

Residential care and treatment interventions fault

Attachment patterns of adolescents in residential care

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The aim of this study was to analyse the attachment patterns of adolescents in residential care. A quantitative method was used. CaMir-R, an attachment representation test, was administered to 152 adolescents aged between 14 and 17 years ($M = 15.73$, $SD = 1.13$). The study had three groups, residential care group (30 adolescents in residential care), disadvantaged group (33 adolescents from family in social risk situation), and normative group (89 adolescents from secondary schools). Analysis shows differences in attachment dimensions. Adolescents in residential care are those who score lower on the security dimension and higher in childhood trauma in relation to the other two groups. The adolescents of residential care and adolescents in family risk situation also have lower differences in secure attachment style and the dimensions of insecure attachment style and family structure in comparison with normative population. So it is conclude that event some of the negative attachment patterns can be attribute to disadvantaged environments, the residential care environment seems to be the one to have the worst influence in attachment patterns. Nevertheless the study has some limitations and it is necessary to compare the attachment patterns of adolescents in residential care with patters of in adolescents in foster families.

Even adolescents in care have had insecure attachments with their bird families; adolescence is a period with high brain plasticity in with attachment styles can be reorganised. But this reorganisation depends on the secure relationships that the youngster have with significant persons in their environment. So the quality of the relationship between adolescents in care and their educators and the socio educative intervention in the relationship of the youngster with their family is crucial.

Keywords: attachment, residential care