

GENDER DIFFERENCIES IN PTSD SYMPTOM EXPRESION IN MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE NORTH OF ALBANIA INVOLVED IN THE BLOOD FEUD PHENOMENON

Elona Prroj

European University of Tirana, Albania, Email: prrojelona@gmail.com

Abstract

This is a quality research done in Shkoder, the biggest town of the north of Albania. The aim of this research is to find out if there are any systematic gender differences in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptom expression among men and women that are part of the families that suffer from blood feud phenomenon in the north of Albania. The sample consisted in 40 men and 40 women part of the category mentioned above. Their age varies from 20-67 years old and about 50% of them are couples. The others are from different families. Standardized measures were used to assess the participants' level of mental health (the Brief Symptom Inventory BSI), a shortened version of the better-known Hopkins Symptom Checklist (H-SCL±90) and also we used the Trauma History Questionnaire. In our sample, 100% of the participants had experienced at least one traumatic event identified in Trauma History Questionnaire – Modified. They answered the questions done to them through the interviewer. Female participants reported a higher anxiety level than their male counterparts. In this research we found out that women are approximately twice as likely as are men to meet criteria for PTSD after the trauma. Male participants, on the other hand, were more willing to continue the feud of blood vengeance and continue the cycle of having the right environment for complex PTSD. There are different factors that influent in the situation they live. I have tried that through statements, discussions and different opinions to examine some of these factors. We discuss these findings as they inform our understanding of gender differences in trauma response and psychiatric morbidity in adulthood.

Keywords: *posttraumatic stress disorder, symptom, gender differences, blood feud, trauma*