

RESEARCH

Open Access



Designing, assessing, and effectiveness a psychological interventions program with a robot for children sexual care

Mohammad Tahan^{1,2*} , Gholamali Afrooz^{1,2} and Jafar Bolhari^{1,2}

Abstract

Background Child sexual abuse has deep and profound effects on personality and growth of children so that it is recognized as one of the major health issues in different countries. A psychological interventions program with a robot was designed and its effects on children sexual care was examined.

Results The results showed that experts confirmed and supported 85% of the total content of the program and the sessions, and the program was effective in improving sexual cares in the subjects ($p < 0.01$).

Conclusion The program to protect children against sexual abuse through empowering them by the skills to protect themselves, recognize good and bad physical touches, and find a trustable adult can be considered as a therapeutic method by consultants, psychologists, and authorities.

Keywords Prevention program, Sexual care, Psychological intervention, Children, Robot

Background

Children constitute a major part of the world population, so that they are about 50% of the total population in the developing countries [1]. Children and teenagers are important parts of any healthy society and deserve extensive mental health care to ensure their mental and physical health. Through this, children can assume their social responsibility and role in adulthood. Having the right knowledge and insight into the different physical and mental aspects of this age group and necessity to work hard to provide a decent physical and mental conditions for their emotional, intellectual, and physical growth are beyond any question [2].

Child sexual abuse is one of the most prevalent and complicated psychosocial issues in society. It has undeniable effects on child's mental health. This social issue affects and harms thousands of children in the world. The growing trend of such crimes risks the future of hundreds of children. Doubtlessly, no event like sexual abuse can destroy the future of children. Unfortunately, the extent of the crime is growing all around the world [3]. There is no detailed statistics of child abuse in Iran and the figures announced by some of the media are nowhere close to the reality. The religious culture in Iranian society makes many victims of this crime not to publicly ask for help as way to protect the family's pride. This is more common in the cases that girls are the victims. Child abuse does not usually happen in public and families that experience such crime usually prefer to hide it and this prevents supervision and prevention by the law [4, 5]. Evidences have shown that the risk factors of sexual abuse against children are bullying, sexual abuse by individuals with homosexual traits, childbearing methods of parents, poverty, alcohol abusive use, inequality as a social norm, lack of empowerment of girls and women, ruling power of

*Correspondence:
Mohammad Tahan
Tahan@ut.ac.ir

¹ Department of Psychology and Exceptional Children Education,
University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

² Socio-Psychiatric Department, Iran University of Medical Sciences,
Tehran, Iran