ADHD AND PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN

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The ADHD syndrome is a complex disorder characterized by these major features: inattention, impulsivity, distractibility, disorganisation and hyperactivity. In the majority of children manifestations of the disorder persists throughout the whole childhood. Academic underachievement is characteristic of most children with ADHD syndrome. Some impairment in social and school functioning is also common. Multiple signs of the disorder occur three times more common in boys than in girls.

As in ADHD syndrome some other features are also present, e.g. higher neuroticism and extroversion, in this paper the authors try to examine if these children differ in their personality traits from a group of their "normal" school peers. Therefore the T RL and HANES I and II tests were applied. No statistically significant differences were found between the experimental and the control groups of children in the category "neuroticism" and "extroversion".

However, a significant difference was found between both groups on the "lie" scale, i.e. the children with ADHD syndrome were significantly more unreliable in comparison with their control peers.

It is possible that these children, by giving socially desirable answers, were trying to adapt their behaviour to the expectations of their environment, especially of their parents desires.

On the other hand, the high prevalence of neuroticism in both groups (59% in the experimental and 47% in the control groups) shows a great occurance of emotional disturbances in children of this age. These disturbances could significantly interfere with success in school and with the possibilities of social adaptation.

Key words: ADHD syndrome, personality traits, behavioural disorders, HANES and TRL tests.