

## Preventing Crimes On Disabled People Importance of sex education for individuals with Mental disabilities

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** It is observed that the rate of abuse crimes is higher in people with mental disabilities [1]. The purpose of this report is to shed the light on some of the issues experienced by these individuals as a result of insufficient sex education and to discuss possible solutions.

**Case Study:** A 16-year-old female with a 50% partial disability, gets a friendship request from a stranger, who claims to be 19 years old. The victim accepts the offer with a promise of marriage. After a while the young man asks for explicit photographs for a private use. The man then threaten her to send the materials to her family unless she has sex with him. He also starts to blackmail her. Over time, the friends of the abuser also get involved and the situation escalate.

It is only when the victim is overwhelmed by the situation that she then tells the incidence to a psychologist. The incidence to a psychologist at the disability center of the local municipality. The psychologist explains how a healthy relationship should be and also explains the intimate boundaries. After this short training the victim understands that she has been abused and deceived. The judicial process begins after informing her family.

**Discussion:** A victim with mental disability experienced a great chaos due to lack of education in relation to relationship, marriage and special area boundaries. It is important that he / she can share his / her situation with the a specialist and get consultancy without worrying about being judged. Studies in the field has shown that mentally handicapped people are exposed to sexual harassment and abuse due to lack of sex education.

**Conclusion:** The mentally handicapped person experienced a great chaos due to lack of education in relation to relationship, marriage and special area boundaries. It is important that he / she can share his / her situation with the relevant specialist and get consultancy without worrying about being judged. Studies in the field show that mentally handicapped people are exposed to harassment and abuse due to lack of sex education. It is important to emphasize the case of abuse.

### Keywords

Mentally disabled, Sexual education, Abuse.

### Introduction

Mental disability is reason of significant limitations in current functions. Mental disability is defined as a serious difficulty in learning and fulfilling certain daily life skills. Limitations in adaptive skills are related to limitations in mental functions. Mental disability may occur due to variety reasons: before, during

and after childbirth.

In individuals with mental disabilities, the inadequacy of reasoning skills facilitates the persuasion of mentally handicapped individuals and makes it easier [2]. Their inadequacies are big and their skills are limited [3].

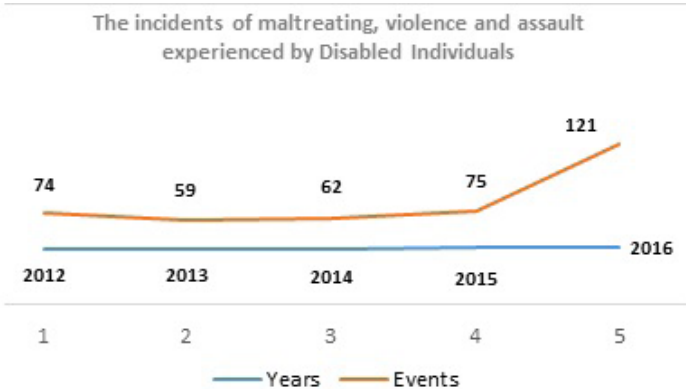
### Discussion

Research suggests that individuals with mild mental disabilities

can control their sexual urges as people, individuals with moderate mental disabilities need help, whereas the psychosocial development of individuals with severe mental disabilities is less able to control their sexual impulses [4]. Sexual abuse reaches different dimensions depending on the intellectual level of the individual and therefore on the level of educable and teachable.

In a study by Nancy A et al. (2006), it was found that caregivers, parents, teachers or teachers of mentally disabled people tried to suppress the sexual behaviors of individuals [5].

According to the research conducted by Social Rights and Research Association (TOHAD) between 2012-2017, sexual-physical violence, abuse and maltreatment are increasing [6].



As the table 1 shows, in the 2012 the issue of assault is 74, but in 2016 there are 121 assault issues. Those data show the cases which had been taken to court. Data in Table 1 also show that victims of sexual assault are mostly those with mental disabilities. Sexual and physical violence can also be seen in the other disability groups.

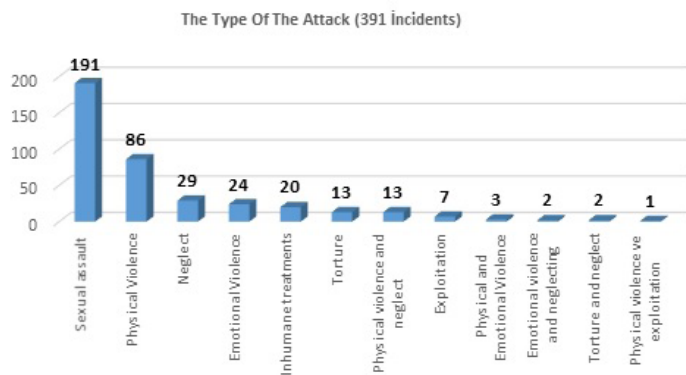


Table 2 shows that disabled people are experiencing sexual attacks as an assault mostly.

Statistics below show that mentally disabled people are experiencing the attacks and assaults mostly. %60,36 of all 391 total assaults took place on disabled people. %84 of all 194 sexual assaults took place on people with mental disabilities.

Table 3 Shows that crimes such as harassment, abuse, violence are generally experienced in the family and relative environment. Often, criminals do not appear and people are not punished. When the harassment event in the mentally handicapped people comes to

the court stage, the criminals are released, often with the consent of the disabled. Such court conclusions cannot prevent negative experiences as it facilitates the workability of the crime. According to the statistics given in this table, a rate of 50% indicates that harassment and violence are from family members or close relatives.

Perpetrators	Years					Total
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Acquaintance	20	12	13	18	31	94
Stranger	16	17	15	17	24	89
Public Officer	14	8	14	17	35	88
Family	14	5	11	9	11	50
Private Institution Officer	7	11	5	6	14	43
Indeterminate	2	4	1	3	4	14
More than one factors	1	1	1	3	2	8
Not Reported	0	1	2	2	0	5

In a study conducted in the United States, 40% of students with disabilities are subject to sexual harassment and 38% are subject to sexual touch, while this rate is 16% and 18% for non-disabled people.

In a study conducted in South Africa, 30% of individuals with intellectual disabilities and sexual assault were developing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); this rate was around 4 % in non-disabled. According to these data, the trauma experienced by the relatives of the mentally handicapped individuals and the people they trust is much more destructive [7].

Inadequate education also causes mentally handicapped individuals to show behaviors that are considered as crimes against others. When the cases are examined, it is seen that persons with mental disabilities are not always victims.

### Conclusion

A sex education program should be organized for individuals with mental disabilities. The training should be prepared by experts with sufficient expertise in the field. The similarity of sex education materials to the original parts will facilitate the comprehensibility of education [8].

Sex education for mentally handicapped people requires more specific knowledge. For this reason, it is necessary for the experts to gain qualifications in the field by undergoing special training.

The second stage is the implementation of this training program in schools and institutions and the families of the disabled.

When preparing teaching methods for the disabled, it is important

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to bear in mind that:

- When are they easy to persuade,
- How competent they feel in their level of doing (or to tell what happened)
- What kind of love is abusive or not,
- What body parts are private and cannot be touched,
- What distance family and friends need to hold.

This training should be done simultaneously with the family, the disabled school staff and the related persons. It is important to implement a training package prepared by taking into account the Turkish customs with the support of the state.

To be able to repeat the information with mentally handicapped people, it needs to be simple, clear and abstract so that it permanently sticks to the students with visual information. The presentation visuals will be chosen from daily and realistic pictures and their expression with simple language will be an effective learning method.

Finally, it is necessary to establish a unit related to the field of Disability and Sexuality and to evaluate the cases experienced by experts and take necessary measures. It is important to seek solutions to the problems within the rights and justice and to ensure that the problems are correctly diagnosed.

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