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Home ► All Journals ► Health and Social Care ► Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability ► List of Issues ► Volume 34, Issue 1 ► Caring for an individual with autism dis

Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability >

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Caring for an individual with autism disorder: A qualitative analysis



Abstract

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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

Source: Unknown Repository

Parent Perspectives on Role Engagement

Source: Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

Enrichment and Stress in Families Caring for a Child with a Serious Emotional Disorder

Source: Journal of Child and Family Studies

Evidence of resilience in families of children with autism

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