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Self-reported behavioral-emotional problems among adolescent victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance

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Aim: To study and compare the psychological status of male and female teenaged victims of mine and unexploded ordnances in 5 border states of Iran.

Materials & Methods: The study was a cross-sectional research. In this study, the Youth Self Report (YSR) test of Achenbach (YSR) questionnaire used in adolescent's survivors of landmine and unexploded ordnances. Of 68 injured adolescent's, 43 participated in the study and filled the Iranian version of YSR questionnaire (response rate=63.2%).

Results: The number of participants included 35 boys and 8 girls. The average age of the samples was 16.18 (SD=2.30), girls 15.5 (SD=2.82) and boys 16.25 (SD=2.18). Academic performance in the most teenagers was average. Academic performance does not have significant difference between girls and boys ($p>0.05$). The highest average score of youth self-report questionnaire were observed for anxiety/depression 10.88 (SD=6.04) and aggressive behavior 8.67 (SD=7.15). Achenbach mean score was higher in girls 71.50 than boys 48.77. The disability rate had a negative impact on the overall score Achenbach and internalizing factor of the injured adolescents ($p>0.05$). There was a significant difference between girls and boys in anxiety/depression, thought problems and attention problems ($p>0.05$). The most important factors affecting the overall Achenbach score in adolescents injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance were age, educational level and family size were ($p>0.05$).

Conclusion: Landmine and unexploded ordnances in girls and boys were more associated with anxiety/depression and difficulties in thinking and attention.

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