ABSTRACT
The study was made on impact of armed conflict on children as perceived by their mothers. Mothers from an important part in the overall development of children and their perceptions about the effects of disturbed atmosphere on a child’s psychology will be important in formulating policies and programmes that will be required to minimize the effects of these disturbances. The present study has been undertaken to study the psychological problems faced by children from ‘intact’ and ‘disrupted’ families of Kashmir as perceived by their mothers and to study the role played by their mothers during the time of crisis. The sample comprised of 100 mothers from intact families (50 mothers of girls and 50 mothers of boys) and 100 mothers from disrupted families (50 mothers of girls and 50 mothers of boys). The tool used for the study was interview schedule. Both open and close ended questions were framed for eliciting the responses. The findings revealed that mothers from both families reported that their children were scared of men in uniform. Mothers also reported that their children have become the victims of violence directly or indirectly. The girls from intact families were the least exposed to violence and this difference was statistically significant. The major response to experiences of violence was crying in case of girls and seclusion in case of boys. The mothers believed that the armed conflict has had an effect on the psychological health of their children and had developed a sense of insecurity among the children from disrupted families. On hearing incident related to armed conflict, mothers either used to find out the locality and intensity of incident or physically went out to locate their children. Imparting education is the best thing perceived by mothers that they can do for the betterment of their children.

KEY WORDS: Psychological problems, Conflict zone, Armed conflict


Article chronicle: Received: 31.05.2011; Revised: 05.10.2011; Accepted: 10.11.2011