

OVERVIEW OF THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN IN BASRAH CITY

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ABSTRACT

Raising children with disability may yield a strong need for support among parents, to support these parents, information is required regarding the types of support they need and whether their needs are met; but evidence for some of these needs are unmet. The aim of this study was to investigate definite needs for parents (50 mothers and 50 fathers) with disabled children according to *Family Needs Survey (FNS) questionnaire* at a governmental center for rehabilitation for disabled children in Basrah city. *Family Needs Survey (FNS) questionnaire* which included six subscales of needs such as need for information, social support, community services, explaining to others, financial support and family functioning. The most frequently cited need among parents is the need for information about the services that are presently available as their greatest need and the services that the child might receive in the future. Mothers reported the need for information about the services that are presently available (94%) while fathers expressed (80%) and the least was the need for paying for babysitting and deciding who do house hold (2%) by both parents. Out of six subscales of FNS, the need for information had the highest rating which was (94%) followed by need for social support (80%), need for community services (70%), need for financial support (48%), need for explaining to others (46%) and need for family functioning (34%) was expressed by mothers. The identified needs varied for both parents within the subscales.

KEYWORDS: Support These Parents Information, *Family Needs Survey (FNS)*