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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

[Posttraumatic Growth in Mothers of Children with Acquired Disabilities](#)

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](#)

Source: Unknown Repository

[Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders](#)

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[Parent Perspectives on Role Engagement](#)

Source: Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

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