

The impact of parenting on mentally retarded children

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The objective of this work was to assess the impact and burden of parenting a mentality retarded child and to explore feelings and relationships affecting the efforts of the family to cope with their child's retardation.

Forty-five families who had a mentally retarded child were selected for the study, the average age of the children was 6-12 years (attending the Outpatient Clinic of Psychiatric Department of Zagazig University Hospital).

A semistructured interview schedule based on items given by PAI and KAPUR was used to assess the burden on the families of a mentally retarded children.

As regards the financial burden, the results showed 46.3% of families with severe burden and 31.9% with moderate burden.

As regard to the effect on family routine, the results showed 57% with severe burden and 43% with moderate burden.

As regard to the effect on family interaction, 55.1% with severe burden and 36.9% with moderate burden.

As regard to the effect on physical health of family members, 24.5% with moderate burden.

As regard to effect on mental health of other family members, 61.1% with severe burden and 26.6% with moderate burden.