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FAMILY SATISFACTION PROFILES OF MEXICAN PARENT WITH A CHILD WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

PERFILES DE SATISFACCIÓN PERSONAL DE LOS PADRES DE MÉXICO CON UN NIÑO CON DISCAPACIDAD INTELCTUAL

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Abstract

The family satisfaction of couples with a child with an intellectual disability is related to multiple mediating variables such as parental support, social cohesion, adaptability, and family coherence. The aim of the study was to identify the differences and characteristics between fathers and mothers regarding perceived family satisfaction and mediating variables by cluster analysis and discriminant. The results of the cluster analysis identified three groups of families: very satisfied, satisfied, and dissatisfied. The discriminant analysis in relation to sex found that parental support is the most important variable. The diversity of families and the differences between the roles in rearing the child allowed to take into account parental support as the most important to allow adequate levels of family satisfaction, therefore it will be necessary to create intervention programs that include this variable.

Keywords

Parental and social support – Couple – Cohesion – Adaptability – Coherence

Resumen

La satisfacción de la familia de las parejas con un niño con una discapacidad intelectual, trae consigo múltiples variables mediadoras relacionadas con como apoyo de los padres, la cohesión social, la adaptabilidad y la coherencia familiar. El objetivo del estudio fue identificar las diferencias y características entre los padres y madres en relación con la satisfacción familiar percibida y variables mediadoras. Los resultados del análisis de conglomerados identificaron tres grupos de familias. El análisis discriminante en relación al sexo, nos encontramos que el apoyo de los padres es la variable más importante. La diversidad de las familias y las diferencias entre los roles en la crianza del niño, permitió tener en cuenta el apoyo de los padres como el más importante para permitir niveles adecuados de satisfacción de la familia, por lo que será necesaria la creación de programas de intervención que incluyen esta variable.

Palabras Claves

Padres y apoyo Social – Pareja – Cohesión – Adaptabilidad – Coherencia

Introduction

The research study aims to families of children with large and heterogeneous intellectual disabilities, there is, nevertheless, an idea that enjoys broad consensus: raising a child with a disability is an event that can generate high levels of parental stress[1], resulting from the performance of parental duties that often take place in circumstances in which the level of demand is high and limited personal resources[2].

Parents whose child has intellectual disabilities (ID) experience some degree of stress related to parenting[3], regardless if they produce children with a positive or negative aspect of life as parents still face a number of additional challenges relating to permanent disability, it is also likely that the stress experienced by parents perceived satisfaction commitment, i.e. the extent to which family members are happy and satisfied with each other[4].

From the literature it appears that both, fathers and mothers, have varied responses regarding a child with an ID; currently analyzing these differences in both parents has led to a growing interest in the area, most prior research has focused mainly on the mother, neglecting a father's participation[5], but even taking into consideration that in the last 15 years there has been an "explosion in research on fathers"[6] these are still relatively ignored.

The differential responses of the parents have been associated with a variety of variables; family cohesion stands as a mediator between the relationship of stress and family satisfaction. Lightsey and Sweeny[7] found that among mothers of children with disabilities, mothers with lower stress have greater cohesion and family satisfaction, the role of parental support is widely recognized and in families of children with an ID is one of the variables defining significant differences between parents[8], several studies report that the support of

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the husband is the most important variable[9], when lower levels of parental stress is found, symptoms of depression, including on the weight of socioeconomic variables, child characteristics, and social support the relationship between father and mother of children with disabilities has higher quality[10].

From the literature reviewed, it is clear that raising a child with an ID itself is not a parental or family stressor, but certainly can have different effects[11] in family satisfaction which will be related to the involvement of other factors that may dampen or experienced stress[12], hence the need to explain the differences between fathers and mothers of children with an ID in relationship with perceived family satisfaction.

Is important to not overlook that almost all of the research in the area of disability and family are made from different social & economic contexts to the social reality of Mexican culture, therefore the need and importance of generating more research from the specific of life conditions for families with a child with an ID in Mexico. It may be that these families are exposed to other circumstances and therefore acquiring different needs to those reported most frequently in the literature, because of this the purpose of the present study is to use multivariate analysis, to describe the differences and characteristics between fathers and mothers regarding perceived family satisfaction that can reveal the needs of these families and that could lead to the design of parental care programs in the Mexican educational context.

Method

Participants

The population was 134 families (N: 268) of whom were biological parents of children with intellectual disabilities, elementary level students from the 20 Multi-Service Center (MSC) from the state of Tlaxcala, Mexico. They managed to rise to 97.4% of the total population that met these features in the state.

Multiple Care Centers are public educational services, which are found throughout the country, and their objective is to school students in preschool and/or elementary school who have a disability. Of the 20 MSC study, five have the lowest level of marginalization, nine present the lowest levels, four have average levels of marginalization, and only one center is at the high level of marginalization.

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[9] P. Raina; M. O'Donnell; P. Rosenbaum; J. Brehaut; S. Walter; D. Russell; M. Swinton; B. Zhu and E. Wood, The health and well-being of caregivers of children with cerebral palsy. *Pediatrics*, 115, (6), (2005), 626-636.
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As demographic variables corresponds to 42.5% of the study population are housewives, 18.3% employed, 15% workers, 11.2% rural and 11.9% self-employed, 29.5% of the total population does not have its own income, 32.8% receive approximately 1,000 to 3,000 pesos monthly (82-247 USD), 20.1% earn less than 1,000 pesos a month (82 USD) and only 17.5% earn more than 3,000 pesos a month (247 USD). Regarding educational level, 40.3% had no education or have only elementary school, 42.9% of the population reached junior level and 16.8% attended high school or undergraduate studies.

Instruments

A battery was used as a test, which included a front sheet of demographic and five instruments, described below:

Family Adaptability and Cohesion Evaluation Scale (FACES III), Gomez & Irigoyen, 1999.

The instrument was designed to measure parents' perception that is related to the family's ability to adapt and interact in a positive way, this was based on the circumflex model[13]. It consists of 20 items on a Likert Scale response format of five points. Integra reagents as "the children express their view about their discipline" or "we enjoy spending free time with family." Olson, Portner, and Lavee[14] had an average reliability of .80 in white population. For our country it was validated with population of Mexico City[15] with a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of .70.

Family Sense of Coherence (SOC), Sagy, 1998.

This instrument is based on the circumflex model of Antonovsky about the subject's perception of the worldview as structured, manageable, and meaningful[16]. Previous studies have found Cronbach's alpha coefficients of .88[17] and .77[18]. The Likert scale used is a seven point response where one is never and seven forever reagents features as "To what extent do you think that family rules are clear to you?" The test score with high scores demonstrates a strong sense of family coherence.

Social Support Index (SSI), McCubbin, Patterson & Glynn, 1982.

The instrument measures the perceived role of community and members support towards the social environment as a mediating factor in stressful situations. It consists of 17 items in a Likert Scale response format of five points where one is strongly disagree and five is completely agree. Some reagents are "if I have an emergency, people in my community

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[18] S. Sagy and N. Dotan, Coping resources of maltreated children in the family: a salutogenic approach. Child Abuse & Neglect, 25, (2001), 1463-1480.

would be willing to help me" or "I'm sure I'm as important to my friends as they are to me." The internal reliability (Cronbach's alpha) of the scale is .82.

Family Satisfaction Scale (FSS), Olson, Stewart & Wilson 1990.

The scale developed from the circumflex model of Antononovsky assesses the degree of satisfaction experienced in aspects of cohesion and family adaptability. It was made from a sample of 2,465 American family members, the scale has a Cronbach's alpha of .92, it consists of 10 items within which is "unity and support among members" or "ability to talk good things," the answer is option Likert scale of five points where one is very dissatisfied and five is very satisfied. The rating scale is to add the answers, the result should be between 10 and 50 points, the lower-range reflects family dissatisfaction while the upper-range satisfaction.

Parental Alliance Inventory (PAI), Abidin & Brunner, 1995.

The inventory was created to measure the perception of the parents related to the capacity that the family has to adapt and to relate in a positive manner, it is based on the circumflex model. The inventory consists of 20 items that are answered on a Likert scale of five points, where the minimum "1" corresponds to the highest ever and "5" to always. Reagents are presented as "my husband and I can have good communication when it comes to our son" or "my husband and I make a good team as parents." The instrument has an internal reliability of .85[19].

Procedure

The application was oral using five previously trained interviewers in the objectives of the study and standardization of the instructions. To understand scales, lamellae were used as support material and the application site was in free sounds within the school centers.

For statistical analysis we used the SPSS program version 21, we applied the discriminant model, which requires a ratio of at least 20 cases per independent variable introduced in the analysis, the research involved 268 subjects for five analyzes to be proposed in the study; therefore the criterion is met.

Discriminant variables (independent variables) that were selected for this study were taken from Vera, Barrientos & Hurtado[20] by presenting high value of predictability for family satisfaction in this population, using the linear regression model, the authors found that before the Family Satisfaction (FSS) the independent variables are parental support (PAI), adaptability and family cohesion (FACES III), sense of family coherence (F-SOC) and social support index (SSI) by the formula FSS = 0.201 (PAI (247) + FACES III (141) + FSOC (168) + SSI (166)).

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Results

In a foreground we performed a cluster analysis in non-hierarchical, using the K-Means procedure, we took into account the variables that were significant in the regression model: Parental Support, Adaptability - Family cohesion, sense of coherence and Social Support, these variables explain 47% of the variability of Family Satisfaction in parents with a child with intellectual disabilities in the State of Tlaxcala[21].

Likert scales differ in their options, ranging from four to seven-point response, therefore dimensions are converted to standard scores to homogenize the values with z values, as shown in Table 1.

Analysis was run for two, three, and four clusters, presenting the most representative model of three clusters, it was only five iterations with perfect convergence (.000) for the three clusters. Fifteen outliers were eliminated; greater than 2.50 standard deviations from the mean of the corresponding centroid therefore the sum of all cases within the conglomerates was 253.

The values of analysis of variance show that the measure of Family Satisfaction (FSS) is the resulting higher value (F: 178.25, p= .000) and later parental support (F: 103.94, p = .000). The number of cases per cluster was 114 parents to the cluster one, "Satisfaction" (subjects with intermediate values with negative direction) of 120 parents for cluster two "Very Satisfied" (subjects with direction positive) and 19 for cluster three "Dissatisfied" (subjects with more negative toward one standard deviation) (see Table 1). We present the difference of values F to indicate that the variable with the greatest contribution to the clusters is life satisfaction and perceived support for the couple

	Conglomerate				
	Dissatisfied (3)	Satisfied (1)	Very Satisfied (2)	F	Sig.
Z Score: Family Satisfaction Scale	-1.91	-.375	.691	178.75	.000
Z Score: Social Support Index	-1.89	-.160	.535	103.94	.000
Z Score: Adaptability and Family Cohesion	-1.39	-.219	.453	58.84	.000
Z Score: Social Support	-2.19	-.061	.495	164.64	.000
Z Score: Sense of Coherence	-1.31	-.504	.649	113.32	.000

Table 1
Final Cluster Analysis for parents who have a child with intellectual disabilities in the State of Tlaxcala

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[21] P. Barrientos; J. Vera and M. Hurtado, "Estrés de la crianza y satisfacción familiar en familias indígenas pobres con niños con discapacidad cognitiva", en M. Guillen; B. Valenzuela and D. Gutiérrez (Eds.), Procesos de exclusión e inclusión social. Indicadores, conceptos, contextos y significados. Universidad de Sonora, 147- 167. (2012).

To understand the characteristics of each group, Table 2 shows the absolute values of each unit of measure, subjects "Satisfied" are 114 parents and have intermediate degrees of satisfaction (cluster 1), are grouped in a profile that have intermediate values in other ranges, in turn those subjects "Dissatisfied" present lower family satisfaction (cluster 3) with a mean of 2.06, and therefore have low values in other units of measure; however this bonding comprises of only 19 subjects, unlike the above subjects have greater family satisfaction "Very satisfied" (cluster 2), make up the group with the highest number of parents (120 cases) and have higher average (3.38) minimum and maximum values above the two comparison groups.

Scales	Conglomerates	N	Mean	DS	f	Sig.
Family Satisfaction Scale	Satisfied	114	2.84	.361	178.75	.000
	Very Satisfied	120	3.38	.273		
	Dissatisfied	19	2.06	.329		
	Total	253	3.04	.496		
Parental Support	Satisfied	114	3.89	.436	164.64	.000
	Very Satisfied	120	4.25	.321		
	Dissatisfied	19	2.51	.500		
	Total	253	3.96	.594		
Sense of Family Coherence	Satisfied	114	4.10	.603	113.32	.000
	Very Satisfied	120	5.07	.542		
	Dissatisfied	19	3.42	.803		
	Total	253	4.51	.815		
Social Support Index	Satisfied	114	3.43	.389	103.94	.000
	Very Satisfied	120	3.80	.371		
	Dissatisfied	19	2.50	.387		
	Total	253	3.53	.513		
Adaptability and Family Cohesion	Satisfied	114	3.30	.356	58.84	.000
	Very Satisfied	120	3.63	.365		
	Dissatisfied	19	2.70	.562		
	Total	253	3.41	.457		

"N" means number of cases per group,*** p:.000

Table 2
Differences between groups in regard to absolute values

Discriminant Analysis

We performed stepwise discriminant analysis to obtain variables that best explain fathers compared with mothers who have a child with intellectual disabilities (variable "Sex"). The purpose was to find an exact relationship between the independent variables that best differentiate or discriminate groups.

M statistical data box reject the null hypothesis of equal covariance matrices (M box: 23.22, F: 3.82, p = .001), the range of the logarithm of the determinant agrees three values in discrimination, determining values indicate that the groups covariance are different (men and women -4.25 -3.07, interpolated - .3.56). Norusis[22] indicates that if the sample size is increased above recommended, and even when the two groups are similar in number, the probability of significance is high because the test is very sensitive to the number of samples.

Table 3 shows the discrimination process steps in order to select the input and output variables according to the criteria of F of Snedecor, statistical for comparing how it is distributed between-groups dispersion when there is more than one function. Three of the five selected variables met the criteria: Three of the five variables selected met the criteria: Parental Support, Adaptability - family cohesion and sense of coherence Family; the criteria removed was family satisfaction and index of social support for non-compliance with the stipulated minimum of f: 2.27 not the significant differences in these variables by sex.

Step	Variable Prediction	Variables in the Discriminator Function	Wilk's Lamba	Equivalent F
1	Parental Support	1	.892	30.652***
2	Family Adaptability and Cohesion	2	.873	18.331***
3	Family Sense of Coherence	3	.868	13.760***

*** p = .000

Table 3
*Predictor variables in stepwise discriminate analysis in parents
with a child with intellectual disabilities.*

For the three resulting discriminant variables, the tolerance value ranged from 757-847, indicating that no variable is explained by another variable, also the Wilk's Lambda value for this function was .861 with a significance of 000 showing that there is variability and differences between the two groups.

The Eigen value obtained was .16 resulted very close to zero with a weak canonical correlation of .37, so we must assume that the discriminant variables used does not allow a striking difference; however in relation to the predictions of the discriminant function is achieved properly classified 68.1% of original grouped cases, favoring the discriminant validity of the predictor variables. Table 4 shows that Parental Support is the unit that discriminates most parents (85), followed by Family Sense of Coherence (.64) and finally with less weight is Family Adaptability and Cohesion

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[22] M. Norusis, SPSS 17.0 Guide to Data Analysis (Ed.), Pearson, Higher education, 2010.

Variable Prediction	Standardized Coefficients of he Discriminator Function	Correlation in the Discriminator Functions
	Function 1	Function 1
Parental Support	.84	.85
Family Sense of Coherence	.49	.67
Family Adaptability and Cohesion	-.38	.14

Table 4
Correlation of predictor variables with discriminated functions standardized coefficients of the discriminator function

Finally, the location of the centroids in the discriminant function indicates a gross basis that men are those found in a positive direction (.41) with high scores and women in a negative (- .39). Table 5 shows the values obtained for each measure for mothers and fathers, as seen in the three variables are men who present the most positive scores

Sex		N	mean	DS	T
Parental Support	Male	125	4.15	.443	5.53***
	Female	129	3.76	.663	
Sense of Coherence	Male	125	4.72	.763	4.19***
	Female	129	4.31	.816	
Adaptability and Family Cohesion	Male	125	3.44	.405	0.887
	Female	129	3.39	.501	

SD"means standard deviation" t "means T tests; "***" p ≥.000.

Table 5
Comparison of means between sex and each of the units of measure discriminants

Discussion

We investigated the differences and similarities between Mexican fathers and mothers of children with intellectual disabilities. According to the first goal setting the group resulted in three that profiles allows their description according to the levels of family satisfaction as sharing characteristics variables concerning parental support, family cohesion, and adaptability, sense of coherence and social support[23].

The resulting findings indicate that one cannot speak generally of a single parents' group as they are not a homogeneous group, i.e. the results obtained suggest that the Mexican population is characterized by the existence of three profiles, the two largest satisfactions are the highest values in the other measures and a membership of 88% of parents, only 7% is in the profile dissatisfied with the lowest values in the rest of the

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[23] P. Barrientos; J. Vera and M. Hurtado, "Estrés de la crianza y satisfacción…

measures, this demonstrates that a significant proportion of studied parents with an ID child has greater satisfaction shaped as it increases the perception of participation of other variables, among which higher value parental support and differ so groups and limits the weight given to tensions and difficulties arising from child rearing as the only variable incident on meeting the parents of children with an ID.

These findings are confirmed by the discriminant analysis, which basically shows that the most significant discriminating variable between parents is parental support, followed by the sense of coherence, cohesion, and family adaptability, the above is consistent with the literature of the area[24] that highlights the importance of factors such as perceived support, either internally to support the family, parental role or external social support. For example, Tsai and Wang[25] state that families of children with intellectual disabilities receive the most informal support of the social area, particularly close family and friends, and this is of fundamental importance as an intermediary between parental stress and a disability of a son and/or daughter[26]. However, one must remember that for this study the variable social support and family satisfaction does not discriminate by sex, being excluded for not presenting significant differences, which indicates an important data for future studies where one wants to measure the characteristics of Mexican couples.

Cohesion and adaptability of the mother or father is associated with a poor family functioning with higher rates of stress and depression in families of children with disabilities[27], regarding the sense of coherence indicates its moderating effect against critical stress for adaptation to critical events[28]. According to the results of this research the effect of family coherence suggests differences in the extent that fathers have a vision of their lives more understandable, manageable, and meaningful than women.

It is clear from these results that as fathers and mothers can share circumstances and experiences related to raising a child with an ID, there are also several factors that may differentiate evidently in the responses of the parents, a necessary condition is that fathers of children with IDs are those who obtained positive scores, this feature can be probably explained on the basis of gender differences in perception it provides support and reported in the literature and is consistent with previous studies made in Mexico, which is in Mexican mothers perceived parental support is strongly related to stress[29].

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[24] N. Oelofsen and P. Richardson. Sense of coherence and parenting stress in mothers and fathers of preschool children with developmental disability. Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability, 31 (1), (2006), 1-12 and T. Salovîta; M. Italînna and E. Leinonen. Explaining the parental stress of fathers and mothers caring for a child with intellectual disability: a Double ABCX Model. Journal of Intellectual Disability Research, 47, (4/5), (2003), 300-312.

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It is possible to infer that the exercise of traditional roles has great importance, following the results of Park, Glidden, and Shin[30], which indicate that fathers are concerned predominantly of the physical, not emotional, and mothers of the emotional, instrumental, and in some cases materials, plus that the experience increased social isolation when dealing with parenting and housework, are probably some of these variables to explain the differences regarding parental support in Tlaxcala's population. However these differences are presented it seems as though to live with a partner is a condition in mothers of children with intellectual disabilities, is associated with lower vulnerability to various disorders[31].

First, we must consider that in Mexico, a developing country, there are the necessary conditions to cover the different requirements of parents with free services and financial aid is not compensatory in poverty to reduce the impact that family socioeconomic with an ID child may mean that the study population has, probably this is relevant to the internal perception of support in the family and have implications for the support externally, perceived to be less significant in relation to parental support. This is an aspect to consider because Shin and Nahan, 2009[32], indicate that beyond the cultural context in question, the conditions of social and economic disadvantage can promote greater propensity to high levels of parental stress that may affect the perception family satisfaction.

Our results reflect some characteristics that group and discriminate against parents of children with an ID exists may be useful in understanding these families and enable the generation of parental care programs that specifically meet the needs according to Mexican socio-cultural context. Clearly the need to implement specific programs of parenting for both parents and given the results obtained in this research particularly for mothers. A success is the inclusion of fathers, traditionally neglected in research, it is also important not to leave out the limitation of this study, because we worked with marriages it would be relevant to question what happens in single-parent families in which the Mexican context has great presence.

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