

## Prevalence of Borderline Personality Disorder and its Tendency to Sex Offending Among Inmates in Omdurman Jail (Sudan)

*Ibrahim Abdelrahim Ibrahim Humaida*

Omdurman Islamic University, Omdurman, Sudan

e-mail: [abdelrahim.ibrahim@yahoo.com](mailto:abdelrahim.ibrahim@yahoo.com) / [ibrahimhumaida0@gmail.com](mailto:ibrahimhumaida0@gmail.com)

This research aimed at investigating the prevalence of borderline personality disorder (BPD) and its tendency to sex offending, among inmates in Omdurman jail, in the light of some other variables. To achieve this aim, the researcher used the descriptive survey method, through using a primary information form collected with sample, in addition to an inventory measuring borderline personality disorder which was prepared by the researcher as data collection administered on inmates at Al-Huda Prison in Omdurman. The study sample consisted of (230) prisoners: (120) males and (110) females. The collected data was analyzed by using some statistical procedures of (SPSS), such as: Pearson correlation, Alpha Cronbach formula, one sample T-test, Chi-square test, and Multiple Regression Analysis (path analysis). The findings indicated that: The prevalence of BPD among inmates was higher significant statistical, also there was significant relationship between gender and sex offending, in addition to individuals with BPD were significantly affected by substance use and unemployment. At the end of this research, some recommendations were drawn as well as suggestion for future studies.

**Keywords:** borderline personality, disorder, sex offending, inmates, Omdurman jail.

**Для цитаты:** *Ibrahim Abdelrahim Ibrahim Humaida*. Prevalence of Borderline Personality Disorder and its Tendency to Sex offending among Inmates in Omdurman Jail (Sudan) [Электронный ресурс] // Психология и право. 2020. Том 10. № 3. С. 52–62. DOI: [10.17759/psylaw.2020100304](https://doi.org/10.17759/psylaw.2020100304)

**For citation:** Ibrahim Abdelrahim Ibrahim Humaida. Prevalence of Borderline Personality Disorder and its Tendency to Sex offending among Inmates in Omdurman Jail (Sudan). Psychology and Law, 2020. Vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 52–62. DOI: [10.17759/psylaw.2020100304](https://doi.org/10.17759/psylaw.2020100304) (In Russ.).

### 1. Introduction

Personality disorder is rather complicated phenomenon, its prevalence in the prisons is significantly higher. Over the last decade, personality disorder has become well-understood owing to the development of diagnostic criteria such as (DSM5) as well as psychometric procedures.

Existence of personality disorder is often resulted in an impaired functioning in varying personal and social settings; any symptoms of personality disorder which is considered as problematic

extension of normal personality traits, is threatening to security.

On the other hand, sex offending regarding its link to personality disorder, its etiology, development, and classification, is often deemed to be a rather controversial and complicated issue. Nevertheless, researches in the field of evolutionary theories, have excluded the hypotheses that cause sexual offending because of their limitation.

To elaborate and give an insight to the nature of relationship between BPD and sex offending among inmates, consequently, this issue has received an intensive attention from the researchers recently.

In fact, BPD is the product of an interaction between genetic, neurobiological, and psychosocial influences that affect personality development over time.

There are some comorbid psychiatric disorders connected with BPD, such as substance use disorders, might be present in patients suffering from personality disorder. That is why BPD causes a therapeutic challenge for clinical practitioners.

### **1.2 Scope of the Problem**

Owing to the fact that clinical manifestation of BPD is more complicated, and the severity of personality dysfunction vary greatly across cultures. Moreover, assessment and measuring the traits displayed by individuals with BPD, is also considered as crucial in diagnosing the and identifying the different types of sex offenses.

This current research attempts to seek an accurate answer for the following questions:

- 1- What is significance of the prevalence of BPD among inmates?
- 2- To what extent does gender correlate with sex offending?
- 3- How do both substances use and unemployment affect individuals with BPD?

### **1.3 Importance**

Based on the significance of understanding the potential risk behind prevalence of (BPD), and its tendency to sex offending against the others, this study seeks to provide an insight into an outbreak of sex offenders as observed through an increasingly growing numbers of inmates. In addition to get acquainted with preventive procedures against such anti-social tendencies.

### **1.4 Objectives**

1. To measure the prevalence of borderline personality disorder among inmates in Omdurman jail.
2. To examine the relationship between (BPD) and tendency to pedophilia.
3. To investigate the mutual effect of substance use and unemployment on BPD.

### **1.5 Hypotheses**

1. The prevalence of BPD among inmates was significantly higher.
2. There was significant relationship between gender and sex offending.
3. Individuals with BPD were significantly affected by substance use and unemployment.

### **1.6 Limitation**

This research was carried out in the year (2019-2020), and also this study is limited by specific geographical area (Sudan-Omdurman Central Jail).

### **1.7 Definition of the terms often repeated**

#### **i. Borderline Personality Disorder:**

Borderline personality disorder (BPD), which is also recognized as emotionally unstable personality disorder(EUPD), defined by (Stone, MH. 2015), who pointed out that BPD is mental

condition characterized by prolonged unstable ties, and severe emotional reactions associated with dangerous behavior.

## **ii. Sex Offending:**

Sexual offenses are generally defined as deviant sexual acts and assault that make the victims frightened or threatened. Sexual offending comprises several forms such as pedophilia, rape, harassment, incest, homosexuality, and pornography (Marshall, W.L. 2015).

## **iii. Inmates:**

Those who are sentenced for jail or prisoners as convicts for sex crimes.

## **2.Literature Review**

### **2.1. Borderline Personality Disorder**

Borderline personality disorder(BPD) or emotionally unstable personality disorder(EUPD), is acute disturbance marked by constant pattern of fluctuating emotion, and disturbed social relationships. According to the diagnostic and statistical manual for mental disorders(DSM-5), classified (BPD) as diagnosable illness.

Many researchers view that individuals with borderline personality disorder suffer from impulsive acts, reckless behavior (without thinking or caring about the consequences of an action).

Borderline personality disorder starts during puberty and early adulthood, however, some researchers claimed that early symptoms and signs of the disorder may appear during childhood (Paris, J. 2010).

Borderline personality disorder is considered as difficult to treat, nevertheless, recent studies have shown that (BPD) can be cured effectively, and many patients suffering from this illness improve over time. Moreover, some people with this disorder may recover without any treatment (Ruocco, A.C. 2012).

Borderline personality disorder often linked with other disturbances which makes it difficult to diagnose borderline personality disorder, particularly when these illnesses overlap with the clinical manifestations of borderline personality disorder (Pally, R. 2014).

Concerning an etiology of borderline personality disorder, research on the possible causes of (BPD) indicated that both genetic and environmental factors are involved. According to studies carried out on identical twins show that the disorder is significantly inherited. Furthermore, some psychologists revealed that an individual can inherit his/her personality traits such as impulsiveness and aggression, hence, biological psychologists are studying genes that responsible for emotions in order to find possible links to borderline personality disorder (Asherson, P. & Young, A.H. 2014).

Socio-cultural factors may also support the potential risk for (BPD), and consequently an increase of violence, rape, and other forms of sexual offences provoked by borderline personality disorder. (Alison, S. (2015).

The obvious characteristic of (BPD) is that patient presented with impairment in personality functioning as well as pathological personality traits. The most essential feature of incidence is that (BPD) has been diagnosed in about 5% of the general population, and in 75% of those who are in jails. Moreover, this pattern of disturbed personality prevails throughout the individual's life, its onset in adolescence, and causes a disturbance on almost all areas of functioning ( Herpertz, SC. 2015).

### **2.2. Sex Offenses and Offenders**

In an attempt to integrate available literature concerning the factors that can contribute to the

etiology of sexual offending and lead to its prevalence among inmates with borderline personality disorder. The researcher, hereby discusses biological influences, childhood experiences, psychological factors, and socio-cultural factors, all of these factors must be taken into account when interpreting the occurrence of sex offending (Ward.T & Siegret, R. 2012).

Biological theories focus on abnormalities in the structure of the brain, glandular system, and genetic makeup. Studies that linked hormonal defects with sexual offending have emphasized the role of specific hormones such as testosterone, and also consideration has been paid to the possibility of a genetic defect in sex offenders that makes them more likely to engage in sex crimes (Andrews, D.A.,2010).

Personality theories are the earliest attempts to explain sexual offending and its prevalence in inmates. Classical psychodynamic approach, tried to correlate abnormal sexual behavior with early childhood attachment experiences (Jenkins, P. 2011).

Personality types theory, has also endeavored to elaborate on the origin of sexually disturbed behavior. Researchers in this area, have postulated that sex offenses may exist within the personalities of sex offenders (Schwartz, B.K. 2014).

Cognitive theories have also participated in the understanding of sex offending and offenders. According to the investigators, there is an evidence demonstrating that sex offenders have cognitive distortion and irrational thoughts responsible for sex offending in individuals with BPD (Wood, R.M. 2011).

Behavioral theories explain sex offending as acquired learning condition or process. Behavioral theorists have hypothesized that sexual stimuli often play a major role in the incidence of sex crimes, and offenders in such situations are believed to be more vulnerable to commit sexually violent behavior, therefore, the continuity and extinction of sex offenses depends extremely on reinforcement and punishment (Hood,R. & Wilcox, A. 2012).

Social learning theory, suggested that seeking for the possible explanation, regarding sex offending in its all patterns; that children who were sexually abused, will grow into sexually deviant adults, and that sexually explicit act facilitates to sex offending ( Prentky, R.A. 2010).

Using social learning theory, investigators have examined the mechanism through which this learning takes place, and the main variables that help to determine whether sexual offending patterns will be adopted later. Moreover, identifying the link between being sexually abused and later exhibiting sexually disturbed behaviors such as age of victim, type of sex crime, and duration.

As a matter of fact, understanding sexual offenses and offenders, has been a rather complicated issue, owing to confusion in the definition of sexual perversion in general and thus sex offending in particular (Batds G., 2011).

The most common feature and criterion for sex offending concerns the unusual nature of the source of arousal e.g. (pedophilia, exhibitionism, rape, and sexual harassment). Furthermore, previous research has shown that sexual offenders generally report more deviant sexual behaviors than non-offenders (Watts & Litenfield, 2017).

With regard to previous studies on borderline personality disorder(BPD) and its tendency to sex offending, there are several case reports in the literature indicating that patients or individuals with (BPD) tended to be sex offenders.

Hurlbert, DF &White, LC (2013), conducted an empirical study to investigate sexual indulgence among (32) women with (BPD), and they found that there was an inclination towards sexual acts. Lavan, H. & Johnson, JG. (2010) examined relationship between personality disorder and high-risk

sexual behavior among (403) participants, they revealed that borderline personality disorder associated with high-risk sexual behavior.

Neelman (2011) concluded that patients with BPD show high sexual impulsivity as well as vulnerability to homosexual experiences.

Sansone, RA. (2008) studied the relationship between BPD and various sexual behaviors among (76) women outpatients, and found a statistically significant correlation between individuals with BPD and likelihood of rape.

### 3. Methodology & Procedures

#### 3.1. Methodology

In this study, a survey research method is adopted which seeks to collect data from a pre-defined group of individuals (here refer to inmates) to achieve research objectives.

Such methodology can be used to study a wide variety of applied researches in the different domains of psychology (Weathington, B.I. (2010).

#### 3.2. Participants

This study comprised a survey sample of (230) participants: (120) males and (110) females, who were condemned for sex crimes in Omdurman(Sudan) central jail and were sentenced accordingly.

#### 3.3. Instruments

In this study, a twelve items questionnaire was administered to measure BPD traits in inmates(attached as appendix). The questionnaire was reviewed by some psychometricians and psychologists, and regarding the psychometric properties, there was procedure taken as follows concerning internal consistency:

Table 1

**Correlation coefficients for each items on BPD questionnaire**

Item	Correlation	Item	Correlation	Item	Correlation
1	.86	5	.86	9	.82
2	.84	6	.87	10	.83
3	.82	7	.84	11	.85
4	.83	8	.84	12	.86

#### Reliability & Validity

Reliability was calculated by Cronbach's Alpha (0.85), and thus validity = (0.92)

### 4. Results

#### Hypothesis (1)

Table 2

**Result of One-sample T-test to verify statistical significance of BPD prevalence in inmates**

	Test value = 40				95% confidence interval of the difference	
	T	Df	Sig(2-tailed)	Mean difference	Lower	Upper
BPD	423.959	229	.000	55.975	55.713	56.236

The table indicated that a significant prevalence of BPD (.000) was found in inmates.

### Hypothesis (2)

Table 3

#### Result of Chi-square test to identify the significant of relationship between gender and sex offending

BPD	Gender			X <sup>2</sup> value	Df	Sig.
	Males	Females	Total			
	120	110	230	4.560	227	0.05

The table pointed out that a significant relationship (0.05) between gender and sex offending.

### Hypothesis (3)

Table 4

#### Result of Multiple Regression Analysis to test the significance of mutual efficacy of sex offending, substance use, and unemployment

##### Variables Entered/Removed<sup>b</sup>

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	sex offending, substance use, unemployment	-	Entered

- a. all the requested variables entered.
- b. Dependent Variable: BPD.

##### Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the estimate
1	.280	.066	.043	.77785

- a. predictors(constant), sex offending, substance use, unemployment.

##### Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized coefficient		Standardized coefficient	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		

(Constant)	0.28	.006	.142	2.731	.01
Sex offending					
Substance use	.027	.090	.024	2.039	.01
Unemployment	.613	.057	.096	2.534	.01

b. Dependent Variable: BPD.

**(ANOVA)**

Model	Sum of Square	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression	5463.303	3	1.321	3.03	.05
Residual	.492214	226	.433		
Total	4600.000	229			

a. predictors(constant), sex offending, substance use, unemployment.

b. Dependent Variable: BPD.

All the above-mentioned tables connected with multiple regression analysis (path analysis), showing that a significant efficacy of other variables such as substance use and unemployment on the occurrence of sex offending.

**5. Discussions & Conclusion**

Based on the result obtained by the first hypothesis, which maintained the prevalence of (BPD) was significantly higher among inmates. As a matter of fact, consequently, patients suffering from this disease, are in the border of neurosis and psychosis. Moreover, BPD is a prevalent disorder, estimated to occur in 1- 2% of the population, and patients with borderline personality disorder are reported to have higher levels of anger and recurrent impulsive and aggressive behaviors. Also, chronic feelings of emptiness which may lead individuals with BPD to drugs abuse and thus sex offending.

Regarding the result of the second hypothesis, found that there were some sex offenses committed by inmates with BPD. Some previous research findings pointed out that BPD symptoms existed among sex offenders (Craissati, J. & Blundell, R. (2013). And also, Chen, Y. & Hung, D. (2016), found that, in a sample comprised (68) sex offenders, 59% were diagnosed with personality disorder. Moreover, Kingston, D. & Bradford, J. (2015), found that 74% of sex offending linked with borderline personality disorder being the most common.

Concerning the discussion of the result of the third hypothesis, which highlighted that individuals with BPD were significantly affected by substance use and unemployment. That also maintained that individuals with BPD, showed greater sexual offenses as indicated by higher levels of impulsivity, recklessness and aggression. In addition, these patients showed greater victimization as indicated by high-risk sexual behavior such as rape, being forced to have sex, and prostitution. The most common characteristic of borderline personality disorder encountered in abnormal patterns of behaving such as alcohol and substance dependence, eating disorders, and difficulty regulating money.

Nevertheless, unemployment and difficulty in maintaining work is highly marked by individuals with BPD, as they often characterized by impulsivity and pervasive pattern of instability in interpersonal relations, as well as incompetence. As a matter of fact, such occupational disability among patients with BPD, perhaps due to high levels of stress they often experience and malfunctioning (Hengartner, MP, 2014).

On the other hand, many individuals with BPD who are substance depended, use substance as a mean or a way to cope with trauma they passed throughout their early childhood (Pennay, A. 2011).

### **6. Recommendations**

1. Family counselling is needed for promoting community mental health.
2. To implement sex counselling sessions for victims of sex offending.
3. Clinicians should carefully diagnose comorbid psychiatric disorders in patients with BPD.

### **7. Suggestions**

1. To study the relationship between personality disorders and pedophilia.
2. To investigate psychopathy and its prevalence in specific types of sex crimes.
3. To examine comorbidity of mood disorder in patients with BPD.

### **References**

1. Alison, S. (2015). Risk and Prevalence of Personality Disorders in Sexual Offenders. John Jay College of Criminal Justice. New York, NY.
2. Andrews D.A. (2010). The Psychology of Criminal Conduct. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson.
3. Asheron, P. & Young, A.H. (2014). Borderline Personality Disorder in adults. Current Medical Research. 30: 57-72. [ Cross Ref] [ Pub Med].
4. Chen, Y. & Hung, D. (2016). Assessment of Psychiatric disorders among sex offenders. Criminal Behavior and Mental Health. 26:30-37. <http://.doi>
5. Craissati, J. & Blundell, R. (2013). A community service for high-risk mentally disordered sex offenders: A follow-up study. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 28:178-200.
6. Hengartner, MP. (2014). Occupational functioning and work impairment in association with personality disorder traits. American Journal of Psychiatry. 49: 327-335.
7. Herpertz, SC. (2015). New Perspective on the Pathophysiology of Borderline Personality Disorder. American Journal of Psychiatry. 172: 40-51.
8. Hood, R. & Wilcox, A. (2012). Sex offenders emerging from long- term imprisonment. British Journal of Criminology. 42: 71-94.
9. Hurlbert, DF, & White, LC. (2013). An empirical examination into the sexuality of women with BPD. Journal of sex marital therapy. 18:231-242.
10. Jenkins, P. (2011). Sexual Deviance. Bridgewater, NJ: Replica Books.
11. Kingstone, D. & Bradford,J. (2015). The relationship between mental disorder and recidivism in sexual offenders. International Journal of Forensic Mental Health. 14: 10-22.
12. Lavan,H. & Johnson, JG. ( 2010). The association between BPD symptoms and high-risk sexual behavior. Journal of Psychiatric Disorders. 16: 73-94.
13. Marshall, W.L. (2015). Treatment of Sex offender. Clinical Psychology Review. 11: 465-480.
14. Neelman, AJF. (2011). The Prevalence of Sexuality in the treatment of BPD. Journal of Psychiatry. 49: 33-40.
15. Pally, R. (2014). The neurobiology of borderline personality disorder. Journal of Psychiatry. 8



*Ibrahim Abdelrahim Ibrahim Humaida.*  
Prevalence of Borderline Personality Disorder and its  
Tendency to Sex offending among Inmates in Omdurman  
Jail (Sudan)  
Психология и право. 2020. Том 10. № 3. С. 52–62.

*Ibrahim Abdelrahim Ibrahim Humaida.*  
Prevalence of Borderline Personality Disorder and its  
Tendency to Sex offending among Inmates in Omdurman  
Jail (Sudan)  
Psychology and Law. 2020. Vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 52–62.

133-142.

16. Paris, J. (2010). Borderline Personality Disorder. *CMAJ*. 172: 1579-1583 [Cross Ref] [Pub Med].

17. Pennay, A. (2011). A systematic Review of Interventions for Co-occurring Substance use disorder and borderline personality disorder. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. 41(4): 363-373.

18. Prentky, R.A. (2010). Identifying critical dimensions for discriminating among rapists. *Journal of Counselling and Clinical Psychology*. 39: 43-61.

19. Ruocco, A.C. (2012). The neuropsychology of borderline personality disorder. A meta- analysis and review. *Psychiatry Research*. 137: 191-202.

20. Sansone, RA. (2013). Borderline Personality Symptomatology and Sexual Impulsivity. *International Journal of Psychiatry*. 38: 53-60.

21. Schwartz, B.K. (2014). Characteristics and typologies of sex offenders. New Jersey: Civic Research Institute.

22. Stone, MH. (2015). Borderline Personality Disorder:a review of psychotherapeutic approaches. *World Psychiatry*. 5 (1) : 15-20.

23. Ward.T. & Siegret, R. (2012). Theories of Sexual Offending. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

24. Weathington, B. I. (2010). Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley& Sons, Inc.

25. Wood, R.M. (2011). Psychological Assessment with Sex Offender. *Behavioral Sciences and the law*. 18: 23-41.

## **Appendix (1): BPD Questionnaire**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
1	I nearly always feel empty					
2	I often behave recklessly					
3	I can get very paranoid, feel myself “spacing out” or dissociate					
4	I often idealize others, especially when I first meet them					
5	I’m sometimes very angry, extremely sarcastic and bitter					
6	I’ve engaged in self-mutilating, self-harm, or suicidal behaviors, gestures or threats					
7	I often experience a sudden shift in the way I look at myself and my life, and completely change my goals, values and career focus					
8	I’m often afraid that others will abandon or leave me — so I’ll make frantic efforts to avoid this abandonment (even when it’s not real)					
9	My mood can shift between extreme periods of anxiety, depression or irritability in just a few hours or days					
10	My views of others can shift dramatically and without any warning					
11	I would say most of my romantic relationships have been very intense — but not very stable					
12	I’m currently experiencing enough problems in this area of my life					

***Information about the authors***

*Dr. Ibrahim Abdelrahim Ibrahim Humaida*, Associate Professor of Mental Health, Omdurman Islamic University-Sudan, e-mail:[abdelrahim.ibrahim@yahoo.com](mailto:abdelrahim.ibrahim@yahoo.com) / [ibrahimhumaida0@gmail.com](mailto:ibrahimhumaida0@gmail.com)

*Ibrahim Abdelrahim Ibrahim Humaida.*  
Prevalence of Borderline Personality Disorder and its  
Tendency to Sex offending among Inmates in Omdurman  
Jail (Sudan)  
Психология и право. 2020. Том 10. № 3. С. 52–62.

*Ibrahim Abdelrahim Ibrahim Humaida.*  
Prevalence of Borderline Personality Disorder and its  
Tendency to Sex offending among Inmates in Omdurman  
Jail (Sudan)  
Psychology and Law. 2020. Vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 52–62.

Получена 06.04.2020  
Принята в печать 07.09.2020

Received 06.04.2020  
Accepted 07.09.2020