were used.

Results

Table 1. Results of the criminals of the homicide, assault and financial crimes such as age, education, previous convictions, number of family members and parent education

Indicators Variable	Mean difference	Degrees of freedom	t	Significance level
age	0.284	144	188	0.851
education	0.002	144	0.009	0.993
criminal convictions	0.168	136	0.784	0.434
Number of family members	1.391	136	3.058	0.003
Father's education	0.355	120	1.462	0.146
Mother's education	0.303	123	1.765	0.080

Table 2. Results for the number of family members and criminals, including murderers and financial assault

Number of family members	Criminals	Frequency	Percent
Less than 5 people	Murder and assault	18	23.6
	Financial criminal	30	40.9
More than 5 people	Murder and assault	47	65.3
	Financial criminal	38	53
More than 10 people	Murder and assault	9	11
	Financial criminal	5	6.1

Data analysis showed that none of the variables (age, education, criminal convictions, and education of parents) except the number of family members were significantly different between groups. The criminals of the murders and assaults based on the number of family members were living in more densely populated families (Table 1 and 2).

Table 3. Comparison of psychological characteristics of criminals, including murderers, assault and financial criminal

Indicators	Dimensions of cognitive variables	Mean difference	Df	t	Significant
Introversion - Extraversion		0.38	144	0.359	0.720
Emotional control		-0.42	129	-1.552	0.123
Self confidence		0.685	63	1.586	0.118
Self esteem		0.666	125	2.499	0.014

Table 4. Analysis of variance for comparing the three groups (including murderers, assault, financial criminals and ordinary people) in terms of the psychological variables (total marks in the questionnaire SCL-90)

Dimensions	Symptoms	Somatization	Obsessive	Sensitivity	Depression	Anxiety	Aggression	Phobia	Paranoid thought	Psychoticism
intragroup	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Intergroup	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216
sum	218	218	218	218	218	218	218	218	218	218
F	26.394	19.825	11.507	10.083	33.489	26.403	6.320	17.753	1.161	11.822
sig	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.001	0.315	0.001

Table 4 shows the results of morbid symptoms, somatization, obsessive-compulsive, interpersonal sensitivity, depression, anxiety, aggression, phobia, psychosis at 0.001 is significant. This means that there is a significant difference between the three groups. The results show that the paranoid thoughts are not significantly different, in the sense that there is no significant difference among the three groups.

Discussion

The aim of this study is a survey of Psychological features of criminals of violence. The results show that more than 65.3% of the homicide criminals live in families of 5 and more than 11% of them live in families with more than 10 members. These findings show that the dimension of household and extended families in which socioeconomic situation and supervision of parents are usually undesirable can be relatively has a strong relationship with violent behavior. While these percentages from the financial criminals who have grown only 6% in the families of 10 is much higher. The results also showed there was a significant difference in self-esteem component between the two groups including (murder, assault) and financial criminals that shows a lack of self-esteem is the root of many Social Impairments such as drug abuse, school performance, depression and types of violence. Violent crime statistics provided by the World Health Organization has been highly regarded (26, 27, 28, 29). Some scientists have suggested that low self-esteem may be the cause of aggression and negativity towards others (30,31). The results of comparing three groups of criminals of homicide and assault, financial criminals and normal people in terms of the psychological characteristics showed that the three groups in terms of symptoms,

As can be seen only in self-esteem between financial and criminal violence there is a significant difference and the criminals of homicides and assaults significantly have higher self-esteem than their financial criminals (Table 3).

somatization, obsessive-compulsive symptoms, depression, anxiety, hostility, phobic anxiety and psychosis there is a significant difference. Criminals' high scores in this test reflects the state of their mental and lower Total mental health High scores indicate Criminals of violence and financial Criminals is that criminals more than normal people have thoughts, impulses and actions are irresistible, that have Alien to his.her nature and unwanted, And more Criminals have higher depressed mood and feelings of helplessness. The feeling of indifference to the future of its features is the despair and worthlessness, Criminals more than the average person have signs and symptoms such as nervousness, sudden fear feelings and some physical aspects of anxiety and has severe overt anxiety, Even criminals, both financial and homicide have feelings, thoughts or actions that represent a broadly negative mood of anger and more aggressive moods, irritability and hostility, More than normal people have symptoms such as intense fear towards a person or a place, or object or special occasion And more than normal people have perceived discomfort caused by unhealthy body function, criminals More than normal people have withdrawal and isolation mode, which can lead to abnormal behavior and disorder that is unpredictable, The findings of the study with research results of Bahrami (9), Abedini (32), Ashkani et al.(21), shariat et al (22), Palahang (23), Arasteh and sharifi saghez, (24), Allely (8), Meloy (33), Martens (35,34), Lee (36), Beaver (37), Mouzos (38), and Nicholas (39) are coordinated and aligned, But about the paranoia thoughts that there was no significant difference between the three groups, it should be noted that the scores of the items, including "distrust of the people" or "others do not know the value of one's work", "or that if the

let others take advantage of you "need consideration in both groups, Among the limitations of the study is to examine only males, incomplete number of questionnaire of people in prisons and normal people can be mentioned, In general, it should be emphasized further studies with larger sample size, as well as projects in the prisons in different regions of the country, terms of features and psychological disorders and screening and follow-up plan for intervention in this field is essential to improve the mental health of prisoners, Design intervention programs on prisoners with personality disorders and psychological for reducing the risk of crime in these individuals After release from prison in future studies is recommended.

Conclusion

Serious attention to mental disorders in criminals is essential and perhaps with proper and systematic treatment of patients we can decrease the occurrence of disasters such as homicide. The results indicate

that criminals of violence (including homicide and finance) have more morbid symptoms. These symptoms can probably be effective in increasing aggression, which requires special attention in the area of crime.

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