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The relationship between self-reference and social phobic, depression, and school absenteeism tendencies

Hitoshi Kaneko¹⁾, Shuji Honjo¹⁾ and Sakiko Takamura²⁾

- 1) Nagoya University Center for Developmental Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry
- 2) Arimatsu Clinic

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The present study examined paranoid ideation, most of which is self-referring, in a non-clinical adolescent population. Four hundred and eighty-seven (487; 267 male, 225 female, and 5 unknown) high school students completed a questionnaire that included scales measuring self-reference, fear and avoidance of social relationship, depression (Children's Depression Inventory; CDI), avoidance and absenteeism from school, and personality characteristics apparently associated with school avoidance and absenteeism. Eighty-one percent of the students endorsed at least one item of the self-reference scale as somewhat applicable or applicable to them. Self-reference tendency had a positive correlation with social phobic tendency and CDI score, and its correlations with school avoidance and related personality traits were positive but weak. The distinction and similarity between self-reference and social phobic tendency were discussed.

Keywords: paranoid ideation, self-reference, depression, social phobic tendency, adolescents

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