

**Stefano Salvatori - Alessia Salvatori**

## **L' abuso sessuale al minore e il danno psichico**

**Giuffr , Milano, 2001, 194 pp.**

As we read in Gulotta introduction, this review of specialized literature will allow social workers, both in judiciary field and clinical one, to put forward their datum on the basis of empirical research in an international context.

The studies reported analyse the correlation (not the direct causality) between a certain psychological or psychosomatic disease and sexual abuse received.

In chapter 1 there is a historical presentation of studies about sexual abuse. In particular there is evidence of the fact that this problem reaches more children than adults. The authors retain possible the connection between sexual abuse in childhood and mental disease in the adult age, even if we can't say that the abuse always causes a psychological damage. In penal field the problem is more complicated because is difficult to prove that the victims damage is completely caused by the abuse.

Going ahead took place the presentation of the most frequent psychopathologies correlated with the abuse:

- a) anxiety disorders;
- b) depressive disorders;
- c) personality disorders;
- d) dissociative disorders;
- e) eating disorders;
- f) sexual disorders;
- g) somatoform disorders;
- h) non epileptic attack.

The book ends with a chapter treating the "abuse circle", in other words the passage from abused child into adult abuser. Risk factors linked with it are: to be male, be abused repeatedly with strength by a relative or by more people and to be very young (under 8 years old at the time of the fact).

Authors don't include theories about this subject, but simply show researches, so the lector can compare his results with those. The book is useful for both passionate and specialized on this subject people. The firsts can improve his knowledge about it, the seconds can use it has a working instrument.