associated with incidence of COVID-19 infection among family members (p = 0.016).

Conclusion. Over one-third of high school students in Khartoum State demonstrated moderate to severe psychological distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was significantly associated with first-degree family members having a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis. Commitment to preventive measures set by the General Directorate of Global Health was significantly associated with gender and academic year. A lesser psychological impact could be achieved through timely health education, expression of confidence in professional healthcare providers and perception of sound health status, together with consistent public health campaigning.

Smartphone Addiction and Its Associated Factors Among Tehran University Students

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Aims. Smartphone addiction is a new concern due to its progressive global usage. Since this phenomenon occurs in adolescents and young people, especially in students, causing many problems in interpersonal relationships, occupational and educational performances, evaluation of smartphone addiction in this population seems to be necessary. Accordingly, this study aimed to examine the prevalence of smartphone addiction in Tehran university students for determining the risk factors associated with this issue.

Methods. This analytical cross-sectional survey was carried out on university students in Tehran between 2016–2018. A study sample of 382 students from various faculties of Tehran universities was chosen by random multi-stage cluster sampling. The participants simultaneously completed a researcher-made questionnaire on demographic characteristics and risk factors, the Smartphone Addiction Scale (SAS), and Young’s Internet Addiction Test (IAT). After checking the smartphone addiction questionnaire, smartphone-addicted individuals were identified, and a comparison with the non-addicted group was performed in terms of risk factors.

In this study, the participants were given written consent forms. Questionnaires were anonymous and the information was kept confidential. This study was registered at the Ethics Committee of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences with a code of 1395.309.

Results. Our findings indicated that the frequency of smartphone addiction was 28.8%. The frequency of smartphone addiction in women (32.5%) was higher than that in men (23%) (p = 0.04). The highest incidence of smartphone addiction occurred in the age range of less than 20 while the lowest was found above the age of 40. (P = 0.001). The prevalence of smartphone addiction in the single population was 34.1% Vs 16.1% in married. (P = 0.000) The most prominent educational field of smartphone addicts was technical and engineering. (P = 0.007). Smartphone addiction was significantly more in internet service and social networking users. (P = 0.025) There was a significant relationship between the history of psychiatric illness and smartphone addiction. (P = 0.035) The most common psychiatric diseases were found to be obsessive-compulsive disorder (41.7%), followed by anxiety disorders. (33.3%)

Conclusion. Smartphone addiction has a significant frequency among university students in Tehran, associated with access to internet services and social networking. It was more common in women, single adults, and younger ages. There was a significant relationship between the history of psychiatric illness and smartphone addiction. The highest frequency of psychiatric illnesses in the addiction group was obsessive-compulsive disorder and anxiety disorders. No relationship was found between smartphone addiction and history of substance use, as well as smoking and alcohol.

A Phenomenological Approach to Understanding the Association Between Psychosis and Violence

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Aims. Although there is an established but complex relationship between violence and psychosis, the nature of this relationship remains unclear. To date, there has been a predominant focus within group-level quantitative studies on specific types of psychopathology such as threat/control-override and command hallucinations. However, the literature has not produced a consensus on the profile of psychopathological predictors of violence. Furthermore, there is an emerging literature suggesting the predictive paradigm has limited clinical utility in the management of harm-related behaviour. In the way that phenomenological analysis has produced a fuller understanding of psychosis (that can inform improved aetiological and interventional frameworks), the authors assert that such an approach (with its focus on subjectivity) has the potential to advance our understanding of the relationship between psychosis and violence in a way that has clinical applicability. To test this assertion, it is necessary to develop a model of assessment and analysis. The aim of this paper is to develop an evidence-based model to map the phenomenological underpinnings of violence in psychosis.

Methods. A two-stage method was followed. Firstly, drawing on existing phenomenological accounts of psychosis and approaches to understanding the subjectivity of violence perpetration, the authors developed a pilot evaluation model. This was tested and revised by applying the model to phenomenological case reports of psychosis and violence.

Results. The findings so far demonstrate that as well as the role of circumscribed psychopathology on the likelihood of violence, other experiences within the psychotic spectrum such as operative hyperreflexivity and disturbances of ipseity play an important role. Additionally, feelings of disconnectedness and loss of recognising others as real combined with impaired theory of mind can lead to loss of normal inhibitory processes and violent behaviour. In keeping with a recent shift in focus from strict diagnostic criteria to individual psychotic phenomena, existential analysis can be applied to explore changes in self-identity and sense of belonging in the world to develop our understanding of the association between psychosis and violence.

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