

Chapter 2

RELATIONSHIPS OF SIBLING ABUSE WITH FAMILY STRUCTURE AND PARENTS' EDUCATION LEVEL AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN TURKEY

Esra IŞIK¹
Zeynep ÇETİN²

INTRODUCTION

Children generally interact with their parents from birth (Özgüven, 2001). Thus, parents both directly influence their children's behavior and serve as a model for them through displaying their attitudes and behaviors during childrearing (Ersoy, 2013). Regardless of families' childrearing methods, children might be exposed to physical punishment accompanied by emotional harm. Particularly, parents sometimes display violence or neglect behaviors that knowingly or unknowingly influence their children's development negatively (Bahar, Savaş, & Bahar, 2009).

Child abuse is defined as any type of violence against children, and is seen frequently in Turkey, as in other countries (Polat, 2007). Abuse has a negative influence on the physical, mental, and psychological development of children (Aral & Gürsoy, 2001). While child abuse (including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect) occurs frequently and is an important social problem, the particular subset of child abuse known as sibling abuse has received little attention from researchers. Researchers have expressed that sibling abuse must be handled as a type of child abuse. Furthermore, they underlined that many people are unaware of sibling abuse, despite it being a very common and important problem (Finkelhor, Hamby, Turner et al., 2005).

In fact, sibling abuse might be the most common type of domestic violence, but is often ignored (Gelles & Stratus 1979a; Krienert & Walsh, 2011). Sibling relationships generally last for long periods in people's lives and strongly influence them, which means that sibling abuse, and ignorance of it, can have severe nega-

¹ Res. Assist.; Hacettepe University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Child Development, esra38isik@gmail.com

² Assoc. Prof. Dr.; Hacettepe University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Child Development, zcetin@hacettepe.edu.tr

In this study, we considered only several risk factors thought to be associated with sibling abuse (e.g., family structure and parents' educational level). New studies should focus on other relevant variables not considered in this study. Considering that parents are generally the people who spend the most time with children, we suggest that related institutions and organizations conduct educational studies and give seminars to raise awareness among parents to intervene with sibling victimization appropriately and effectively.

REFERENCES

- Afifi, Z. E. M., El Lawindi, M. I., Ahmed, S. A., & Basily, W. W. (2003). Adolescent abuse in a community sample in Beni Suef, Egypt: prevalence and risk factors. *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*, 9(5-6), 1003–1018.
- Aral, N., & Gürsoy, F. (2001). Çocuk hakları çerçevesinde çocuk ihmal ve istismarı. *Milli Eğitim Dergisi*, 151, 36–39.
- Bahar, G., Savaş, H. A., & Bahar, A. (2009). Çocuk istismarı ve ihmali: bir gözden geçirme. *Fırat Sağlık Hizmetleri Dergisi*, 4(12), 51–65.
- Bahçecik, N., & Kavaklı, A. (1994). Çocuk istismarı ve ihmaliinde hemşirenin koruyucu sağlık hizmetlerinde ve tedavi edici kurumlardaki sorumluluğu. *Florence Nightingale Hemşirelik Dergisi*, 8(32), 45–52.
- Başkanlığı, T. B. A. A. K. (1998). *Aile içinde ve toplumsal alanda şiddet*. Ankara: Yayın.
- Button, D. M., & Gealt, R. (2010). High Risk Behaviors Among Victims of Sibling Violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, 25(2), 131–140.
- Caffaro, J. V. Ve Conn-Caffaro, A. (1998). *Sibling abuse trauma: assessment and intervention strategies for children, families and adults*. New York: The Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press.
- Cengiz, M. (2008). *Çocukların aile içi şiddete uğramasına neden olan sosyoekonomik faktörler* (Unpublished master's thesis). Dumlupınar Üniversitesi, Kütahya.
- Edward, J. (2013). Sibling discord: a force for growth and conflict. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 41(1), 77–83.
- Ersoy, E. (2013). *Ortaokul öğrencilerinin algıladıkları anne baba tutumları ile benlik saygısı ve depresyon düzeyi arasındaki ilişkinin incelenmesi* (Unpublished master's thesis). Fatih Üniversitesi, İstanbul.
- Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. L. (2005). The victimization of children and youth: a comprehensive, national survey. *Child Maltreatment*, 10(1), 5–25.
- Gelles, R. J. & Straus, M. A. (1979). Determinants of violence in the family: toward a theoretical integration. In W. R. Burr, R. Hill, F. I. Nye, & I. L. Reiss (eds.), *Contemporary theories about the family* (pp. 549–581). New York: Free Press.
- Gelles, R. J., & Ve Straus, M. A. (1979). Violence in the American family. *Journal of Social Issues*, 35(2), 15–39.
- Güler, N., Uzun, S., Boztaş, Z., & Aydoğan, S. (2002). Anneleri tarafından çocuklara uygulanan duygusal ve fiziksel istismar/ihmal davranışı ve bunu etkileyen faktörler. *CÜ Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi*, 24(3), 128–134.
- Gunindi, Y., Tezel Sahin, F., & Demircioglu, H. (2012). Functions of the family: family structure and place of residence. *Energy Education Science and Technology Part B: Social and Educational Studies*, 4, 549–556.

- Hoffman, K. L., & Edwards, J. N. (2004). An integrated theoretical model of sibling violence and abuse. *Journal of Family Violence, 19*(3), 185–200.
- Kiselica, M. S., & Morrill-Richards, M. (2007). Sibling maltreatment: The forgotten abuse. *Journal of Counseling & Development, 85*(2), 148–160.
- Krienert, J. L., & Walsh, J. A. (2011). My brother's keeper: A contemporary examination of reported sibling violence using national level data, 2000–2005. *Journal of Family Violence, 26*(5), 331–342.
- Laursen, B. (1995). Variations in adolescent conflict and social interaction associated with maternal employment and family structure. *International Journal of Behavioral Development, 18*(1), 151–164.
- Maden, M. F., & Wrench, D. F. (1977). Significant findings in child abuse research. *Victimology: An International Journal, 2*(2), 196–224.
- Martin, M. J., & Walters, J. (1982). Familial correlates of selected types of child abuse and neglect. *Journal of Marriage and the Family, 44*(2), 267–276.
- Milevsky, A. (2013). *Sibling relationships in childhood and adolescence: predictors and outcomes*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- National Research Council (1993). *Understanding child abuse and neglect*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- Newman, J. (1991). College students' relationships with siblings. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 20*(6), 629–644.
- Newman, J. (1994). Conflict and friendship in sibling relationships: a review. *Child Study Journal, 24*(2), 119–153.
- Özgülven, İ. E. (2001). *Ailede iletişim ve yaşam*. Ankara: PDREM Yayınları.
- Polat, O. (2007). *Tüm boyutlarıyla çocuk istismarı I. Tanımlar*. Ankara: Seçkin Yayıncılık.
- Schneider, M. W., Ross, A., Graham, J. C., & Zielinski, A. (2005). Do allegations of emotional maltreatment predict developmental outcomes beyond that of other forms of maltreatment? *Child Abuse & Neglect, 29*(5), 513–532.
- Tippett, N., & Wolke, D. (2015). Aggression between siblings: associations with the home environment and peer bullying. *Aggressive Behavior, 41*(1), 14–24.
- Wiehe, V. R. (1997). *Sibling abuse: hidden physical, emotional, and sexual trauma*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Wiehe, V. R. (1998). *Understanding family violence: treating and preventing partner, child, sibling and elder abuse*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Yılmaz-Irmak, T. (2008). *Çocuk istismarı ve ihmalinin yaygınlığı ve dayanıklılıkla ilişkili faktörler* (Unpublished doctoral thesis). Ege Üniversitesi, İzmir.
- Zeytinoğlu, S., & Kozcu, Ş. (1990). Fiziksel çocuk istismarı konusunda bir araştırma. *Seminer Psikoloji, 6*(7), 77–84.