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Of Childhood Studies  
(Medical Department)  
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# PSYCHIATRIC MORBIDITY IN PREPARATORY SCHOOL GIRLS

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***To .....***

***My Husband And My Son.***



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## INTRODUCTION

Both emotional and behavioral disorders in adult life start in childhood age . Such integrated psychiatric complexity is currently affected by age,sex, life events,school period (psychosocial factors), somatic disorders, biological factors and others.(*Bendek et al.,1990*).

The issue of connections between child and adult psychopathology started years ago as simple factual enquiry about prognosis and outcome. However, it has developed into a research enterprise that now promises to throw crucial light on the nature and origin of mental disorders. (*Rutter, 1995*).

Adolescence is a period of rapid biopsychosocial changes in which young people's psychogenic energies are turned in ward (*Orr and Ingersoll,1988*).

The epidemiological evidence suggests that depressive symptoms becomes more common after puberty,and the female predominance of depression disorders is not apparent until then (*Rutter,1986 and Angold,1988*).

The differentiation between normal personality and psychiatric morbidity criteria is essential to study and evaluate the psychological state of the child. Such discrimination includes symptom frequency and severity,age appropriate and function interference by presenting symptoms (*Bendek et al.,1990*).

The identification of characteristics of symptoms in the normal child,child with developmental disorders,and the child with a serious

psychiatric illness or chronically disturbed child, is an essential step in the detection, isolation, studying and planning a valuable prophylactic and therapeutic health program of such psychiatric morbidity (*Harold et al., 1987*).

## **Rationale of the study**

The adolescent girls, whose ages ranged between 11-15 years, are considered to be an important sector of our community in Egypt. The mid-year population estimates by age group in July 1996-2001 done by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, presumed that the number of adolescent females of age 11-15 years in Egypt are about 3,601,000 female (*Statistical Year Book, 1994*). This vital and dynamic phase of life is an important sector of the society, that have not been yet enough studied in Egypt inspite of its importance in the development of the community, which explains our selection of this subject for the present study.

## **Aim of the Work**

This work aims at :-

- 1- Surveying the prevalence of the minor psychiatric morbidity in a sample of Egyptian adolescent girls in a preparatory school.
- 2- Studying the prevalence of anxiety and depression in adolescent girls in a preparatory school.
- 3- Detection of psychosocial factors and risk factors associated with the occurrence of anxiety and depression in the adolescent girls in a preparatory school.

4- Planning a preventive program based on the data obtained in a trial to :-

- a) Early detection of the vulnerable adolescent girls.
- b) Helping to minimize the incidence and or the severity of such psychiatric morbidity among adolescent girls, in order to cope with the normal adult life.

# **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

***Adolescence***

# ADOLESCENCE

"Our youth now seem to love Luxury. They have bad manners and contempt for authority. They show disrespect for adults and spend their time hanging around places gossiping with one another. They are ready to contradict their parents, monopolize their conversation in company, eat gluttonously, and tyrannize their teachers." Socrates statement. ( Fellice, 1992).

## DEFINITION

The term "adolescence" generally refers to psychosocial growth and development. Whereas the term "pubescence" refers to physiological growth and development. (Enright et al., 1979).

## CLASSIFICATION

Levine et al., (1992) referred that, adolescence can be classified into three different phases of development : early (10 to 13 years of age) , middle (14 to 16 years of age) , and late (17 years of age and older). These age ranges are arbitrary and approximate and can overlap or vary within different subcultures.

Felice and Vargish (1984) prefer different terminology such as preadolescent, adolescent, and youth. Regardless of the vocabulary used, the concept is similar. For example, some 15 years old individuals may be undergoing early adolescent development, while others of the same age may be in late