Identifying the characteristics of pedophiles: Underlying factors and ways of prevention

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Abstract

Childhood is the most sensitive and influential period of every person's life because different physical and psychological dimensions of the child are forming and interacting in childhood and adolescence. Therefore, maintaining and ensuring the child's growth and physical and mental health is of great importance. This is even though when these children are subjected to violence, it will have negative effects on the child and society. In the meantime, sexual violence against children by pedophiles in different ways is a serious issue for all countries that require consideration at the national and transnational levels. Therefore, in this study, identifying the characteristics of pedophile people and underlying factors in becoming a pedophile and becoming a victim of this phenomenon is the main subject of this study. The statistical population of this study includes all experts and professionals active in the field of psychiatry and law who specialize in topics related to sexual violence of pedophiles, and 235 of them were randomly selected. The research tool is a researcher-made questionnaire based on 47 questions, and the desired model is fitted based on PLS. The obtained results indicate that factors such as personality disorder, depression, suicide, alcohol and drug use, family problems, mental-psychological problems, and medical history are among the common characteristics of pedophiles. Educational and control measures, educational factors and criminal punishment are the proposed solutions for prevention and economic, social and cultural factors are among the underlying factors in becoming a pedophile.

Keywords: prevention of underlying factors, sexual violence, children, pedophiles, nonlinear equations, PLS
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1 Introduction

Undoubtedly, childhood is the most sensitive and influential period of human life. During this period, different physical and mental dimensions of the child are forming and evolving. The development of a child's physical and mental health requires the preparation of several conditions, the violation of each of which endangers the child's correct growth process and affects the future of his life [16]. This is even though violence against children has always existed since the past and every year millions of children are exposed to various forms of abuse. The Health Organization (WHO) considers violence against children as "injury or threat to the physical and mental health or well-being of the child at the hands of parents or other responsible persons" [2]. Sexual violence against children involves a child in a sexual activity that he does not fully understand. is unable to express conscious consent, or the child is not developmentally

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ready to do it and cannot consent to it [15]. Based on the approach of the World Health Organization, any physical, or psychological harm, sexual abuse and failure to address the basic needs of people under 18 years of age is considered violence against children. Therefore, violence against children can be imagined in the form of physical, mental and sexual violence. Meanwhile, the category of sexual violence is of great importance to preserve the inherent dignity of the child on the one hand and to preserve the norms and conventional patterns of life on the other hand [7]. Also, this work is a violation of social taboos and is done against Sharia, customs and laws. Sexual abuse can be a single incident, but it is usually chronic and repeated. Most of the criminals are adults (over 18 years old) whom the child knows and who are usually abused by pressuring and using force or by deceiving and seducing the child [3]. Sexual crimes, widely, are considered as severe injuries whose effects go beyond the damages to the physical integrity of a person. Such crimes are often seen in the case of children as the most vulnerable segment of society, and the new cases raised by the mass media are the reason for this claim [14]. This is even though sexual victims are reported and registered much less, as a result, these numbers can only be estimated as the tip of the iceberg [18].

There is not much statistical information available about this issue in Iran. Official statistical sources are almost completely silent in this field, and related organizations (welfare, health ministry, judiciary) usually do not publish statistics in this field. Also, considering that all cases of child abuse are not fully recorded and even many cases of child abuse remain hidden, it is not possible to provide definitive statistics about affected children [3]. In the meantime, pedophilia, which comes from two words "pedo" meaning "child" and "philia" meaning "loving" or "loving" from the Latin language, refers to people who have a strong tendency and desire. have sexual relations with children and they often commit this act if they are in a situation of assault and rape against children, it is the ugliest, heinous and controversial issue related to criminal law, especially in crimes against children [22].

This behavior has been identified as one of the mental disorders classified in 1968 by the American Psychological Association, which has revised its diagnostic criteria in 2013. There are many disagreements about the exact definition of this disease; In the definitions of the majority of researchers, pedophiles are people who violate children due to the desire and motivation to have sexual relations with them and enjoy doing so. It seems that for the first time the name of this disease, which is sexual desire for children, was defined by the American Psychiatric Association. In some other definitions, any abuse done by an adult subject towards a younger subject is known as pedophile rape, and the aggressor is called a pedophile disorder. Finally, a more accurate and complementary definition of the above definitions can be proposed as a pedophile is a person who is an adult and has more than 13 years of age and experiences and resolves his sexual desires with immature children for at least 6 months [21].

Based on the report of researchers in the United States of America in 1985, on average, each pedophile in the family commits 35 to 45 criminal acts against one or two children. Out-of-family pedophiles commit one or two criminal acts against each person among a number of children whose number is alarmingly high. One or two out of about 20 "female victims" or 150 "male victims" for each pedophile. Therefore, the results reveal that such persons are a great threat to children [19]. Therefore, this study has identified the characteristics of pedophiles, the underlying factors in a person becoming a pedophile and becoming a victim in this phenomenon, as well as the appropriate prevention solutions.

2 Subject literature and research background

Pedophilia is a mental disorder that is accompanied by sexual orientation towards children. Studies show that most pedophiles suffer from some kind of physical or sexual disability, and in other words, they can be considered weak people who think that they cannot have a healthy relationship with the opposite sex in the right, legal and religious conditions. Intense sexual fantasies and clinical disorders are among the common characteristics of pedophiles that cause them to sexually abuse children [23]. Many motivations and reasons, such as the presence of family and hereditary problems, cause some people to become pedophiles, which leads to abnormal sexual stimulation in these people, and depending on the case, it can be caused by genetic or environmental reasons, and especially unpleasant experiences of people. It causes inappropriate behavior on children and increases sexual delinquency in the society. Increasing the awareness of parents and children in sexual safety will protect children from the sexual violence of pedophiles [19]. As one of the basic problems in the literature of this field is the lack of training or insufficient training of parents and other officials towards children in order to prevent sexual abuse [3]. According to the available studies, children who are physically or sexually abused also suffer from many psychiatric disorders, including anxiety, aggressive behavior, paranoid thinking, post-traumatic stress disorder, and depressive disorder. It is particularly important and misbehaving with children will lead to the formation of inappropriate personality traits and increase in risky behaviors in them. As an example, corporal punishment during childhood increases the possibility of long-term psychological damage in adulthood such as severe depression, anxiety, drug and alcohol addiction [9].

In order to prevent sexual violence against children, legal and criminal protections are part of the known protections for the victims of sexual crimes, the legislator can provide children victims of such crimes under the umbrella of financial protections. to provide full medical and treatment and try to improve the condition of their victims [11]. Based on what has been presented in the literature of this field, legislative actions in preventing violence against children in Iran's criminal policy; It has mainly focused on criminal prevention; Of course, the legislator has criminalized in different areas in a scattered and inconsistent manner and has punished various examples of violence against children; However, regarding non-criminal prevention, legislative measures are not so wide and clear; As far as it can be claimed, in the field of preventing violence against children, our legal criminal policy lacks a coherent, coordinated approach based on criminology and criminal sociology facts [14]. Also, according to the restorative approach of criminal justice, compensation for this category of victims, who are more harmed than other crimes, should also be considered in the performance guarantee system. Because the criminal justice system does not create much opportunity for communication between the litigants. But if the punishment is considered as a part of the criminal justice approach, the victim is placed in the center of the proceedings. In the first step, restorative justice regarding these crimes should compensate for the damages caused to the victim. This requires having a correct and real understanding of the injuries inflicted on the victimized child, in such a way that the emotions and body of the victimized child are considered together. Therefore, it can be said that the existence of laws and criminal punishment is one of the preventive reasons for sexual violence against children by pedophiles [1].

In addition, respecting the dignity of the victimized child is one of the important points that must be taken into consideration, and this issue requires identifying his needs, the right to sue, compensation for material and spiritual damages, and providing judicial services to him in the criminal justice process. This behavior strengthens the trust of the victimized child. He should know that he is not alone in facing victimization and that the society supports him. The fear of lack of support and inappropriate behavior in different stages of criminal justice, from facing the police to the prosecutor's office and the court, itself causes adversity and secondary victimization that the victimized child feels exposed to. Behaving with respect strengthens the feeling in the victim that his needs will be recognized, his losses compensated and he will return to the society and will not be victimized again. Another result is the victim's trust in the criminal justice system. He no longer feels like an outsider, he recognizes the recommendations and advices of the criminal justice system staff, including the police, the prosecutor's office and the court, and gives him a sense of security [6].

The police or the law enforcement force is the first institution and official body that the victims seek refuge in. If this institution acts inefficiently and incompetently, it will lead to the lack of trust of children who are victims of such crimes. If the first duty towards the child victim is to guarantee a respectful reception with respect for human dignity for child victims of sexual crimes who have suffered mental and emotional injuries. The police should refrain from any humiliating behavior with this type of victims, because this category of victims is often in a bad psychological state, so understanding their rights and speeding up their work will lead to their confidence and trust in the police. The criminal justice system. The behavior of these officers with these victims is the most important measure of their satisfaction with the criminal justice system. If the justice system fails to meet the needs of victims and accept them, secondary victimization will occur and its effects and consequences are no less than their first victimization [6]. Usually, children who are victims of sexual crimes do not want their complaints to be raised publicly or for many people to know that the legislator has helped to protect their privacy by providing for closed hearings and not investigating the law enforcement officers. Therefore, increasing the awareness of parents and children in sexual safety will protect children from the sexual violence of pedophiles. Therefore, it seems that culture-building in the direction of awareness, criminalization of these behaviors, as well as speeding up the investigation and its definitive implementation can prevent the occurrence of this type of behavior and remind people of their rights [4, 17].

In general, it seems that for the criminal protection of children who are victims of sexual crimes, the first step is to establish a favorable and enforceable indoctrination policy. In many cases, it is believed that the legal protection of the victims is only related to the criminalization and imposition of punishment for these crimes, and although these two cases form the cornerstone of the legal protection, but the law Placing other protections, such as improving the evidence, paying attention to the rights of the victimized child, etc., is very effective in their implementation [17]. In principle, reaching the framework and pattern of criminal protection in the form of criminal policy, in addition to requiring accurate and coherent planning, also requires the support of government institutions and organizations, including welfare and civil institutions. Because, on the one hand, the penal system has flaws and weaknesses in fighting crime and curbing delinquency, which in many cases is unable to perform its duty, and on the other hand, children who are victims of sexual crimes have needs that must be identified immediately. and take action to fix it [6].

In the end, it should be stated that although the society's sensitivity towards the phenomenon of pedophile and the harm it causes to children and people in the society can justify harsh criminal reactions to pedophiles, but it should be

kept in mind that preventive measures It is also necessary to control and treat the issue of pedophile with situational and social prevention, as well as informing families and members of the society, using drug therapy, psychotherapy and control care of such people before committing the aforementioned crimes. to be Therefore, it can be said that preventive strategies are more effective and efficient in order to protect children from the sexual violence of pedophiles compared to the punishments after the crime of these people [10].

3 Materials and methods

This study is descriptive in terms of purpose and practical in terms of results, which was conducted in 2021-2022. Collecting theoretical bases and related previous research in order to identify dimensions, components and characteristics of pedophile people and ways to prevent sexual violence of these people has been done based on library studies. The statistical population of this study includes all experts and specialists in the field of psychiatry and law who specialize in the topics related to sexual violence of pedophiles. The sample size is 235 people who were randomly selected.

The research tool is a researcher-made questionnaire based on 47 questions in the Likert spectrum, the collected information of which has been analyzed using factor analysis, structural equations and SPSS and LISREL software. The content validity of the questionnaire has been evaluated and confirmed by experts. The reliability of the questionnaire was also calculated by Cronbach's alpha test of 0.92 and shows the high reliability of the questionnaire.

3.1 Nonlinear Structural Equation Model

The traditional linear structural equation model is typically made up of two parts: the measurement model describing the relationships between the observed and latent variables and the structural model describing the relationships between the latent variables. Given a vector of p observed variables Z; for the ith individual in a sample of size n and a vector of q latent variables f_i, the linear structural equation model system can be written:

$$Z_i = \mu + \Lambda f_i + \epsilon_i \tag{3.1}$$
$$b_0 + B_0 f_i = \delta_{0i}, \tag{3.2}$$

where in the measurement model, the matrices $\mu(p \times 1)$ and $\Lambda(p \times q)$ contain fixed or unknown scalars describing the linear relation between the observations Z; and the common latent factors f_i, and represents the $(p \times 1)$ vector of random measurement error independent of f_i such that $E(\varepsilon_i) = 0$ and $Var(\epsilon_i) = \Psi$ with fixed and unknown scalars in; and in the structural model, the matrices $b_0(d \times 1)$ and $B_0(d \times q)$ contain fixed or unknown scalars defining d different additive linear simultaneous structural equations relating the factors to one another plus the $(d \times 1)$ vector of random equation error doi, where $E(\delta_{0i}) = 0$ and $Var(\delta_{0i}) = A_0$ with fixed and unknown scalars in A_0.

The simultaneous linear structural model as written in (3.2) is very general. For many practical research questions which can be addressed by simultaneous structural models, it is useful to model specific variables in terms of the rest of the variables, i.e., it is useful to consider some of the latent variables as endogenous and others as exogenous, where endogenous variables are those that are functions of other endogenous and exogenous variables. Let $f_i = (\eta_i', \xi_i')$ where η_i are the d endogenous latent variables and ξ_i are the $q - d$ exogenous latent variables. Then a commonly used form for the structural model (3.2) becomes:

$$\eta_i = b + B\eta_i + \Gamma\xi_i + \delta_i, \tag{3.3}$$

where it is assumed the equation errors δ_i have $E(\delta_i) = 0$, $Var(\delta_i) = \Delta$ and are independent of the ξ_i as well as independent of ϵ_i in (3.1), and the matrices $b(d \times 1)$, $B(d \times d)$, $y(d \times (q - d))$, and $A(d \times d)$ are fixed or unknown scalars. The structural model (3.3) is said to be in implicit form, implicit because it has endogenous variables on both sides of the equations, i.e., it is not "solved" for the endogenous variables. It is assumed that the diagonal of B is zero so that no element of η_i is a function of itself. A sufficient condition for solving is that $(I - B)$ is invertible, then can be solved for the endogenous variables and written as

$$\eta_i = b^\star + \Gamma^\star \xi_i + \delta_i^\star \tag{3.4}$$

where $b = (I - B)^{-1}b$, $Y^\star = (I - B)^{-1}y$, and $Var(\delta_i^\star) = (I - B)^{-1}\delta(IB)^{-1}$.

The structural model (3.4) is said to be in reduced form as the η_i now appears only on the left-hand side of the equation. It is important to note the assumption that the equation errors δ_i were additive and independent of the In the implicit form results in the equation errors ξ_i in the reduced form (3.4) also being additive and independent of the η_i.

Given p, q and d, additional restrictions must be placed on μ, A, Y, b_0, B_0, and Δ_0 in (3.1)-(3.2) in order to make all the unknown parameters identifiable. The assumption that (3.2) can be written in reduced form (3.4) is the typical restriction placed on the structural model. Additionally, a common restriction placed on the measurement model (3.1) is the errors-in-variables parameterization where q of the observed variables are each fired to be equal to one of the q different latent variables plus measurement error. For a thorough discussion of identifiability in linear structural equation models see, e.g., Bollen [5]. Finally, it should be noted that there is no inherent distributional assumptions needed for ej, do, nor fl at this point of model specification although distributional assumptions may be added eventually to perform estimation.

A mixture SEMs for a $p \times 1$ random vectory y_i is defined as follows:

$$f(y_i) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k f_k(y_i|\mu_k \Sigma_k), \qquad i = 1, \cdots, n \tag{3.5}$$

where K is the number of components which can be unknown, π_k's are component probabilities which are nonnegative and sum to 1.0, $f_k(y_i|\mu_k\Sigma_k)$ is a multivariate normal density function with an unknown mean vector μ_k and a covariance matrix Σ_k. Conditional on the kth component, suppose that y satisfies the following measurement model:

$$y = \mu_k + \Lambda_k \omega_k + \epsilon_k \tag{3.6}$$

is an $p \times 1$ Intercept vector, Y_k is a $p \times q$ factor loading matrix, ω_k is a $q \times 1$ random vector of latent variables, and ϵ_k is a $p \times 1$ random vector of error measurements with distribution $N(0, \Psi_k)$ which is independent of ω_k, and Ψ_k is a diagonal matrix. Let ω_k be partitioned into $(\eta_n^T, \xi_k^T)^T$ where is a $q1 \times 1$ vector, ξ_k is a $q2 \times 1$ vector, and $q1 + q2 = q$. The structural equation is defined as

$$\eta_k = B_k \eta_k + \Gamma_k \xi_k + \delta_k \tag{3.7}$$

where B_k and Y_k are $q1 \times q1$ and $q1 \times q2$ matrices of unknown parameters; and random vectors $\xi_k \lambda_k$ are independently distributed. as $N(0, \phi_k)$ and $N(0, \phi_{\lambda k})$ respectively; and ϕ_k is a diagonal matrix.

We assume that $B_{0k}(q1 - B)$ is nonsingular and $(I_{ql}$ Is Independent of any elements in $B_{k^\star}$. One specific form of B_k that satisfies this assumption is the lower or upper triangular matrix.

As the mixture model defined in (3.5) is invariant with respect to permutation of labels $k = 1, \cdots, K$, adoption of an unique labeling for identifiability is important. Roeder and Wasserman [20], and Lee and Song [13] proposed to impose the ordering $\mu_{1,1} < \cdots < \mu_{K,1}$, for eliminating the label switching (jumping between the various labeling subspace), where $\mu_{k,1}$ is the first element of the mean vector μ_k. This method works fine if $\mu_{1,1}, \cdots \mu_{K,1}$ are well separated. However, if $\mu_{1,1}$, $\mu_{K,1}$ are close to each other, it may not be able to eliminate the label switching, and may Introduce incorrect results. Hence, it is necessary to find a sensible identifiability constraint. In this chapter, the random permutation sampler developed by Frühwirth-Schnatter [8] will be applied for finding the suitable Identifiability constraints. See the following sections for more details.

Moreover, for each $k = 1, \cdots, K$, structural parameters in the covariance matrix Σ_k corresponding to the model defined by (3.6) and (3.7) are not identified. A common method in structural equation modeling for identifying the model Is to fix appropriate elements in A_k, B_k, and/or Y_k at preassigned values. The positions of the preassigned values of the fixed elements in these matrices of regression coefficients can be chosen on a problem-by-problem basts, as long as each σ_k is identified. In practice, most manifest variables are usually clear indicators of their corresponding latent variables. This give rather clear prior information to specify the zero values to appropriate elements in these parameter matrices. See the illustrative example in Section 5 for a more concrete example. For clear discussion of the proposed method, we let $\prod = (\prod_1, \cdots, \prod_K)$, and O be the vector which contains all unknown parameters in the covariance matrices that defines an identified model.

4 Research findings

The demographic characteristics of the respondents indicate that 60% of participants are male and 40% are female. Describing the age of the respondents shows that more than 80% of the respondents are over 40 years old. The description of the academic rank of the respondents shows that more than 62% are associate professors, 19% are full professors, and about 15% are assistant professors, and only 3% are instructors. The research history of the respondents shows that 48.5% of the respondents have more than 15 years of experience, people with 10 to 15 years of experience account for more than 32% of the respondents, and people who have between 5 to 10 years of work experience, have a share equal to 16.6%, while less than 3% of them have a history of less than 5 years.

4.1 Factor analysis and extraction of research components

Exploratory factor analysis was used to identify the components in the research questionnaire, and first, to check the adequacy of the sample and the reliability of the factor analysis results, the Kaiser-Meier coefficient and Bartlett's test were calculated and it was equal to 0.988. Since this coefficient is higher than 0.6 and significant, it can be said that at the level of alpha error (0.05) the instrument has internal dimensions and it is possible to refer to the results of factor analysis (Table 1). In Table 2, it can be seen that the factor loadings in all the questions of the research tool are higher than 0.6, and therefore, all the research questions are valid for the factor analysis test.

Table 1: Results of Bartlett's test and Keyser-Meier's statistic

Amara Kayser Mir	0.988
Chi-square statistic	9324.165
The significance level	0.000

Table 2: Factor loadings of research questions

question	factor load	question	factor load	question	factor load	question	factor load	question	factor load
1	0.756	11	0.753	21	0.741	31	0.791	41	0.741
2	0.768	12	0.680	22	0.708	32	0.730	42	0.708
3	0.664	13	0.814	23	0.802	33	0.790	43	0.802
4	0.624	14	0.768	24	0.838	34	0.779	44	0.838
5	0.750	15	0.741	25	0.802	35	0.769	45	0.802
6	0.757	16	0.708	26	0.752	36	0.861	46	0.752
7	0.716	17	0.802	27	0.784	37	0.753	47	0.784
8	0.697	18	0.838	28	0.736	38	0.680		
9	0.784	19	0.802	29	0.700	39	0.814		
10	0.758	20	0.752	30	0.758	40	0.768		

According to Table 3, it can be seen that after rotating the factors, the number of factors observed in the research tool is 6 factors.

Table 3: Factor analysis matrix after rotating the factors

object	Valuable results of objects			The results of the original variance			Results of rotated variance		
	Total	The variance percentage of each item	Cumulative percentage of variances	Total	The variance percentage of each item	Cumulative percentage of variances	Total	Cumulative percentage of variances	The variance percentage of each item
1	27.265	56.803	56.803	27.265	56.803	56.803	7.071	14.731	14.731
2	1.761	3.670	60.742	1.761	3.670	60.472	6.661	13.877	28.608
3	1.491	3.160	63.578	1.491	3.160	63.578	6.497	13.563	42.144
4	1.302	2.712	66.293	1.302	2.712	66.293	6.400	13.334	55.478
5	1.176	2.450	68.741	1.176	2.450	68.741	6.366	13.263	68.741
6	1.095	2.274	71.015	1.156	2.320	71.063	6.312	13.123	71.063
⋮									
44	0.118	0.288	99.016						
45	0.104	0.281	99.305						
46	0.089	0.249	99.553						
47	0.083	0.230	100						

In order to express and extract the main factors, factor analysis has been proposed based on the rotated component matrix of 6 factors, which are as follows:

- Common characteristics of pedophiles

- Ways to prevent sexual violence against children

- Proposed punishment

- Support after the crime

- Basic factors in becoming a pedophile

- Factors contributing to victimization

- Descriptive characteristics of pedophilic people, underlying factors and prevention methods

The descriptive characteristics of each of the investigated factors in identifying the characteristics of pedophiles, underlying factors and prevention methods are presented in Table No. 4. According to this table, it can be seen that the distribution of the identified factors is normal. Also, the proposed punishment with a value of 4.32 has the highest average and the common characteristics of pedophiles with an average of 3.21 have the lowest average.

Table 4: Mean, standard deviation and results of the Kolmogorov -Smirnov test for the factors of the designed model

Variables	Average	standard deviation	K_S test statistics	Sig
Common characteristics of pedophiles	3.21	0.184	0.134	0.116
Ways to prevent sexual violence against children	3.54	0.226	0.225	0.200
Proposed punishment	4.32	0.241	0.224	0.200
Support after the crime	4.18	0.116	0.215	0.118
Factors behind becoming a pedophile	3.88	0.218	0.266	0.164
Factors contributing to victimization	3.71	0.144	0.204	0.186

4.2 Investigating and validating the characteristics of pedophiles, underlying factors and prevention methods

In this section, in order to examine the final model related to the characteristics of pedophiles, underlying factors and prevention methods, the final model has been fitted using LISREL software and structural equations. The coefficients of the desired model are shown in Figure 1 and the significance of the coefficients is shown in Figure 2.

As figures 1 and 2 show, except for the item related to the problem of making friends in the victims of pedophiles and the impact of the child's personality on victimization, other items under investigation have significant coefficients.

Based on the results, the RMSEA index is equal to 0.023, so it can be said that the model has a relatively good fit. The standard chi-square index is 1.99 based on the output results of the software, which is a good value. Other indicators of the model are shown in Table No. 5 and indicate that the validation of the model of the characteristics of pedophiles, underlying factors and ways to prevent the violence of these people is approved.
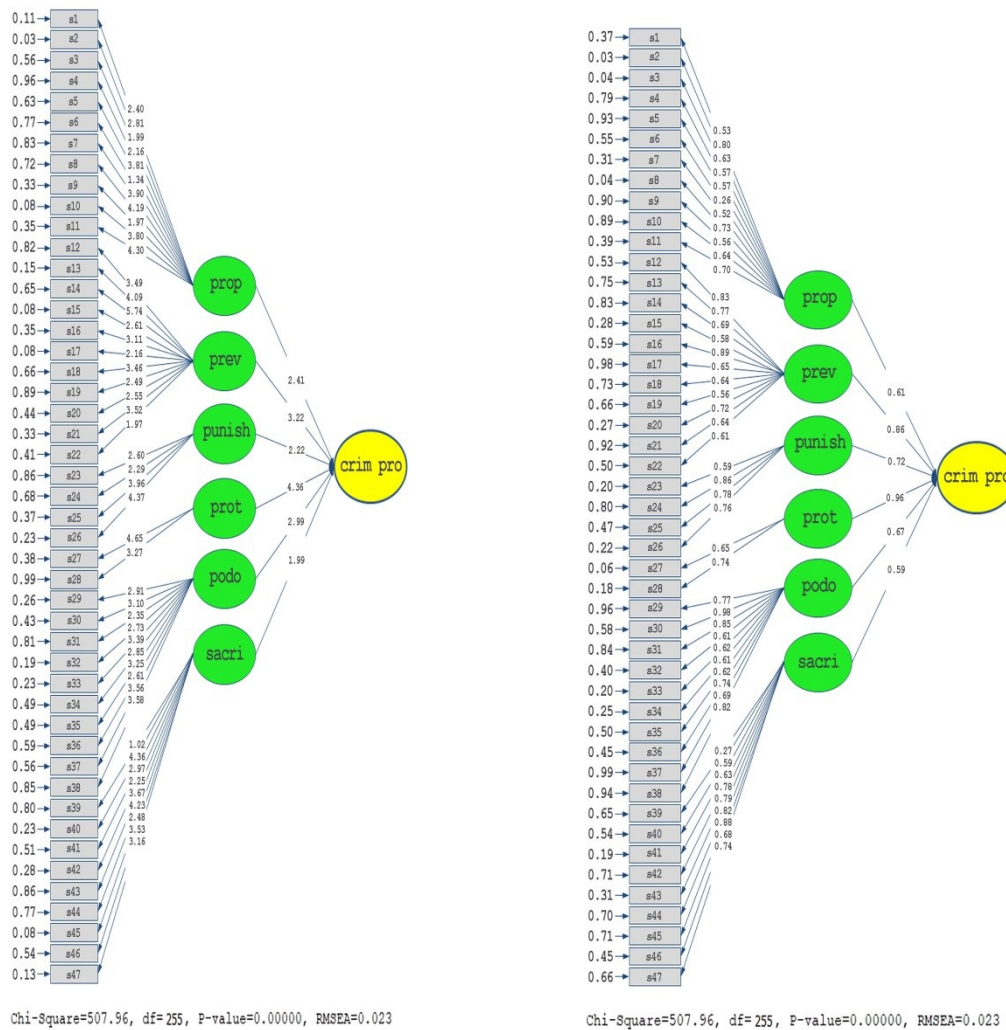
Table 5: Fit indices of the general model of the characteristics of pedophiles, underlying factors and ways to prevent the violence of pedophiles

RFI	NNFI	PMR	RMSEA	NFI	AGFI	CFI	GFI	X^2/df
0.91	0.90	0.012	0.023	0.95	0.92	0.90	0.90	1.99

5 Discussion

Undoubtedly, childhood is one of the most important and effective periods of life in which a person's personality is founded, and this undeniable fact has been proven that from the very beginning of birth, children not only need attention and physical care, but this attention must be in all dimensions. Their existence includes social, emotional, personal and spiritual growth. This is despite the fact that most of the disorders and tensions that appear in the behavior and actions of people in teenagers and adults are caused by problems that arose during the important and sensitive period of childhood. Today, the increasing number of sexual violence has made it more important to pay attention to this issue. Because, in general, there is no specific law regarding child sexual abuse in Iran's criminal laws, and unfortunately, there is no specific criminalization in this case. While in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Iran has also joined, as well as in other related international conventions, the necessity of special criminalization regarding child abuse has been emphasized a lot. Based on this, this study has examined the common characteristics of pedophiles, underlying factors and prevention strategies, as well as the necessary support after the occurrence of sexual violence against children by pedophiles.

The results obtained from fitting the structural model show that except for the item related to the problem of making friends in the common characteristics of pedophiles and the impact of the child's personality on victimization, the significance of the other items under investigation has been confirmed. Based on the fitting of the model, the obtained results are as follows: According to the results, personality disorder, depression, history of suicide attempt,

Chi-Square=507.96, df=255, P-value=0.00000, RMSEA=0.023   Chi-Square=507.96, df=255, P-value=0.00000, RMSEA=0.023

alcohol and drug use, academic weakness, history of running away from home or school, mistrust of others, feelings of inferiority and failure, theft and delinquent behaviors. And cardiovascular diseases are common features in pedophiles. These results are in line with the results of the studies of Habibi and Gohari Moghadam [9], Liard et al. [12] and Shahidi et al. [24].

Economic factors such as poverty and unemployment, social factors such as neglect in the family, depression, divorce, sexual abuse during childhood and employment of mothers and cultural factors such as perverted religious beliefs, racism, lack of parenting skills, lack of educational and training skills, the amount Education, family addiction and genetics are among the factors that make people become pedophiles. A topic that has also been discussed in the study of Habibi and Gohari Moghadam. Strategies to prevent the occurrence of sexual violence against children in pedophiles include science and awareness factors, control measures, educational factors and criminal punishment. A result that was also mentioned in the study of Ansari [3], Bagheri [4]. How to deal with the victim, counseling and empathy are among the necessary supports after the occurrence of sexual violence against children by pedophiles. This topic is in line with the results of the study by Liard et al. [12].

In the direction of the proposed punishment for criminal protection of children against the sexual violence of pedophiles, criminal punishments, provision of judicial institutions and independent and differential proceedings, provision of special police to prevent such crimes, strengthening of punishment for violence against children to prevent

committing Crime is one of the things that should be considered. This topic has also been discussed in the study of Mahdavi Sabet and Abdulahi [14] and Durrant et al. [6]. In the field of enforcement and criminal solutions regarding the protection of children against sexual violence by pedophiles, the suggested factors are as follows according to the studies of Mahdavi Sabet and Abdulahi [14].

- Educating children

- Holding conferences and public gatherings to increase parents' awareness

- media

- Control measures (medical tests and drug use) in pedophiles

- Protection of children by parents

- Control how to use mobile, internet and social networks

- Teaching children to say no, parents' intervention if they see unpleasant behavior with the other party

- Defining family boundaries

- Parents getting help from experts when it happens

- Preventive measures to familiarize with social rules (education, training, encouragement and punishment)

- Teaching privacy in touching the body to children.

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