

Identifying the Symptoms of Borderline Personality Disorder, And Its Relationship to the Absence of the Father in a Sample of Female High School Students in Al Jamaa District

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Abstract

Introduction: The study aimed to identify the symptoms of borderline personality disorder, and its relationship to the absence of the father among a sample of secondary school students in Al Jamaa district. The study consisted of (432) female students from the secondary school students in the university district.

Objectives: to achieve the objectives of this study, the borderline personality disorder symptoms scale, the father's absence questionnaire, and the father's absence impact scale were developed and applied after ensuring the validity and reliability of the scales.

Methods: This study adopted the descriptive correlational approach as the most appropriate method for its objectives. This approach describes the symptoms of borderline personality disorder, and its relationship to the absence of the father among the study sample.

Results and conclusion: The results showed that the level of impact of the absence of the father and the symptoms of borderline personality disorder came at an moderate level, and that the relationship between them is a direct correlation relationship. And the absence of statistically significant differences in the symptoms of borderline personality disorder due to the two variables (birth order, the period of absence of the father). Differences between the rest of the birth order and the variable of the reason for the absence of the father and in favor of imprisonment for the father compared to divorce, the death of the father in favor of separation and the imprisonment of the father and the father's abandonment of the house compared to the father's travel, and the absence of statistically significant differences for the variable of the duration of the father's absence.

Keywords: Borderline personality disorder, father absence, secondary school students.

1. Introduction

Adolescence is considered one of the most important stages in an individual's life, those between the age group of 12 to 18 years old may be representing this stage. (Maalyi, 2015) which characterized by many changes in the physical, mental, psychological, and sexual lives of its members, as well as significant changes in all aspects of the adolescence, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing. (Abu Ghraibeh, 2007). Stress and anxiety are considered the most important characteristics among the stage of adolescence, as it is considered a transition from one's sense of being a child who dependent on those around him, to an adult with greater autonomy than before. (mehdib, 2011), so this may increase more parental responsibility towards this category because of the great need of care and attention by providing a loving and understanding familial atmosphere. (Farrah, 2012).

The World Health Organization (WHO, 2022) defines adolescence as a stage of life which mediates the childhood and the adulthood, begins of 10 years and ends of 19 years of age, and it considered an important stage as it impacts the physical and psychological health.

Early adolescence is also a critical period in human-being growth; The adolescent begins to recede from parental control and influence, becomes more independent from the family and more involved with his peers and more influenced by the surrounding environment than by the family (Pleck & Hofferth, 2008), however (Collins & Laursen, 2004) indicated that the child's relationship with his/her parents remains of great importance in influencing his/her social structure and emotion, despite changes in the individual's interaction patterns.

One of the most important events the adolescent aspires to in his life is the independence from the family, which is referred in the writings of (Shmout, 2004), and also expressed in Lingworth works as the term "Psychological Weaning" because the adolescent will feel independent from the familial authority and he will try to test his personal autonomy. And the source of this thinking is shaped by his social relations with people other than parents, However, there have been numerous studies that have indicated that the adolescent's loyalty remains to his parents and their values. Sometimes, however, he may be influenced by the attitudes and values of others about whom his family knows nothing.

The family is one of the most important agencies of social control in the lives of individuals and may be considered as the corner stone that affects their personalities and their physical, social, and psychological development. As genes and inheritance affect individuals' characteristics and personalities, or even may be responsible for the development of their psychological disorders, environmental factors, socialization, and family conditions may also affect their personalities and psychosocial well-being. (Alsharif, 2014)

The family, as described by Cooley, is the primary group, which is defined as a small group with direct, close, and deep relationships among its members. The "primary group" term has been used to refer to the medium through which the individual learns attitudes and behavioural patterns that determine what the individual will gain and be influenced by from other groups. In addition, the child's interaction with family members like parents and siblings will determine later the nature of his interaction with other members of society in a broader context (Primary Groups in Society: Examples & Overview, 2015).

And if there is an imbalance in family construction and communication within the family, this will increase the severity of problems, thus giving children the opportunity to seek love and acceptance outside the family -- especially in adolescence -- which may increase the burden of this phase on individuals. (Belehi, 2008).

One of these environmental conditions, which may have an enormous impact on the lives of the individuals, is the absence of the father, which has become apparently very common these days as a result of the social, political and economic conditions that have begun to affect Arab and global societies, which may also be considered a serious phenomenon as it affects the normal distribution of gender roles in the family, as well as the increased psychological burden on the other caregiver (mother), and the negative and malignant effect related to the development of individuals' personalities in the family and their proper psychological development, as well as the negative effects that might weaken the types of attachment to parental models in the life of the child (Siakas et al., 2014).

It is worth noting here, that the father's absence and its causes may be numerous, including what may be considered compulsory absences due to death, Military service, imprisonment, quarantine, or voluntary on account of divorce, separation, abandonment, emotional absence, polygamy, and whether this absence is compulsory or voluntary, permanent or semi-permanent absence, it will definitely affect the natural stability of the family and create an unhealthy environment which may impact the family members and hinder them from creating healthy relationships with each other's, as a result their psychological, personal and value development will be affected negatively. (Mukhtar, 2018)

(Abreim, 2011) noted that the presence of the patriarchal model has a clear impact on children's sense of psychological safety, since the father is the first model that helps his offspring to engage in their social environment and aid the development of psychological safety sense and receptivity.

The father may be in the house or live with his family, but he does not play his natural role due to work responsibilities or the lack of perceiving the fatherhood responsibilities in its broader context, believing that he has to play the role of the "bread winner" and as a result this can lead to loss of parental feelings, lack of familial harmony, as well as an emotional coldness and psychological anxiety. (Ghaleb, 2011).

The Impact of father's absence

Children who live without their parents may encounter greater problems with their academic performance, i.e., they may gain less than average marks in achievement tests, and their mental abilities and attainment of mental abilities tests are low. As a result, their academic performance is weaker compared to others, those children who live in families without a father model may experience more behavioural problems in school, such as serious difficulties with attention, Failure to comply with orders, expulsion from school, failure to attend classes and being more likely to leave school early in their lives. (Allen & Daly, 2007)

One of the most important aspects of girls who developed "Daddy issues" is their unhealthy relationships with other men. That is, it is very common for these "heterosexual" women to be more vulnerable to toxic relationships with the opposite gender. (Ali, 2012) The reason for this is quite clear: the father is usually the first man in his daughter's life; The girl's relationship with her father serves stereotypically for what her future relationships with men will be (Absent father: wounded but not broken, 2016), so when the relationship between a girl and her father is abnormal or non-existent, her awareness and perception of males becomes perverse, and because safe attachment between parent and child is important for creating healthy relationships in the future, a lack of such

attachment may lead to adverse consequences, one of which is the difficulty of developing a healthy relationships with men in general for women who have lost their father. (Brown, Mangelsdorf & Neff, 2012)

The father's absence from the family during his daughters' lifetime may be problematic in social, emotional, and academic aspects and beyond that. Many studies have confirmed that the father's absence may alter their daughter's sexual development trajectory, especially regarding puberty and the onset of their menstruation; That is, these girls may experience the first menstruation earlier than other girls living in intact families. (La Guardia et al., 2014)

One of the most important problems that children who have experienced the father's absence may suffer is financial problems. most of these children grow up in homes ravaged by financial crises that may continue into adulthood. If the father is absent, leaving behind a wife who endured a dual burden and try to meet her children needs by herself, the result will be inevitable poverty. Although these children who have grown up in financially unstable families are likely to become financially stable in adulthood, unfortunately this possibility is not always the case. (Castetter, 2020)

The study by (Al-Azimi et al., 2020) noted that there were gender differences in the social anxiety of children who experienced the father's absence by divorce in a sample of middle school students. The study also found differences in the social anxiety of children who experienced the father's absence by death, and the results of a study by (Muansram, 2020) indicated that there are statistically significant differences in the father's moral absence and psychological compatibility. The results also show statistical differences in the emotional absence of the father and psychological compatibility among the study sample which consist of school students. In addition the findings of the study by (Youssef and Ali, 2016) indicates that the aggressive behavior of children who raised in families suffered from the absence of the father is statistically high, while the results of the study by (Garibaldi, 2019) showed that girls who experienced father's absence were more susceptible to sexual abuse and early sexual experience than those who came from intact families, however they did not show more anxious or avoidant pattern of attachment than the second group who did not experience the father's absence.

Borderline personality disorder is one of the four personality disorders in cluster B which are: antisocial personality disorder, histrionic personality disorder and narcissistic personality disorder, all characterized by dramatic and exaggerated feelings and unpredictable patterns of thinking and behavior (APA, 2013).

Diagnostic criteria for borderline personality disorder

The symptoms of borderline personality disorder are described in the Fifth edition of Diagnostic and statistical Manual of Psychiatric Disorders "Text-revised" (DSM5-Tr). These criteria are as follows (APA, 2022):

- 1- Frantic attempts to avoid real or imagined abandonment.
- 2- An unstable and intense pattern of interpersonal relationships that alternates between extreme feeling of idealization and devaluation.
- 3- Noticeable identity disturbance, unstable self-image, or sense of self.
- 4- impulsivity in at least two areas that are considered self-destructive (e.g., spending, sex, substance abuse, reckless driving, binge eating).
- 5- Recurrent suicidal behaviours, gestures, threats, or self-mutilating behaviours.
- 6- Affective instability due to a marked reactivity of mood (e.g., intense episodic dysphoria, irritability, or anxiety that usually last several hours and only rarely more than several days).
- 7- chronic feeling of emptiness.
- 8- inappropriate, intense and unjustified anger or difficulties in controlling anger (e.g. frequent displays of temper, constant anger, recurrent physical fights).
- 9- Transient, stress- related paranoid ideation or severe dissociative symptoms.

According to (Crowell, Beauchaine, Linehan, 2009) borderline personality is a disorder of emotional regulation, which appears interchangeably among individuals with biological genetic impairment and certain environmental effects. This disorder, referred to by Linehan as one of the broad disorders that encompasses all areas of emotional regulation.

The results of the study (Akkad, 2022) indicated that the level of borderline personality disorder in secondary school students was low and therefore low inclination to suicide. The results also showed a correlation between borderline personality disorder and the research tools results which measured suicidal orientation. In addition to that the results of the study (Al-Qawoud and Al-Shaqran, 2022) also indicated that the prevalence of borderline personality disorder among Jordanian university students was 12.18%. While The study by (Barakat, 2021) aimed to identify the interrelationship between borderline personality, characterized by instability in inter relationships between people with borderline personality disorder which indicated high level of borderline personality disorder

characteristics. Moreover, the study by (Al Zahrani, 2019) indicates that the degree of symptoms of borderline personality disorder came at a low level in students.

According to the study by (Soloff & Chiappetta, 2018) BPD symptoms decrease over time in longitudinal studies, but psychosocial functioning lags far behind. The effects of time and advancing age on BPD are unknown. They used a multidimensional assessment method and biannual follow-ups to look for prospective predictors of psychosocial outcome and recovery in 150 BPD subjects. The length of the study had no effect on achieving BPD diagnostic remission, good psychosocial outcomes, meaningful interpersonal relationships, full employment, or total recovery; however, younger age was associated with social and vocational achievement independent of BPD remission. Age, employment status, MDD, SUD, Any Anxiety Disorder, and alcohol abuse/dependence all made significant contributions to psychosocial outcome (ALC). Remission from BPD was neither required nor sufficient for healthy interpersonal relationships or full-time employment or complete recovery; however, regardless of BPD remission, younger age was associated with social and vocational achievement. Age, employment status, MDD, SUD, Any Anxiety Disorder, and alcohol abuse/dependence all made significant contributions to psychosocial outcome (ALC). BPD remission was neither required nor sufficient for healthy interpersonal relationships or full-time employment. Full-time employment as well as social and vocational adjustment (SAS-sr) predicted a positive psychosocial outcome. Comorbidity with Any Anxiety Disorder, MDD, or SUD on Axis I predicted a poor outcome.

while the study by (Zanarini et al, 2020) aimed to look at the relationship between childhood adversity, protective childhood experiences, and the five-factor model of personality and BPD in adolescents. The study included two groups of adolescents: 104 who met BPD criteria and 60 who were psychiatrically healthy. A semi structured interview was used to assess adverse and protective childhood experiences. The NEO-FFI was used to assess the five-factor model of personality. Eight of the nine variables studied were found to be significant bivariate risk factors for adolescent BPD, including severity of abuse and neglect, positive childhood relationships, childhood competence, and the personality factors studied. A multivariate model, however, revealed that the severity of neglect, higher levels of neuroticism, and lower levels of childhood competence were the best risk factor models. When taken as a whole, The findings of this study suggest that all three types of risk factors investigated are significantly associated with BPD in adolescents.

The study by (Berenson et al, 2021) compared self-reported and behavioural responses to reward and punishment in people with borderline personality disorder (BPD) or avoidant personality disorder (APD) to a healthy comparison group (HC). Self-reported sensitivity to reward was significantly higher in the BPD group than in the APD and HC groups, as expected. Self-reported sensitivity to punishment was significantly elevated in both disordered groups, but significantly higher in APD than in BPD, as predicted. These hypothesized patterns were also evident in responses to behavioural tasks: on a passive avoidance learning task, participants with BPD made more errors of commission and fewer errors of omission than HC participants, and participants with APD showed greater reactivity to losses than other participants on a probabilistic reversal learning task. The findings aid in distinguishing between these two disorders.

Relationship between father's absence and borderline personality disorder

Although the causes of borderline personality disorder are not clear, contemporary models have confirmed that this disorder is a product of overlapping pathways of genetic, neurological, behavioural, and familial social factors, and many of these multiple factors cover the relationship between parents and their children, meanwhile understanding this interaction is very important to comprehend how borderline personality disorder develops. Since child abuse and neglect by parents are one of the environmental stressors that have drawn the attention of psychological research and practitioners to try to detect the causal or correlational factors responsible for developing borderline personality disorder, which are assumed to be intermediate factors between parents' borderline personality disorder and their children. (Steele, Townsend, Grenyer, 2019) Studies have also shown that the lack of patriarchal model in the females live may place them at greater risk of engaging in impulsive sexual behaviours, low self-esteem, distrust of others (Moore & Tara, 2016), all of which may share symptoms of borderline personality disorder.

The study by (Miljkovitch et al., 2018) also explained that beyond the unsafe attachment that patients with borderline personality disorder may generally experience is the unhealthy relationship between both parents, and this trait was predominant on adolescents diagnosed with disorder, by contrast when the experimental group was compared with a control group, the results showed that individuals in the control group had attachment patterns that represent the safe attachment pattern specifically with the father. In addition, he asserted in his study that

childhood neglect and abuse were among the most significant events that characterized the history of persons with disorders.

From what the researchers presented, the importance of the father's presence and his role in the lives of his children and the negative impact of the absence of this role on female adolescents by developing symptoms of borderline personality disorder is clearly evident, as according to the researchers those two variables and the subject of this research was not discussed with this specific manner at the Arab and local level, which prompted us to conduct this study.

Background

Some symptoms were observed on a large number of female students who experienced a social conditions that force them to live away from their biological father and as a result without a substantial patriarchal model in their lives due to the parents' divorce s, death, or work abroad, and these symptoms were very similar to those of borderline personality disorder, such as fear of abandonment, Sense of emptiness, suicidal thoughts or self-harm, and self-destructive behaviours such substance abuse, smoking or alcohol in addition they tend constantly and repeatedly searching for an intimacy, and involvement in transient and superficial relationships with one or more persons or even the susceptibility to involve get emotionally attached to men who may be older than them or even married. A study by (Fu et al., 2017) showed that absent father children have more suicidal thoughts and tendencies than others. (Trujillo, 2018) study results showed that there is a correlation between non-suicidal self-harm and the absence of parental model in a sample of university students and this result is also confirmed by a study of (Storksen et al., 2005) which applied to a sample of adolescents who had experienced their parents' divorce or separation compared to a control group.

According to the Psychoanalysis theory, male children in the phallic stage of 3-5 years develop what is known as castration anxiety, at this stage the boy's worry that his penis might be severed or removed gives rise to the concept of castration anxiety. He might have assumed that a female who was nude had already lost her penis if he had seen her in that state. Girls who puzzled why they lacked penises and believed that perhaps they had done something wrong to lose their penises are referred to as having penis envy. Freud thought that penis envy or castration anxiety could be the cause of later personality issues. The Oedipus complex in males or the Electra complex in girls can arise because of having a sexual desire for the parent, difficulties at this stage may cause problems related to gender identity or superficial relationships with the opposite gender. (Sharf, 2014) as a result father's absence may affect their daughters stage of development, since the first male model that a female sees in her life is her father, so how will it be if this male model is absent from her life! which is confirmed by a study (Lacey et al, 2018) that there is a correlation between parental absence due to death or separation and smoking or the use of alcohol in adolescence and adulthood.

Based on the foregoing, this study answered the main question to identify the of symptoms of borderline personality disorder and its relationship to the father's absence, in a sample of female secondary students in the Al Jamaa district.

Definitions and Operationalizations

Father Absence

(Theoretical definition): is the parent who is not in custody and legally obliged to provide support to the child and is physically absent from the family home or the child's place of residence. This term is also called a father who abandons his or her child, failing to maintain a way of communicating with the child thereafter. (Uslegal forms, 1997)

(Operational Definition): is the total score that the participant obtained on the father absence survey and father absence effect questionnaire prepared for the purposes of this study.

Borderline Personality Disorder

(Theoretical definition): a persistent and comprehensive pattern of uncertainty and lack of continuity in relationships between personality, self-image, and feelings as well as extreme impulsivity that begins in early adulthood in many contexts. (APA,2022)

(Operational Definition): It is the total score obtained by the participant on the borderline personality disorder symptoms questionnaire prepared for the purposes of this study.

Secondary students

(Operational Definition) Each student attends secondary school in Al Jamma district.

2. Objectives

- To identify the level of the father's absence on a sample of high school students in the Al Jamaa district?
- To identify the level of borderline personality disorder symptoms in a sample of high school students in Al Jamaa district?
- To detect if there is a correlational relationship at the indicative level of $(0,05=\alpha)$ between the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and the effect of the father's absence in a sample of high school students in Al Jamaa district?

3. Methods

This study adopted the descriptive correlational approach as the most appropriate method for its objectives. This approach describes the symptoms of borderline personality disorder, and its relationship to the absence of the father among the study sample.

The study sample

The study sample consisted of 432 secondary school female students in Al Jamaa district- Amman, who were selected using a random sampling technique.

Study Tools

To achieve the objectives of the study, the following tools were used.

First tool: Father absence survey

Which is prepared for the purposes of identifying the reasons and duration of father absence.

Second tool: borderline personality disorder symptoms scale

A scale of borderline personality disorder was developed after reviewing previous studies and theoretical literature such as the McLean Screening Instrument for Borderline Personality Disorder (MSI-BPD) (Zanarini et al ,2003). In addition to the researcher used the diagnostic and statistical manual for mental disorder- fifth edition as a basic reference for this tool. (APA, 2022) the survey consisted of 44 items, and the response scale for these items consisted of a 5-point Likert scale: 'strongly agree' was assigned the number 5 and 'strongly disagree' was assigned 1. A high score meant that there was a higher level of borderline personality disorder symptoms. The validity coefficients ranged from 0.874-0.379, the paragraph correlation coefficient values with its dimension's ranged from (0.566-0.941), and the dimensional correlation coefficient values with the overall scale ranged from 0.681-0.916, and the criterion for accepting a paragraph was adopted with an indicative level $(\alpha=0.05)$ Thus, the coefficients of the paragraphs are acceptable, and the internal consistency coefficients of the Cronbach alpha ranged from (0.737-0.972), thereby the final survey paragraph was consisted of (42) paragraphs.

Third tool: Father absence impact questionnaire

A copy of the Father's Absence Impact questionnaire has been developed after reviewing previous studies and theoretical literature such as (Krampe & Newton, 2006), (Muhaysen, 2013) and (Naffaa, 2013). (32) A paragraph divided into four dimensions (family impact of father's absence, psychological impact of father's absence, social impact of father's absence, academic impact of father's absence) and the response scale for these items consisted of a 5-point Likert scale: 'strongly agree' was assigned the number 5 and 'strongly disagree' was assigned 1, and higher score means a higher impact of father absence, The validity coefficients ranged from (0.887-0.391) the paragraph correlation coefficient values with its dimension's ranged from (0.898-0.363) and the dimensional correlation coefficient values with the overall scale ranged from (0.949-0.678), and the criterion for accepting a paragraph was adopted with an indicative level $(\alpha=0.05)$ Thus, the coefficients of the paragraphs are acceptable, and the internal consistency coefficients of the Cronbach alpha ranged from (0.914-0.721), thereby the final survey paragraph was consisted of (30) paragraphs.

4. Results and Discussion

This study aims to identify the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and its relationship to the father's absence in a sample of high school students at Al Jamaa district in Amman Governorate in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The results are reviewed and discussed in accordance with the research questions.

The result of the first question: what is the level of the father's absence on a sample of high school students in the Al Jamaa district?

To answer this question, measures of central tendencies and standard deviations of the answers were calculated on the impact of the father's absence, and table (1) shows the results:

Table (1)
 averages and standard deviations of the dimensions of the measure of the effect of the father's absence

Dimensions	Rank	Averages	SD	Estimation
Social impact of father absence	1	3.34	0.724	moderate
Psychological impact of father absence	2	3.32	0.557	moderate
Academic impact of father absence	3	3.21	0.731	moderate
Familial impact of father absence	4	3.16	0.693	moderate
Overall Level of impact of the father's absence		3.27	0.547	moderate

Table (1) shows that the average calculation of the responses of female secondary students in Al Jamaa district to the Father Absence Impact questionnaire was (3.27) at a moderate level, the calculation averages of dimensions ranged from (3.16-3.34), and the first was the third dimension "Social Impact of Father Absence" at an average calculation (3.34), while the last ranking was the first dimension "Familial impact of father absence" at an average calculation (3.16)

These results may be explained by the significant social impact that Arab societies may suffer, and by the stigma that may be inflicted on families without fathers, especially divorced women and their children, especially female children, followed by the psychological impact that will certainly be affected because of the effected social impact; These girls do not live in isolation from the world and are certainly part of it. In addition, our Arab societies sometimes make judgements on females who have experienced similar situations, so the psychological impact has come at the second factor affected, Academic impact was third with a lower average than psychosocial impact. and this explanation may be attributed to the fact that academic achievement is often better in females than in males, so it was less affected than in other dimensions, The last and least affected dimension is the family impact of the father's absence, which may be attributed to the high social support within Arab families specially the family of the mothers who lived without their husbands around.

(Backman, Silver & DeCeglie, 2019) pointed out regarding the impact of the father's absence on social performance, that social performance is negatively affected in children absent father, in which this study agreed with the current study that the social dimension was more affected comparing to other dimensions, while the psychological impact of the father's absence was the second most affected dimension after the social dimension as confirmed by a study (Abdullah et al., 2021) that the psychological hardiness strengthen with the presence of the father and weaken in the children with the absence of the father, while the study (Al-Azimi et al., 2020) confirmed that there are differences in social anxiety between males and females absent from the father due to death or divorce and the overall high rate of social anxiety in children who experienced father absence regardless of the reasons and types of the absence, and the current study is in line with Culpin et al. 2022) that the father's absence was strongly associated with depression in the father absence children with greater depressive symptoms at the age of 24, in addition to symptoms with a depressive course during adolescence and early adulthood comparing to the father's presence.

Regarding the third dimension, the academic impact of the father's absence, the average was 3.16 with the third rank after (Social Impact) and (Psychological Impact), This is what the current study disagree with the study by (Ahmad & Qureshi, 2014) which concluded that the academic differences were clear between adolescents who experienced the father's absence (whether due to death or divorce), and among adolescents living in intact families where the father's presence was effective and efficient, and regarding the gender differences, the academic attainment of females who lost their father's has been radically affected more than males. and most researchers recommend that parents should be educated in all possible ways to prevent family disintegration to eliminated the risk of children's anxiety and negative impact on their psychological well-being, and not exposing children to parental conflicts that occur between parents.. (Al-Azimi et al., 2020).

Results of the second question: What is the level of borderline personality disorder symptoms in a sample of high school students in Al Jamaa district?

To answer this question, measures of central tendencies and standard deviations of the answers were calculated on borderline personality disorder symptoms, and table (2) shows the results:

Table (2)

averages and standard deviations of the dimensions of the measure of borderline personality disorder symptoms

Dimensions	Rank	Averages	SD	Estimation
Fluctuation in emotions	1	3.60	0.786	moderate
Chronic feeling of emptiness	2	3.40	0.914	moderate
Inappropriate, intense, and unjustified anger	3	3.38	0.903	moderate
Avoidance of real or imagined abandonment	4	3.33	0.832	moderate
Instability of interpersonal relationships	5	3.33	0.806	moderate
Paranoid ideation or severe dissociative symptoms	6	3.31	0.871	moderate
Identity disturbance	7	3.30	0.851	moderate
Impulsivity	8	3.17	0.776	moderate
Recurrent suicidal behaviors or self-mutilating behaviors	9	3.10	0.920	moderate
Overall Level of borderline personality disorder symptoms		3.31	0.682	moderate

Table 2 shows that the average calculation of the responses of female secondary students in Al Jamaa district to borderline personality disorder questionnaire was 3.31 at a moderate level and the calculation averages of dimensions ranged from 3.10-3.60, with the first ranking being the sixth dimension "fluctuation in emotions" at an average calculation (3.60), while the last ranking was the fifth dimension "Recurrent suicidal behaviors or self-mutilating behaviors" at an average calculation (3.10).

This finding can be attributed to the fact that adolescent girls in general in may suffer from fluctuation in emotions, feeling empty and poor emotional control leading to persistent and unjustified anger. (Dimensions with the highest averages) even in intact families who have not experienced the father's absence, and the severity of these symptoms may be flare up in girls in the phase of borderline personality disorder, but they may exist in adolescent females as a feature of the adolescence stage. While the dimensions of "Avoidance of real or imagined abandonment" and "Fluctuation in emotions" were in the fourth and fifth ranks consecutively and this may be attributed to the social constraints that Arab societies may impose on females in relation to intimate relationships and the restrictions that placed in disclosing feelings about intimacy and attachment which considered inappropriate, but regarding the dimensions of paranoid ideation or severe dissociative symptoms, identity disturbance, impulsivity and suicidal behaviors they all came from sixth to ninth in a row, which may indicate a lower prevalence of these symptoms than other symptoms. This may be attributed to the cause that the presence of these symptoms may ensure the diagnosis of borderline personality disorder and increase the severity of it, that is the presence of at least one of these symptoms may result to emergency rooms admission or a clear functional impairment many aspects of life, This may impedes the most important life function of these girls which is "education" and being a student who attend school, In addition, this study was designed to identify the symptoms of the disorder on a non-clinical sample so it was unlikely that the sample would suffer severe minatory symptoms such as suicidal ideation or dissociative symptoms.

The study by (Abdul Hamid, William, Abdul Jawad, 2021) noted that the essence of borderline personality disorder is the emotional regulation, and that one of the most important symptoms dominating patients was chronic emptiness, impaired emotional stability, and the fluctuation of emotions and these symptoms are consistent with the results of the current study, which are predominating over the sample of the study, The result of the current study also disagree with the (Silberschmidt et al., 2015) study, which concluded that women diagnosed with borderline personality disorder exhibit more symptoms in total than diagnosed men, and that the symptoms of hostility and relationship dysfunction are generally dominant, thus disagreeing with the results of the current study, which were symptoms of emotional fluctuation, chronic feeling of emptiness and persistent anger are the dominant symptoms.

Results of the third question: Is there a correlational relationship at the indicative level of (0,05=α) between the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and the effect of the father's absence in a sample of high school students in Al Jamaa district?

To answer this question, the Pearson correlation coefficient was used between the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and the effect of the father's absence, and table (3) shows the results:

Table (3)
 Pearson coefficient values between symptoms of borderline personality disorder and the effect of the father's absence

Comparisons		Father absence effect				
		Overall questionnaire	Familial effect	Psychological effect	Social effect	Academic effect
Borderline personality disorder symptoms	Overall questionnaire	.576**	.647**	.427**	.532**	.302**
	Avoidance of real or imagined abandonment	.496**	.467**	.433**	.433**	.287**
	Instability of interpersonal relationships	.467**	.550**	.343**	.448**	.210**
	Identity disturbance	.394**	.484**	.258**	.391**	.178**
	Impulsivity	.530**	.556**	.393**	.471**	.330**
	Recurrent suicidal behaviours or self-mutilating behaviours	.504**	.566**	.327**	.451**	.327**
	Fluctuation in emotions	.361**	.375**	.363**	.318**	.139**
	Chronic feeling of emptiness	.496**	.547**	.371**	.460**	.264**
	Inappropriate, intense, and unjustified anger	.426**	.480**	.341**	.429**	.158**
	Paranoid ideation or severe dissociative symptoms	.422**	.554**	.267**	.369**	.224**

Table 3 shows a statistically significant positive correlation at the indicative level (0.05) Between the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and the effect of the father's absence, the correlation coefficient has reached (0.576), while the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and the dimensions of the father's absence ranged from (0.302-0.647), while the dimensions of the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and the effect of the father's absence ranged from (0.361 - 0.530), the correlation coefficients ranged between the dimensions of the symptoms of borderline personality disorder and the dimensions of the father's absence (0.139 - 0.566), which are statistically significant values at the level of indication (0.05).

This finding can be attributed to the fact that the existence of the first male model in girls' lives plays a significant role as a protection factor from the fundamental factor that may be conclusively responsible for the development of borderline personality disorder, which is sexual exploitation and abuse, studies such as (De Aquino Ferreira et al., 2018; Infurna et al., 2016) indicated that social factors related to socialization, or exposure to early sexual abuse or exploitation may play a significant role in the development of borderline personality disorder, especially in women, in addition the study by (De Aquino Ferreira et al., 2018) also revealed that sexual abuse rates were significantly higher in patients with borderline personality disorder than in other personality disorders and therefore being a part of healthy and stable families with the presence of father may be a protection factor against the sexual exploitation of girls and thus exclude one of the most important factors that may be responsible for the development of borderline personality disorder, It should be noted here that the father gives his daughter the first male model and he is also responsible for teaching them respect and the relationships boundaries, so if the girl is not raised with an appropriate parenting model, she may unconsciously search for a male that repeats the abandonment that she experienced with his father in childhood as noted in the study by (Mosquera, Gonzalez, Leeds, 2014).

Previous studies also have indicated that child abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect by parents, and children's experience of traumatic separation from the significant other may consider as an environmental stressor that have

been assumed to be intermediary factors between borderline personality disorder in children and their parents. (Steele, Townsend, Grenyer, 2019; Infurna et al., 2016, Abdul Hamid, William, Abdel Jawad, 2021). These results may also be attributable to a cognitive deficit in these girls, as the father's loss or abandonment of the family was the dominant event in their lives, as well as having difficulties in forming a long-term emotional relationships because of their fear that the abandonment which they experienced with their fathers in the past would be repeated by another male in the future, and they didn't want to be abused again, either consciously or unconsciously, considering that fear of abandonment is a main symptom of borderline personality disorder, and this interpretation is consistent with the results of the study by (Al Qawoud and Al Shuqran, 2022), which indicated a correlation between the level of cognitive deficiency and symptoms of borderline personality disorder. In addition, those girls who have experienced the father's absence may develop a pattern that is most common among other patterns of attachment, as instead of feeling ashamed and away from men as a result of their father absence, these girls are eager for males' attention. This is also parallel to Bowlby's Anxious attachment. Women who develop anxious attachment tend to seek reassurance and affirmation from others. this search for reassurance, approval and attention is a result of a profound lack of confidence and assurance by the absent father, These girls often try to feel the approval by engaging in relationships with other men, which is one of the obvious diagnostic features that women with borderline personality disorder may experience. And beyond the anxious attachment that they might experience the unstable relationship between both parents and this trait was predominant for teenagers diagnosed with disorder (Joeng et al, 2017; Milijkovitch et al., 2018) The interpretation of these findings may also be attributed to the study by (Moore & Tara, 2016) result which indicates that the lack of patriarchal model in daughters' lives may place them at greater risk of engaging in impulsive sexual behaviors, distrust other, and low self-esteem (all of which may share symptoms or diagnostic features of borderline personality disorder).

Recommendations

Through the results of the current study, the following recommendations can be given:

1. Educate mental health providers in the social community in the need to follow up on adolescent girls who have experienced father's absence.
2. Activating the relationship between the school counselor or school Psychologist and the family; To ensure that the social, psychological, and academic problems of girls who have experienced the father's absence are avoided.
3. Design psychological programmes for girls who experienced father absence; To reduce the chance of them developing borderline personality disorder.
4. Conduct comparative studies to test the impact of the father's absence between the two genders and its impact on the development of borderline personality disorder.

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