
ABSTRACT

Psychological process experienced when a person associates with a self-injurer: An exploratory study on significant others

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The author discussed the experience process in the relationship with the self-injurer. The subjects were 13 people who kept company with the self-injurer; a significant other (friend/boyfriend/girlfriend) of the self-injurer's and was contemporary. Subjects were interviewed about their experience of the relationship with the self-injurer. Modified grounded theory approach was used to analyse the data. Seven categories, 17 concepts and the experience process were produced. The self-injure and the relationship with the self-injurer affected the subjects, impacting their inner process. The subject's reactions affect the self-injurer and their relationship with the self-injurer. If the subject reacts negatively to the self-injurer or the relationship with the self-injurer, the self-injurer will repeat the self-injure. The experience process shows that the relationship with others affects the self-injure. Therefore, we must consider the self-injure and the self-injurer in terms of the relationship. Doing so will support people worried about the self-injurer.

Key Words: self-injure, relationship with a significant other, experience process
