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LEVELS OF SUICIDAL IDEATIONS AND INTENTS AMONG THE INMATES IN THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN BAGHDAD CITY

Maan Hameed Ibrahim Al-Ameri

University of Baghdad, Iraq

Introduction: Suicidal ideations concern thinking about suicide or an uncommon and inappropriate preoccupation with suicide. The range of suicidal ideation and intent differs significantly from brief thoughts, to wide thoughts, to comprehensive planning, and role playing. Suicidal intents in prison are a major concern, occurring at 3-8 times the rate seen in the general community.

Objectives: To explore the levels of suicidal ideation and intent among the inmates in the prisons of Baghdad City and to find out the relationship between these levels and some demographic characteristics of those inmates.

Methodology: A descriptive study to explore levels of suicidal ideations and intents among the inmates in the correction institutions of Baghdad city was conducted from 15th Oct' 2016 to 10th Jun' 2017. A non-probability sample of one hundred of inmates in Baghdad correctional institutions was recruited. To meet the aims of current study an appropriate questionnaire has been built. This questionnaire consisted of two parts: firstly, nine demographic characteristics and 19 items represent BSI, Beck suicidal ideations and intents scale. Data were analysed by using: descriptive statistical analysis: frequencies and percentages and distribution; and inferential analysis: Chi-square.

Results: The current study finds that more than half of the inmates are from twenties and thirties decades (58.0%), 68.0% having elementary and secondary school, half of them are with six to 15 years imprisonment, and 69.0% are married. Three quarters have moderate and high levels of suicidal ideations and intents. The study also finds that the more the period of imprisonment and the less of income the inmates have the higher the levels of suicidal ideation they have.

Recommendations: To early prevent suicidal and intents risk staff of the correctional institutions should have a good awareness regarding suicide by being well-trained to identify the behavioural and verbal signs that point out to early successful suicide prevention.

dr.m.alameri@conursing.uobaghdad.edu.iq