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Caring for an individual with autism disorder: A qualitative analysis

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Abstract

Background Caregivers in this qualitative study reported the multidimensional implications of having a child with autism on their family's lives and overall functioning.

Method The Effects of the Situation Questionnaire (Yatchmenoff, Koren, Friesen, Gordon, & Kinney, 1998) was used to gather qualitative data from 80 caregivers. Colaizzi's (1978) phenomenological data analysis method was used to analyse the caregivers' written narratives. Biopsychosocial-spiritual, systemic, and ecological theoretical lenses were used to conceptualise the recorded experiences.

Results Seven thematic content areas emerged from the caregivers' data. They include: psychological implications, familial implications, social implications, services, spiritual

benefits, economic challenges, and focus on the future of having a child diagnosed with autism.

Conclusions The results of this study offer valuable insight into how helping professionals may attend to the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of those caring for an individual with autism.

Keywords:

autism caregiving biopsychosocial-spiritual ecological systemic

Notes

*This manuscript was accepted under the Editorship of Roger J. Stancliffe.

Related Research Data

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Source: Journal of Loss and Trauma
Assessing Child Symptom Severity and Stress in Parents of Autistic Children
Source: Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry
Perceived competence and behavioral adjustment of siblings of children with autism
Source: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
The Ecology of Human Development
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Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
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