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# RESEARCH ARTICLE

# PREVALENCE OF SOCIAL ANXIETY DISORDER AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN AL BAHA REGION IN (KSA).

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## Abstract

**Background:**Social phobia is anxiety disorders manifested by a significant amount of fear in social situations, associated with distress and impaired ability to function in the daily life.

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**Objective and Methods:** The present study aimed at : (1) estimating the prevalence of social anxiety disorder in secondary school students in a geographically defined population, in Baha area using two scales Rewitie scale of social anxiety and severity scale for social anxiety (2) determine risk factor which may be significant.

our survey study covered 6 cities , 31 schools and 1316 students .the sample taken was 1030 students .5 of them didn't complete the study.sotho total number is 1025.

**Result:** the total positive sample was 21.8 % . there is highly statistically significant association between birth order, place of residenceand social anxiety.

Conclusion: there is a high percentage of secondary school students diagnosed with social anxiety disorder (using the mentioned scales) indicating the importance of the problem in Baha region for further researches behind the causes .

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# Introduction:-

Social anxiety disorder (previously termed 'social phobia') was formally recognized as a separate phobic disorder in the mid-1960s 1. The term 'social anxiety disorder' reflects current understanding, including in diagnostic manuals, and is used throughout the guideline. As set out in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) (2) and in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR) (3)

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There are no UK epidemiological surveys that specifically report data on social anxiety disorder in adults; however, the prevalence of social anxiety disorder has been included in large general population surveys in other western European countries, the US and Australia. Prevalence estimates vary, with much of the variability probably being due to differences in the instruments used to ascertain diagnosis. However, it is clear that social anxiety disorder is one of the most common of all the anxiety disorders. Lifetime prevalence rates of up to 12% have been reported (4) compared with lifetime prevalence estimates for other anxiety disorders of 6% for generalized anxiety disorder, 5% for panic disorder, 7% for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and 2% for obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Twelve-month prevalence rates as high as 7% have been reported for social anxiety disorder (5). Using strict criteria and face-to-face interviews in the US, the lifetime and yearly prevalence figures are halved to 5% and 3%, respectively (6), but it is still more common than the major autoimmune conditions (rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, diabetes mellitus type I, multiple sclerosis, uveitis, hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism) put together (8). Data from the National Comorbidity Survey reveals that social anxiety disorder is the third most common psychiatric condition after major depression and alcohol dependence

Methods our survey study was done in baha region and covered 6 cities(Baha ,Qara,Mandaq,Bulgurashi,Aqaq and M ekhwah)all of them are belonging to al Baha region , 31 schools and 1316 students .the sample taken was 1030 students. 5 of them did not complete the research. We used 2 tools of diagnosis:

- 1. Rewitie scale
- 2. Severity measure for social anxiety disorder

The team work distribute the scales to the students in their schools under the team supervision .there was a paper of demographic data as a cover of the scales including an approval item which target to know if the student agree to answer the scales or not .in this paper there were some questions about the possible risk factors for further researches .these questions include the presence or absence of the parents ,history of using any addictive drugs or history of dependence and presence of any organic or psychiatric problems .the study included both sexes. the study began at14/5/2017 and ended at 22/6/2018 .the team work visited each school after the coordinator got the approval from the responsible in the educational institute .the team work visited every class room separately in each school which were 31 schools distributed in 6 cities in baha region and explain to the students each scale and how to answer the questions . the students were allowed to take their time to answer the scales under the team work supervision . severity scale of social anxiety include 10 questions .therewitie scale cover 3 dimensions of social anxiety(interacting with others, dealing with social situations and its avoidance and physiological symptoms during social situations ). After collecting the scales the team work correct it to gather the data to conclude the results .

# **Results:-**

The student mean age was 15.4 years with a standard deviation (SD of 2.1 years). About 96.4 of them were Saudi . More than one- third (39.2%) were in grade one while 35.12% and 25.7% were in grades two and three, respectively. (81.26.3%) had parents living together. Family size ranged between 6 and 10 was the major size 56.09%. , the first birth order was then major (36.78%). Place of living divided between rural and urban areas (50.6% &49.4%) respectively . (86.73 of the parents was free from physical illness and 2.34% had a psychiatric illness. table (1)

Shape (1) distribution of the sample and affected student according to cities . while table show demographic data and risk factors and differences between healthy group and social anxiety group in which the birth order and place of the residence Had a significant difference (p value were less than 0.001)

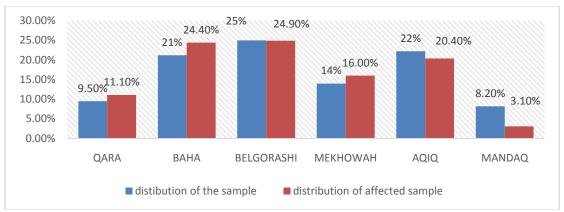
# prevalence and grade of social phobia

Among secondary school students. The prevalence of social anxiety was 21.8%. according the Rewitie scale the most prominent symptoms was to be silent in social situation and avoidance the situation while the least symptom was loss of consciousness . the mean and standard deviation for severity index was  $(0.60 \pm 0.64)$ . The prevalence of severe and moderate form was 10.5.1%, 25.4% respectively. table (2)

Association of potential socio- demographic risk factors and social phobia was analysed. None of the potential socio- demographic factors (age of the students, Grade of school, family size, parental status, family size, , gender, and physical and mental state of the parents) except birth order and place of residence were found to be significantly associated with social phobia. (OR = 3.97, 95% CI: 1.90-8.31 and OR = 2.67, 95% CI: 3.17-5.19, respectively. Table(3)

Table 1:-show sociodemographic data of the sample.

		SOCIAL	FREE	Chi-	P VALUE
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA		ANXIETY	STUDENT	square	1 VILLUE
		STUDENT	(805)	square	
		(225) 21.8 %	78.2%		
AGE	>15	(90)	(351)	2.53	0.112
1102		40%	(436)	2.00	0.112
	15	(75)	(260)		
		33.3%	32.39%		
	<15	(60)	(194)		
		26.7%-	24.1%		
GRADE	FIRST	(71)	(331)	2.15	0.14257
		31.5%	41.1%		
	SECOND	(85)	(275)		
		33.7%	34.1%		
	THIRD	(69)	(199)		
		30.6%	24.7%		
PARENTAL	LIVING	(178)	(655)	3.92	0.141
STATUS	together	79.1%	82.6%		
	SEPRATED	(25)	(81)		
		11.1%	10.06%		
	One of them	(22)	(69)		
	died	9.7%	8.57%		
FAMILY SIZE	≤5	(46)	(160)	0.03589	0.98224
		20.44%	19.87%		
	6-10	(125)	(450)		
	10	55.55%	55.9%		
	≥10	(54) 24%	(195) 24.2		
BIRTH ORDERS	1ST	(112)	(265)	280444	<0.0001**
DIKTIT GREEKS	151	49.77%	32.9%	200111	0.0001
	2-3	(35)	(235)		
		15.55%	29.19%		
	4-6	(44)	(195)		
		19.55%	24.2%		
	MORE	(34)	(110)		
		15.11%	13.66%		
GENDER	MALE	(184)	(668)	0.1782	0.672923
		81.77%	82.98%		
	FEMAL	(41)	(137)		
		18.22%	17.01%		
Place of Residence	RURAL	(141)	(370)	19.6275	<0.0001**
		62.6%	45.96%		
	URBAN	(84)	(435)		
		37.3%	54.04%		
PYSICAL HEALTH	free	(199)	(690)	1.1094	0.29222
OF THE PARENTS	CC . 1	88.4%	85.71%		
	affected	(26)	(115)		
MENTEAL THEAT	C	11.55%	14.28%	0.01.47	0.00242
MENTAL HEALTH	free	(220 )	(786)	0.0147	0.90343
OF THE PARENTS	- CC 4 - 4	97.77%	97.63%		
	affected	(5)	(19)		
		2.22%	2.36%		



Shape 1:-distribution of the sample and affected student according to cities

**Table 2:-**distribution of the sample according to severity and rewitie scale

	Range	Mean±standard	
		deviation	
Severity scale	0.0-4.0	$0.60 \pm 0.64$	
Rewtie scale	0.0-189.0	26.66 ±26.0	

Table 3:-Logistic regression analysis independent predictors of social anxiety disorder among secondary school students

Predictor	β	<i>p</i> -value	OR (95% CI)
Birth order	1.38	0.0001	3.97 (1.90-8.31)
Place of Residence	0.98	0.00001	2.67 (1.37-5.19)

#### Discussion

This is the first study that estimate the prevalence of social anxiety disorder in al Baha region . the team work aimed to conclude data that can be used in other researches and also can be used for measurement of the problem . having these data detect the size of the problem and give an impression about its significance .the study gave us a variatition of the percentage among the 6 cities what is mean that there are a lot of factors that play a role in this variation . the prevalence of social anxiety disorders was was found to be  $21.8\,\%$ . this is more than the results of some international studies that showed lifetime estimates for SAD as 8-12%. and less than some Saudi study which estimate a higher prevalence (16.4%)[The suspected reason could be increase the number of female participants in this study and females are more likely to suffer from this disorder as documented.[8.9.10]

#### Risk factors

The current study showed that there is highly statistically significant difference between birth order and social anxiety which is consistent with Risal and Tharuur [11] who stated that there are associations between birth order and various forms of psychopathology including anxiety and depression . the firstborn child also appear to be more neurotic in the sense of being temperamental and anxious about their status.(10)

The current study showed a statistically significant difference between the place of residence and students' level of anxiety while there is highly statistically significant difference between place of residence and social anxiety. This might be due culture effect in the rural areas is so restricted and controlled by rigid discipline.

The current study showed that there is no statistically significant difference between other sociodemographic factor or risk factors ( age ,gender ,number of family member and mental and physical state of the parents which is constant with some Saudi studies. (12.13.14.15)

At the end this study is considered a start for more and more researches to reach to other risk factors including the environmental factors that has its obvious smell in the results .especially social anxiety has its effect in society that

can interfere with youth production and leave its passive power among people and Loosing youth power ,creativeness , sociability, production which will affect all levels of financial situation.

#### Conclusion:-

There is a high percentage of secondary school students diagnosed with social anxiety disorder (using the mentioned scales) showing the importance of the problem in Baha region for further researches behind the causes

### **Conflicts of Interest**

the authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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We did not receive any fund.

# **Data Availability Statement**

All data are available upon request.

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