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Evaluating Secondary Trauma: Social Adjustment, Father-Offspring Relationships, and Religiosity of Students in Tehran

MOHAMMAD KHODAYARIFARD

*Faculty of Psychology and Education, University of Tebran, Tebran,
Islamic Republic of Iran*

JAMES McCLENON

Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA

A survey measuring religiosity, father-child relationships, and social adaptation/adjustment was administered to a stratified random sample of Iran-Iraq War veteran offspring (N = 240) and Iranian civilian offspring (N = 240) in Tebran. This study sought to evaluate secondary trauma, as measured by social adjustment, in veterans' offspring and determine the degree that father-child relationship and religiosity contribute to social adjustment. The study found significant positive relationships between quality of father-offspring relationship, religiosity, and social adaptation. A hypothesis predicting lower social adaptation among veterans' offspring was not supported. The authors argue that cultural conditions in Iran reduce secondary trauma.

Wars are thought to have intergenerational effects derived from secondary trauma. Secondary trauma refers to the reduction in mental health experienced by family members living with an individual suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Analysis of survey data from Iranian students allows tests of hypotheses regarding secondary trauma. After Iraq attacked Iran in 1980, Iranian volunteers were sent into combat and suffered

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Address correspondence to James McClenon, Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center, 1100 First Colonial Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23454, USA. E-mail: beinghere@hotmail.com