

Correlations between psychological violence and emotional states in married couples

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The goal of this study was to search for correlations between psychological violence (criminal behavior, intimidating behavior, dysfunctional behavior) and emotional states in spouses. The following behavioral categories were estimated as psychological violence: threats, chasing, ostracism, induced debility-producing exhaustion, monopolization of attention, over-control, stimulation of drug or alcohol administration, manipulation by male/female privileges, manipulation by children as arguments, exposition of various kinds of blaming, withholding positive reinforcement, threatening with nonphysical punishment for violation of established restrictions, emotional distancing, occasional indulgences (D.J.Sonkin, 1995).

It was found that 72,2 % of husbands and 61,7 % of wives were never exposed to psychological violence, while 1,4 % of husbands and 5,7 % of wives were victims of this type of violence for multiple times. The total index of psychological violence of spouses was significantly correlated with their emotional state. However, an intensity of emotional reactions of husbands ($N = 110$) and wives ($N = 127$) were different. The total index of psychological violence correlated with anxiety (husbands and wives accordingly: $r=0,26$ and $r=0,49$, $p < .01$), depression (accordingly $r=0,23$ and $r=0,43$, $p < .01$) and hostility (accordingly $r=0,22$ and $r=0,46$, $p < .01$). Index of criminal behavior correlated with the same affective complexes independent of sex, and with indexes of intimidation and dysfunctional behavior in females only. The most intensive emotions experienced by husbands, exposed to psychological violence were: an agitation ($r=0,28$), an anger ($r=0,28$), a contempt ($r=0,24$), a fear ($r=0,24$) and guilt ($r=0,24$), while for wives these were: an agitation ($r=0,34$), a negative pleasure ($r = -0,36$), a negative surprise ($r = -0,25$), a grief ($r=0,47$), an anger ($r=0,42$), a disgust ($r=0,45$), a contempt ($r=0,37$), a fear ($r=0,42$), a guilt ($r=0,42$).

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