

## The Identification of Several Problems in Group Behavior of Children with Divorced Parents in the District of Elbasan

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### Abstract

*The aim of this study is to explore the problems in group behavior of children with divorced parents based on their age, gender and location. This qualitative study is concentrated on analysing the problems in group behavior of children with divorced parents, aged from 6 to 18 year old. The identification of these group behavior problems was conducted using the SDQ questionnaire (Goodman, 1997). The data used in the study were assembled by the reporting of 400 children with divorced parents during the scholastic year 2011-2012 in primary, middle and secondary public schools in the district of Elbasan. The statistical processing of the data was carried out using the SPSS 20 program and alpha of Cronbach is .78. The results of this study pointed out that the main behavioral problems children display in a group are: they prefer to stay alone, they do not have friends, they do not wish to play with their peers. This study also shows that there is a link between the behavior of children in a group and parental divorce. At the end of this paper, several recommendations regarding the improvement of the behavior of children with divorced parents in a group environment are given to the parents, teachers and guardians of these children.*

**Keywords:** divorce, behavioral problems in a group, age group, peers

### 1. Introduction

Many psychological studies are focused on the divorce of parents and its impact on the children behavior these two last decades. The divorce and the behavior of children with divorced parents are analyzed from different point of view by many authors. The divorce is not a temporary experience for a child, but there is there is a process which lasts many years (Goodman et al., 1998). Some authors compare the children behavior with divorced parents with those without divorced parents. Some authors are focused on the children behavior with divorced parents in school analyzing their relationships with peers, parents and teachers. The children who face with the parental conflict continuously before and after divorce show many behavior problems (Davies et al., 1996). But in the same time some other authors oppose the conclusions given by the authors mentioned above. Based on their studies they support the idea that the average impact of divorce in society at large is to neither increase nor decrease the behavior problems of children (Aughinbaugh et al., 2005). Also another supported idea is that divorce doesn't affect the behavior problems of children with divorced parents (Foster and Kalil, 2007). The aim of our study is to analyse the problems in group behavior regarding the age, gender and location and to compare the results with those given by the other authors. The data analyzed in this study are based on the data reported by the children with divorced parents.

### 2. Methodology

The quantitative method used in this study. In order to determine the level of children behavior the questionnaire SDQ is used (Goodman, 1997). The children, parents and teachers need just 5 minutes to answer to all the questions of this questionnaire. The questionnaire is composed by 25 questions which are divided into 5 scales. It is completed by 400 children from 6 to 18 years old with divorced parents. During the academic year 2011-2012 they were the students of the public school of the Elbasan district. 51% of them were male and 49% were female, meanwhile 46% of them lived in the villages of the district of Elbasan and 54% in Elbasan city. Based on their age they were divided into three groups. In the first group were included children aged from 6 to 10 of years old, or 32 % of the total number, in the second one were

included 39.8% of them aged from 11-14 years old and the rest, 28.2% belongs to the group three aged from 15 to 18 years old. The statistical processing of the data was carried out using the SPSS 20 program and alpha of Cronbach was .78. The minimum of points accumulated by respondents is 5, meanwhile the maximum is 15.

### 3. Results and Discussions

**Table 1.** Statistical data about the problems in group behavior reported by children

Points	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
5.00	10	2.5	2.5	2.5
6.00	22	5.5	5.5	8.0
7.00	116	29.0	29.0	37.0
8.00	80	20.0	20.0	57.0
9.00	38	9.5	9.5	66.5
10.00	15	3.8	3.8	70.3
11.00	65	16.3	16.3	86.5
12.00	48	12.0	12.0	98.5
13.00	5	1.3	1.3	99.8
14.00	1	.3	.3	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

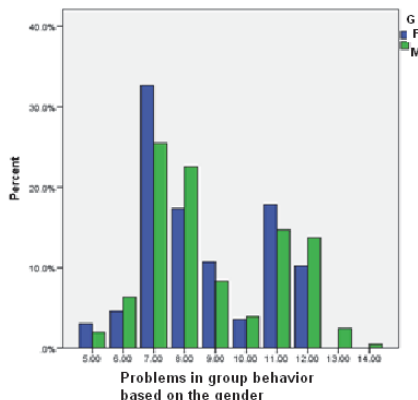
In the table 1 clearly are shown the data reported by 400 children. 228 children or 57% of them belongs to the normal level who have accumulated from 5-8 points, meanwhile 118 children or 29.5% have accumulated 9-11 points and belongs to the level in the border of abnormal and the rest, 54 children or 13.5% belongs to the abnormal level, from 12 to 15 points.

### 4. Problems in group behavior based on the gender

**Table 2.** Statistical data about the problems in group behavior based on the gender

Points			Problems in group behavior										Total
			5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	
Gender	Female	N of chil	6	9	64	34	21	7	35	20	0	0	196
		% Total	1.5%	2.2%	16.0%	8.5%	5.2%	1.8%	8.8%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	49.0%
	Male	N of chil	4	13	52	46	17	8	30	28	5	1	204
		% Total	1.0%	3.2%	13.0%	11.5%	4.2%	2.0%	7.5%	7.0%	1.2%	0.2%	51.0%
Total		N of chil	10	22	116	80	38	15	65	48	5	1	400
		% Total	2.5%	5.5%	29.0%	20.0%	9.5%	3.8%	16.2%	12.0%	1.2%	0.2%	100.0%

In the table 2 and figure 1 are presented some statistical data about the problems in group behavior of children with divorced parents regarding their gender.



**Figure 1.** Statistical data about the problems in group behavior based on the gender

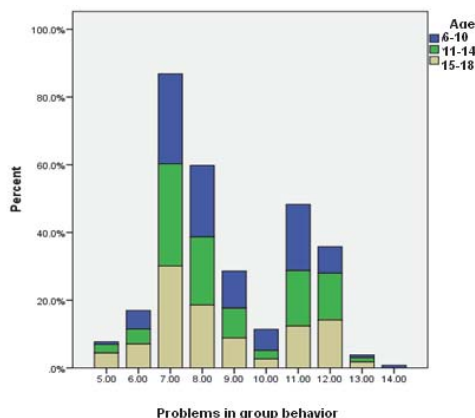
In these data is clearly shown that the number of boys with problems in group behavior who belongs to the abnormal level is higher comparing to the girls, respectively 8.4% and 5%. According to the other authors the divorce of parents affects in the increase of the problems behavior both boys and girls (Jui-Chung A. Li, 2007).

## 5. Problems in group behavior based on the age

The data based on the analysis of ANOVA test  $p = 0.039$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ,  $F(2,397) = 3.283$ ,  $df = 399$ , regarding the child behavior comparing to the their age shown that there is a correlation between them. The higher level of the abnormal behavior belongs to the children aged from 6 to 10 years old comparing to them aged from 11 to 14 and from 15 to 18 years old. These data are respectively 4.5%, 2.7% and 1%. They are shown clearly in table 3 and figure 2.

**Table 3.** Statistical data about the problems in group behavior based on the age

Points			Problems in group behavior										Total
			5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	
Age in years	6 - 10	Numb	1	7	34	27	14	8	25	10	1	1	128
		% Total	0.2%	1.8%	8.5%	6.8%	3.5%	2.0%	6.2%	2.5%	0.2%	0.2%	32.0%
	11- 14	Numb	4	7	48	32	14	4	26	22	2	0	159
		% Total	1.0%	1.8%	12.0%	8.0%	3.5%	1.0%	6.5%	5.5%	0.5%	0.0%	39.8%
	15- 18	Numb	5	8	34	21	10	3	14	16	2	0	113
		% Total	1.2%	2.0%	8.5%	5.2%	2.5%	0.8%	3.5%	4.0%	0.5%	0.0%	28.2%
Total		Numb	10	22	116	80	38	15	65	48	5	1	400
		% Total	2.5%	5.5%	29.0%	20.0%	9.5%	3.8%	16.2%	12.0%	1.2%	0.2%	100.0%



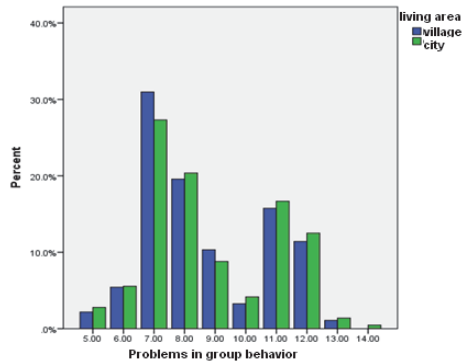
**Figure 2.** Statistical data about the problems in group behavior based on the age

## 6. Problems in group behavior based on the living area

**Table 4.** Statistical data about the problems in group behavior based on the living area

			Problems in group behavior										Total
			5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	
Living area	Village	Number	4	10	57	36	19	6	29	21	2	0	184
		% Total	1.0%	2.5%	14.2%	9.0%	4.8%	1.5%	7.2%	5.2%	0.5%	0.0%	46.0%
	City	Number	6	12	59	44	19	9	36	27	3	1	216
		% Total	1.5%	3.0%	14.8%	11.0%	4.8%	2.2%	9.0%	6.8%	0.8%	0.2%	54.0%
Total		Number	10	22	116	80	38	15	65	48	5	1	400
		% Total	2.5%	5.5%	29.0%	20.0%	9.5%	3.8%	16.2%	12.0%	1.2%	0.2%	100.0%

The data presented in table 4 and figure 3 clearly shown that the children with divorced parents who live in city have a higher level of abnormal in group behavior comparing with those who live in rural area, respectively 7.8% and 5.7% of the total respondents.



**Figure 3.** Problems in group behavior based on the living area

The different authors give different suggestions in order to decrease the negative impact of the divorce of the parents in group behavior of the children. Some of them point out the fact that the understanding and the communication of the parents after the divorce is very important in order to improve the emotional and psychological well-being of the children (Rose et al, 2009). In the same time some others suggest that the role of the school psychologist and its cooperation with the teachers and the parents is very important in social health and emotional development of the children with divorced parents (Cooper et al, 2008), (Binne et al, 2008).

## 7. Conclusions

- Based on the data of our study the divorce of the parents affects more in group behavior of the children aged from 6 to 10 years old.
- The divorce of parents has more negative impact in group behavior of the boys than in that of the girls.
- The divorce of parents has more negative impact in group behavior of the children who live in city than of those who live in village.

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