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Delusional Disorder

B.A. Part – 1

Psychology (Hons.)

Paper – 2

Psychopathology

Delusional Disorder

- Delusional disorder is a psychiatric disorder in which the predominant symptoms are delusions.
- It is formerly called paranoia or paranoid disorder.

History

- The term Paranoia was derived from Greek words meaning ' beside' and ' mind'.
- In modern usage, paranoia is taken to mean extreme suspiciousness, usually not based on realistic assessment of the situation.

Symptoms

- The patient expresses an idea or belief with unusual persistence or force, even when evidence suggests the contradictory.
- That idea appears to have an undue influence on the patient's life, and the way of life is often altered to an inexplicable extent.

Symptoms Cont..

- The individual tends to be humorless and oversensitive, especially about the belief.
- There is a quality of *centrality*: no matter how unlikely it is that these strange things are happening to them, the patient accepts them relatively unquestioningly.
- An attempt to contradict the belief is likely to arouse an inappropriately strong emotional reaction, often with irritability and hostility. They will not accept any other opinions

Symptoms Cont..

- The patient is emotionally over-invested in the idea and it overwhelms other elements of their psyche.
- The delusion, if acted out, often leads to behaviors which are abnormal and/or out of character, although perhaps understandable in light of the delusional beliefs.
- Individuals who know the patient observe that the belief and behavior are uncharacteristic and alien.

Causes

- The causes of delusional disorder is unknown but It appears a variety of genetic, biological, psychological, and environmental factors are at play.
- Psychotic disorder seem to run in families, so researchers suspect there is a genetic component to delusions. Children born to a parent with schizophrenia, for example, may be at a higher risk of developing delusions

Causes Cont..

- An imbalance of neurotransmitters (chemical messengers in the brain) may increase the likelihood that an individual will develop delusions.
- Individuals who tend to be isolated appear more vulnerable to developing the delusional disorder as well.

TYPES

- **EROTOMANIC:** The person believes someone is in love with them and might try to contact that person. Often it's someone important or famous.
- **GRANDIOSE:** This person has an over-inflated sense of worth, power, knowledge, or identity.
- **JEALOUS:** A person with this type believes their spouse or sexual partner is unfaithful

TYPES CONT...

- **PERSECUTORY:** Someone believes they are being mistreated, or that someone is spying on them or planning to harm them. They might make repeated complaints to legal authorities.
- **SOMATIC:** They believe they have a physical defect or medical problem.
- **Mixed:** These people have two or more of the types of delusions listed above .



THANK YOU