Title:

PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERTISING OF CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGES OF INVESTIGATIONS: FROM INFLUENCING FACTORS TO PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTIMIZATION SEQUENTIAL ANALYSIS

Abstract:

The practice of psychological examination - in the context of a criminal procedure - of the child or teenager who claims to have been a victim of sexual violence, is at the start of the present study. It raises the question of the standpoint – procedural, clinical and methodological – of the expert psychologist, as well as that of credibility. Leaving aside possible factors of influence and what the allegations might not be or be insufficiently in relation to a typical traumatic talk, we have focused our attention on what they might be or might reveal and illustrate about the psychological functioning of the author of the claims. Starting from a survey of the available literature, we have envisaged a clinical view of the allegation, based on a multidimensional model which encompasses all at once the cognitive-developmental, psycho-genetic, underlying, interrelational, circumstantial, procedural, syndromic, semiological and intrapsychic dimensions. Such model, which places the allegation process (referring or not to a traumatic experience undergone in reality) at the heart of a multidimensional and multifactorial analysis, considers the said analysis on a dynamic register, including the acquisitions validated in each of the fields referred to by the abovementioned dimensions. Starting from real psychological examinations and using a hypothetic-deductive approach, we have developed a tool which we call a sequential psycho-victimological analysis table, aiming at allowing the matching of elements belonging to distinct dimensions, to highlight and test hypotheses.

Key words: psychological expert analysis - trauma – child and teenager – credibility – sequential analysis