Abstract

Children with speech disorders frequently experience peers victimization and rejection which make them susceptible for psychosocial disturbances. Aim of the study: This study aimed to assess the impact of speech disorders on psychosocial status of school-age children. Subjects and method: a descriptive study design was used to perform this study. It was conducted on a total of 104 speech disordered children attending the Unit of Phoniatrics at both Assiut and Beni-Suef University Hospitals and a control group composed of 80 school-age children. Data were collected by utilizing five tools; Tool (1):-A Structured Interview Questionnaire, Tool (2):- Children's Manifest Anxiety Scale, Tool (3): Children Depression Inventory Scale, Tool (4): Self-Esteem Inventory Scale, and Tool (5): Introverted Behavior Scale. Results: The highest percentage of the studied speech disordered children had severe anxiety, moderate depression, moderate self-esteem disturbance and severe introverted behavior. On the other hand, the highest percentage of the control group subjects had moderate anxiety, no depression, mild self-esteem disturbance and mild introverted behavior. Conclusion: speech disorders affect the psychosocial status of school-age children. Recommendations: Collaboration between phoniatricians and psychiatrists is required to implement a comprehensive treatment programs for psychological disorders of the affected children.

Key words: speech disorders - school age - psychosocial status.