



ACADEMIC EXAMS
AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LISBON
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TRAINING

Masters:

Child and Adolescent Victimization (1st Edition)

Name of Student:

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Subject of Thesis:

III Treatment – Attitude of Technicians from the Protection Committees

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Mark:

Very Good, by Unanimity

Jury:

President: Professor Luísa Vicente (FMUL)

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ABSTRACT

Violence towards children and adolescents is a serious health issue, thus it must be identified and addressed by the professionals and experts in the matter. This study aims to present - the perception of technicians on child abuse, explore the technician's attitudes towards the abusing parents, recognize the technician's fundamental values and last but not least to contribute and improve the implementation of strategies which address the issue of child abuse. The methodical approach of this study was exploratory and descriptive. A quantitative research was chosen, where meanings, motivations, beliefs, values and attitudes were pondered, in order to accomplish the latter. The data collecting was achieved through an anonymous and voluntary questionnaire, completed by the interviewee, and composed of closed and mixed questions. This study's population was composed by members of the Comissões de Protecção de Crianças e Jovens do Distrito de Setúbal. In order to organize, interpret and present the collected data, the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) program was used. According to the data, the majority of the sample selected, were committee workers for less than a year, hence the results will have a reflection on the prevention, recognition and monitoring of the abuse situations. Since these families are usually handled by a large number of entities, the continual substitution of these technicians undermines their competences, and further contributes to unnecessary delegation of tasks and also lack of responsibility. As a result the family loses its self confidence. Concerning the eventual attitude change towards the victimized child/teenager over a number of years, 46.3% answered that nothing or close to nothing had changed. The main feeling experienced towards the aggressor, in a frequency of 32.8%, was anger, while passiveness was the least experienced, with a frequency of 49.3%. Concerning the overall abuse, the most common feeling expressed was frustration. The children's life project's was a major concern for the technicians. It's necessary to incorporate the singularity of each case in the knowledge drawn from the thousands of families aided concerning child and adolescent abuse situations.

Keywords: attitude, abuse, family, child, values