



REVIEW / DERLEME

IDENTIFYING PEDOPHILIA

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ABSTRACT

Pedophilia, derived from Greek words philia of pedeiktos meaning erotic love of children (Seto, 2002) includes using children as a sexual excitement object to reach gratification. In most cultures children are not deemed as mature enough to make decisions about sexual intercourse. In this regard, child sexual abuse is not only intolerable, but is also sanctioned in many societies. Pedophilia is considered a controversial and unpleasant subject for many clinicians; therefore, most of them avoid conducting research on this topic. In the literature, there is no absolute and consistent classification and also diagnostic criteria of pedophile has changed over time. Although different theories such as psychoanalytic, attachment and Ferenczi's trauma theory propose some explanations regarding the reasons for pedophilia, there is no satisfactory elucidation about this topic. Pedophilia is a multidisciplinary concern and requires a bio-psycho-socio-legal plan for intervention, it is crucial to conduct research by collaboration of various disciplines and understand this subject is important and necessary to address this issue. This current study is an attempt to understand pedophilia by looking from different perspectives.

Key Words

Pedophilia, Child Molesters, Classification, Profile, DSM

PEDOFİLİYİ TANIMAK

ÖZ

Çocuklara yönelik erotik sevgi anlamına gelen Yunanca "pedeiktos" (çocuk) ve "philia" (sevgi) sözcüklerinden gelen pedofili (Seto, 2002), çocukların cinsel uyarım nesnesi olarak kullanılmasını içerir. Çoğu kültürde, çocuklar cinsel ilişki hakkında karar vermek için yeterince olgun olarak kabul edilmezler. Bu bağlamda, çocuk cinsel istismarı sadece tahammül edilemez olarak görülmekle kalmaz, aynı zamanda pek çok toplumda cezai yaptırıma da bağlanır. Pedofili birçok klinisyen için tartışmalı ve hoş olmayan bir konu olarak kabul edilir; bu nedenle, çoğu klinisyen bu konuda araştırma yapmaktan kaçınır. Literatürde, pedofili için mutlak ve tutarlı bir sınıflandırma bulunmamaktadır. Aynı zamanda pedofili tanı kriterlerinin de zaman içerisinde değiştiği görülmektedir. Psikanalitik, bağlanma ve Ferenczi'nin travma teorisi gibi farklı teoriler pedofilinin nedenlerine ilişkin bazı açıklamalar önermesine rağmen, bu konu hakkında tatmin edici bir açıklama yoktur. Pedofili çok disiplinli bir meseledir ve biyo-psiko-sosyo-yasal bir müdahale planı gerektirmektedir, Pedofili konusunun ele alınmasında çeşitli disiplinlerin işbirliği ile araştırma yapılması ve konuyu anlaması çok önemli ve gereklidir. Bu çalışma, farklı perspektiflerden bakılarak pedofiliyi anlama girişimidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Pedofili, Çocuk Tacizcisi, Sınıflandırma, Profil, DSM

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Definition

The word of pedophilia is derived from Greek words philia of pedeiktos which means erotic love of children (Seto, 2002). This erotic love of children includes using children as a sexual excitement object to reach gratification. Pedophilia is considered a controversial and unpleasant subject for many clinicians; therefore, most of them avoid conducting research on this topic. However, in order to understand the term and meaning it is essential to review the literature.

Even though the community is inclined to consider all child sexual abusers or child sexual molesters having pedophilia, every adult who commits sexual violence against a child is not a pedophilic. To address this issue, American Psychiatric Association diagnosed several pieces of criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Pedophilia has been taken part in DSMs, a guide to classifying mental disorders since the first day published. Pedophilia in the first DSM-I published in 1952; is seen under the general title of personality disorders as a symptom of sociopathic personality disorders. Pedophilia continued keeping its place under personality disorders in DSM-II. But in this DSM, pedophilia and the other paraphilias began to be seen as sexual deviations more than being just a symptom of sociopathic personality disorder. However, over time, the proposals and suggestions from pedophile study groups - the judicial events have had a major impact on these proposals and the changes that were made- diagnostic criteria of the pedophilia and the titles they have taken on changed. In DSM-III published in 1980, pedophilia was no longer defined as a personality disorder but psychosexual disorder. Fourteen years later when the DSM-IV released, pedophilia was listed under sexual and gender identity disorders. This title hasn't been changed in DSM-IV TR. In the last DSM-V, published in 2013 which is currently in use, pedophilia and the other paraphilias are took place as a disorder under the general and separate title of paraphilic disorders (Table 1). The current approach of DSM-V to pedophilia and also other paraphilias is differentiated from other DSM manuals' by distinguishing paraphilia and paraphilic disorder. According to DSM-V many people engage in paraphilias and paraphilia itself doesn't require clinical intervention. It means that it is not a diagnosis and so that it is not the consideration of manual. The important feature of paraphilia here is being a disorder, meeting the criteria of disorder. Paraphilia here is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for having a paraphilic disorder (American Psychiatric Association, 1952; 1968; 1980; 1987; 1994; 2000; 2013).

Table 1. Pedophilia classification in DSM manual

DSM-I	DSM-II	DSM-III	DSM-III R	DSM-IV	DSM-IVTR	DSM-V
Personality Disorders	Personality Disorders And Certain Other Non-Psychotic Mental Disorders	Psychosexual Disorders	Sexual Disorders	Sexual And Gender Identity Disorders	Sexual And Gender Identity Disorders	Paraphilic Disorders
Sociopathic Personality Disturbance	<u>Sexual Deviations</u>	<u>Paraphilias</u>	<u>Paraphilias</u>	<u>Paraphilias</u>	<u>Paraphilias</u>	Voyeuristic Disorder Exhibitionistic Disorder Frotteuristic Disorder
<u>Sexual Deviation</u>	Homosexuality	Fetishism	Exhibitionism	Exhibitionism	Exhibitionism	Sexual Masochism Disorder
	Fetishism	Transvestism	Fetishism	Fetishism	Fetishism	Sexual Sadism Disorder
Homosexuality	Pedophilia	Zoophilia	Frotteurism	Frotterism	Frotterism	Pedophilic Disorder
Transvestism,	Transvestism	Pedophilia	Pedophilia	Pedophilia	Pedophilia	Fetishistic Disorder
Pedophilia,	Exhibitionism	Exhibitionism	Sexual Masochism	Sexual Mashosizm	Sexual Mashosizm	Transvestic Disorder
Fetishism,	Voyarism	Voyeurism	Sexual Sadism	Sexual Sadism	Sexual Sadism	Other Specified Paraphilic Disorder
Sexual Sadism (Including Rape, Sexual Assault, Mutilation)	Sadism	Sexual Masochism	Transvestic Fetishism	Transvestic Fetishism	Transvestic Fetishism	Unspecified Paraphilic Disorder
	Masohism	Sexual Sadism	Voyarism	Voyarism	Voyarism	
	Other Sexual Deviations	Atypical Paraphilia	Voyeurism	Paraphilia NOS	Paraphilia NOS	
	Unspecified Sexual Deviations		Paraphilia NOS			

According to DSM-V's definition, pedophilia is "Over a period of at least six months, recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 years or younger) (Criteria A)" It is seen in Criteria B that the individual has acted on these sexual urges, or the sexual urges or fantasies cause marked distress or interpersonal difficulty (APA, 2013:697). In addition to this factor, DSM-V also emphasizes that the person who has a pedophilic interest "should be at least age 16 years old (5 years older than the child/children) to be diagnosed (Criteria C)" (APA, 2013:697). First of all this explanation shows that if 13-year-old children sexually abuse other children, this cannot be called a pedophilic action. In addition, if the person feels this sexual urges through 15 years old puberty, it cannot be called pedophilic either. This means the target child must be younger than 15 years old. Third, from this definition, it can be understood that it is enough to have sexual fantasy to be considered as pedophilic, the person does not necessarily need to have penetration. This criteria also emphasizes that all child sexual abuse is not the product of a pedophilia, and it helps to differentiate pedophilia from a child sexual molester, which is non-pedophilic child sexual abuse.

Classification

Although there is no absolute and consistent classification in the literature, pedophilia can be classified regarding several different factors such as victimized child's family position and type of sexual action. These classifications bolster clarification of the concept of pedophilia in many aspects.

The first and most common classification of pedophile is regarding the victimized child's family position in other words whether the victimized child is from internal family or external family. While some pedophiles choose a child from their internal family, which is called familial offenders or intra-familial pedophile, others may choose their victim from their external family which is called non-familial offenders or extra-familial pedophile (Fagan, Wise, Schmidt & Berlin, 2002). In the literature, external familial pedophile usually includes pedophiles who work with children, however in some resources pedophiles who work with children are addressed separately (Turner, Rettenberger, Lohmann & Eher, 2014).

In addition to child's family position, pedophiles are categorized based on their sexual actions. These sexual actions may be grouped as touching or non-touching actions. As it was stated before, every pedophile does not get involved in sexual action with the children. In fact, some of them can gratify their sexual impulses only in the fantasy level (Fagan et al, 2002). Moreover, the pedophilic action may be only watching a naked child (voyeuristic pedophile) or exposing oneself to the child (exhibitionist pedophile). Pedophilic action which involves touching may vary from only gentle touching of the child (frotteuristic pedophile) to penetration (Bahroo, 2005). Fagan et al. (2002) also categorized their sexual actions regarding pedophiles' approach. While some of them can be called seductive, others may appear aggressive.

Pedophilia can also be categorized into two groups: Primary pedophilia and secondary pedophilia. Secondary pedophilia is described as comorbidity of other disorders such as schizophrenia or organic disorders which means appearing due to other existent disorders. On the other hand, in primary pedophilia, disorder has the fundamental function (Glasser, 1988).

In the literature, it was stated that most pedophilic individuals are only sexually attracted toward little boys. While some pedophiliacs may appear exclusively with children, others may be both attracted to children and adults (Fagan et al, 2012). Glasser (1988) mentions that primary pedophilia can be divided into two groups. The first group is called as invariant pedophilia who only involves with children in particular little boys. The second group is called pseudoneurotic pedophilia whose sexual orientation is both heterosexual and children (Glasser, 1988). According to their sexual orientation pedophilic group can vary from heterosexual pedophile to

homosexual and bisexual (Bogaert, Kuban & Blanchard, 1997). These groups' differences and will be elaborated in general characteristics.

General Characteristics

Studies on child sexual abuse showed that child molesters and pedophiles cannot be considered the same. To explain this issue, Strassberg, Eastvold, Kenney and Suchy (2012) conducted research on 25 pedophilic and 25 non-pedophilic men who were all convicted of having sexually offended against a child. Then, results were compared to the control group of 24 men's data. The aim of their study was to show differences with these groups on psychopathic level which describes diminished empathy and anti-social behavior. The study showed that psychopathy level of 25 pedophilic child molesters are meaningfully less than non-pedophilic group. The results also indicated that non-pedophilic molesters are more likely to be self-centered, impulsive, uncaring of others, manipulative, and free of conscience (Strassberg et al., 2012).

Studies also showed that around "25-40% of men attracted to children prefer boys" (Blanchard et al., 2000). While pedophilic individuals' primarily sexual interest is usually in boys who are older than 8 years old, child molesters are usually attracted to girls aged between 8 to 10-years-olds (Bahroo, 2005). Seto (2002) stated that pedophiles have multiple victims, low level of force or threat, and are unlikely to engage in nonsexual offenses. On the other hand, child molesters usually use higher levels of violence and they commit sexual and nonsexual offenses (Seto, 2002). Similar to previous research findings, child sexual abusers also supported that pedophiles shows more social orientation than the non-pedophilic child sexual molesters. Looking at child sexual molesters crime records showed that pedophiles have fewer convictions and socially violent crimes such as drunk driving or substance abuse compared to non-pedophilic group (Turner, Rettenberg, Lohmann& Eher, 2014).

Strassberg et al. (2012) emphasized that pedophilic individuals also felt remorse because of their sexual orientation. Glasser (1988) supported this idea by explaining pedophilic individuals intense experience of guilt and shame due to their archaic superego organization. Seto (2002) suggested that many pedophiles have difficulty with relationship to others such as engaging a conversation. They have deficits in skills such as approaching people, engaging them in pleasant conversations, and decoding affective cues during one-on-one interactions (Seto, 2002). Glasser (1988) also addresses the narcissistic organization of pedophilic individuals. They quickly withdrawn and isolate themselves from relationships with others (Glasser, 1988). According to Glasser (1988), the invariant pedophile, who only involves with children, demonstrates a rigid personality with a limited range of interests and activities. This group also demonstrates more neurotic features, such as some tension in their relationships and sexual apathy to their partners (Glasser, 1988).

When taking a closer look at their social life, it is easy to notice that many pedophiles work regularly, some of them are surprisingly married, they do not have criminal records, and they seem like ordinary people. Most of pedophilic and non-pedophilic child sexual molesters preferred to work in a job, or be a volunteer in a place which they can contact with children easily such as schoolteachers, sports coaches, or caretakers (Turner, Rettenberg, Lohmann & Eher, 2013).

Research indicates that in order to maintain children's interests and their obedience the pedophilic individual can be interested in a child's needs and therefore develop relationship with child. This intimate relationship with child also prevents children from reporting crime. When this strategy does not work, blackmailing, threatening, particularly threatening to kill children's family, frequently is used as a second technique to keep children silence (Bahroo, 2005).

Seto (2010) emphasized that many pedophilic individuals also possess several images of prepubescent children and frequently use child pornography. While pedophilic individuals use child pornography for sexual gratification, antisocial men who victimize children sexually do not commonly involve child pornography offenses

(Seto, Cantor& Blanchard, 2006). He suggested that child pornography offenses can be considered as an indicator of pedophilia (Seto, 2010).

Reasons

Although there are many genetic, biological and evolutionary reasons of pedophilia, this article will only focus on psychological reasons. These causes will include aspects of different theories as well as pedophiliacs' early lives.

Looking at the early life of pedophiles, it can be seen that the foremost striking characteristic is related to their own experiences of childhood sexual abuse (Fagan et al, 2002). Being a victim of sexual violence as a child is a traumatic experience for many children and this can be considered as a threat to children's psychological unity. Even though all children who were sexually abused are not pedophilic, the number of pedophiles who were sexually abused in their childhood is significant finding. Seto (2002) indicates that sexually abused children more likely use sex to cope with the negative affect of this traumatic event. When sexually abused children become adults, they might search inappropriate ways to experience their sexual life (Seto, 2002). In order to analyze this topic, it is important to understand Ferenczi's term of "identification with the aggressor" in his trauma theory. Identification with the aggressor is described as a way to cope with traumatic event. He states that when minors experience traumatic event, they have difficulty to understand what happened (Frankel, 2002). While they are processing this intolerable experience, in order to survive, they split off from this experience by dissociating from their own feelings and perceptions (Howell, 2014). During this negative experience, children perceive an image of the abuser into their own head. This way, children internalize the aggressor, the bad object. By doing that the self, emotions, thoughts, and behaviors of the children transform into the abuser's and they imitate the aggressors' behaviors (Frankel, 2002). Hence, children's passive traumatic sexual abuse experience turns into active by acting like an aggressor (Howell, 2014).

Pedophile's invasion of generational differences can be better understood with psychoanalytic perspective. In psychoanalysis, these generational differences were a subject in oedipal complex. In oedipal complex, children's sexual fantasy about seducing parent was an unconscious wish; however, in pedophilia oedipal relationship seemed reverse upside down. Moreover, children's sexual abuse by older generation-especially by parents- violates generational boundaries and sexual barriers. According to Campbell (2014) pedophilic relationship can be a trigger for the abuser's unconscious oedipal fantasy. Glasser (1988) states that when pedophilic individuals were "boys", they had intense sexual feelings towards their parents. When they became an adult, they believe that the child who is the object of pedophilic interest has the similar sexual feelings towards themselves. This idea can be an explanation for some pedophilic individuals' beliefs about children are capable of consenting to sex (Seto, 2002). Bahroo (2005) also supported this idea by stating many pedophiliacs claim their action has "educational value" for the child, child also had "sexual pleasure" from the act, or the child was "sexually provocative."

Some researchers suggest that pedophiles seek children because they cannot fulfill their emotional needs in the relationship with peers (Seto, 2002). Bahroo (2005) suggests that pedophilic individuals may want to satisfy their emotional loneliness and search for dominance in relationships. Freud did not specifically address pedophile; however, he used "child-self" in his writings to address this type of organization. Fixation of child inner image also shows itself as a protest against maturity (Scarfone, 2014). By being never grown up, pedophiliacs can keep the child inner self-image and also they can keep their childhood relationship to their parents (Glasser, 1988).

Bowlby's attachment theory also proposes an explanation for pedophilia from the perspective of a child victim. This theory's aspects of pedophilia suggests that inadequate attachment style from early relationships is a risk factor for pedophilia (Fagan et al, 2012). In dysfunctional families, poor relationships between children and

parents lead to weak and insecure attachment between parents and child. A weak bond between parent-child has an influence on child seeking relationship with other adults in other word a new parent object in order to compensate this poor attachment (Seto, 2002; Bahroo, 2005).

To be able to clarify the reasons of pedophilia, family relationships, birth order and choosing a target was also explored in the studies. Bogaert, Kuban and Blanchard (1997) conducted research in order to examine the existence of relationship between birth order and erotic preference of pedophiliacs. In their study, the sample group is chosen among homosexual, bisexual, and heterosexual pedophiliacs who have siblings. Their study revealed that homosexual and bisexual pedophiliacs are characterized with having a later birth order (Bogaert, Kuban & Blanchard, 1997). Blanchard et al. (2000) found in their study that pedophiles with more older brothers have more sexual interest in boys rather than in girls. These findings also need to be evaluated deeply in the light of theories mentioned above.

Conclusion

Studies indicate that childhood sexual abuse is a serious threat for children's healthy development (Fagan et al., 2002). For this reason, child sexual molesters who sexually abuse children are not only intolerable, but also are sanctioned in many societies. Although in the public mind, all children molestation is considered as a product of pedophilia, literature suggests that this criminal act can also be a product of antisocial behavior. Research showed that every child molesters are not pedophilic and emphasizing the difference of a psychopathy level is essential to distinguish pedophilia and non-pedophilia (Strassberg et al., 2012).

Even though there are myriad of knowledge regarding victims of childhood sexual abuse, there is a lack of study regarding pedophilic offenders. Since pedophilia is multidisciplinary concern, it requires a bio-psycho-socio-legal plan for intervention. However, this article did not focus on interventions and/or treatment. In order to understand the reasons of pedophile and address this subject, it is crucial to conduct research by collaboration of various disciplines (Seto, 2002; Campbell, 2014; Bahroo, 2005).

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