

RRUGËT PËR MARRJEN E KUJDESIT PËR FËMIJËT DHE ADOLESHENTËT ME
PROBLEME TË SHËNDETIT MENDOR
AFTËSITË DHE VËSHITËSITË EMOCIONALE DHE TË SJELLJES TË FËMIJËVE TË
SHKOLLËS "HALIT ÇOKA" BATHORE, TIRANË

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Summary

PATHWAY TO CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
STRENGTH AND DIFFICULTIES IN EMOTIONS AND BEHAVIOURS OF CHILDREN IN
BATHORE'S SCHOOL, TIRANA

There has been almost no mental health service research in Albania. A pathway study provides a quantitative description of the filters in the help-seeking and investigate the relative contributions of child, parents, pediatrics, GP etc. in determining service use. **Aim:** the detection of children with difficulties in emotions, concentration, behavior, or peer relations, with low and high risk for psychiatric disorders in children of Bathore's school using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) and Pathways Encounter Form for pathway to care and service use.

Method: Data were collected using SDQ and Pathways Encounter Form that was completed by children of 10 to 14 years old as well as from their teachers. The number of completed interviews was 269. SDQ includes 25 items, generating scores for Conduct Problems, Inattention-Hyperactivity, Emotional Symptoms, Peer Problems, and Prosocial Behavior. The statistical analysis is completed using SPSS 10.0 for windows. Comparisons between groups, problems and predictive factors influencing help seeking care.

Results: The samples' mean age was 11.2 years. Approximately 19% of children had emotional and behavioral difficulties, 28% had peer relations problems. About 70% of these children had an impact on their functioning. Children that resulted with difficulties in emotions, concentration, behavior or peer relations varied by sex, age and socioeconomic status and 5% of them were consulted by a specialist of mental health.

Conclusions: It is the first research done in Albania which takes out data from a sensitive instrument used in many countries. These data show severe difficulties in emotional, concentration, behavior and peer relations in a significant number of Bathore's school children. Mental health service it is not available to these children with definite or severe difficulties. This report may be useful to health professionals, educators and health planners involving in assessment needs for services for children with emotional/behavioral problems. Findings highlight areas that require further attention if aspirations for community-oriented mental health care are to be realized in Tirana and Albania. Declaration of interest: None.

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