

## **The Role of Charities Working In the Field Of Disability in Providing the Needs of Families of Disabled Persons in Jordan**

**Dr. Seham R. Khuffash**  
Tafila Technical University  
Faculty of Educational Sciences  
Dept. of Educational Sciences  
P.O. Box ( 82 ), Jordan

### **Abstract**

*This study aimed to investigate the role of charities in providing the needs of the impairment children families. The study results indicated that those families needs were : information, social support, social needs and financial needs .*

**Keywords :** special education, charities, auditory impairment, visual impairment, mental impairment, physical impairment .

### **Introduction**

Families with a handicapped person located under different challenges. The impairment doesn't affect the impaired person only but it also affects all the members of the family. So; all workers in the field of special Education were interested in studying the families need in order to facilitate life for them and to provide them with their needs.

Different ways were used to help those families like: collecting information about their needs, providing them with educational and vocational training programs, counseling them, and financial and psychological support. ( Rosenberg, 1977 ), reviewed research results which concerned with families whose one child has a handicapped, he found that the factors affecting those families were: lack of information about impairments, shortage of income, inability to cope with the handicapped person, and depression and psychological disorder of the parents. He also found that the main factor affecting impairment child improvement was the parents confidence of their capability in educating and rehabilitating their children. (Wilkin, 1979 ) found that social welfare to the families of disabled persons support those families, Mothers of those persons appreciated taking the child for a walk or shopping in holidays or weekend, they felt that these things reduce restrictions felt by mothers. ( Cord, 1983 ) found that all parents of the impairment children have expressed interest and fear about their sons because of the lack of services and the clear vision of their future . ( Barry, 2000 ) concentrated upon the role of specialties that deals with persons with disabilities to provide help to their families ( Bayley, 1973 ) concluded that the services introduced to those families will not be effective unless these assistance was regular and suitable to the family culture and structure. (Beresford, Sloper, Baldwin, and Newman, 1996 ).

Found that the impairments families needs were : information about their children growth , coordination with social service, impairment future after school, coping with psychological stress and how to make use with the social support . ( Quin, 1991 and 1993 ) found that the needs of families of mentally disabled person were strategies to deal with sleep problems experienced by their children, so he developed a training program to help parents to resolve this problem. Quin pointed out that impairment add new and permanent economical and financial burdens to the family , because the impaired child need more requirements than other children, and this could affect other normal children requirements. ( Eheart and ciccon, 1982 ) reached to the same Quin's result, they found that ( 50% ) of the study sample confirmed that the financial requirements have increased dramatically after the birth of impaired child and half of mothers dropped out of work completely .

The provision of services and information is considered the most important issue from families perspectives because : the shortage of information and counseling, the limited services provided by institutions and centers , and strengthening the impairment family role in carrying out their duties towards impaired children. ( Sartawi, 2009 ). Accordingly, the international community and the human rights organizations concentrated on the rights of impaired persons and their families needs, the embodiment of that was United Nation declaration in 1974 about the rights of the impaired persons in education, training, and psychological and therapeutic rehabilitation. The impairment issue needs a high cooperation between governmental sector, voluntary sector, and NGO'S, this type of coordination creates a clear vision and great help to the impaired persons and their families and remove the stigma attached to impaired children families by the community . The voluntary work of Non- Governmental Organization NGO'S and charitable organizations provide a good atmosphere to help impaired persons and their families, and they changed the community attitudes toward impairment and impairment persons through a wariness campaigns. These organizations changed the look to the impairment from goodness and righteousness to the right- based look (Masoud and Battal, 2001 ) . Charitable organizations are considered to be of the most humanitic organization because it works with poor, marginalized and the most in need people . it deals with the in need ( Khateeb, 2002 ) .

Charitable organizations for impairment were established to cover the deficiencies in services provided to the impaired persons, because those people were ignored from their local communities and from the international community also. As a result of that impaired person were still facing major obstacles and discriminatory practices in their lives. ( Mdanat, 2009 ). The charitable organizations are working in cooperation with the official institution to provide the impairment person with all his needs in a comprehensive method, so a large proportion of citizens in Arab countries get the needed care from these NGOs through its hospitals, clinics , schools, kindergarten and training centers. The contribution of these associations in this area where a confirmation of its role in reviving the spirit of giving, sharing and providing assistance for the impairment persons. ( Kandil, 1994 ) .

The impaired person families need varies according to the nature and severity of impairment, the ability of the family to cope with impairment, local community perspectives toward impairment person and the services provided to impairment person and his family. ( Sines and Backnell, 1982 ) indicated that family needs is unique, that means each family has its own needs which changed over time , so specialists have to change their plans according to the family needs, and they have to evaluate these plans to meet the family needs. ( Eheart and Ciccon, 1982 ) concentrated upon the need for information about child growth, academic and vocational future, how to deal with him and the essential skill he needs. ( Holoryd, 1982 ) focused on three needs : Social needs : families with impairment child needs social interaction with similar families to exchange about dealing with impairment problems. Community support : families need to know about the sources of community support from the beginning of the impaired child birth . Financial needs : impairment child family need an additional financial support because the impairment child needs a special food, clothes, equipments and educational, health training programs .

### **Related Literature**

Many studies were conducted to investigate the social charitable organization role in supporting families with an impairment persons. Alkateb and Al Hassan ( 1997 ) conducted a study aimed to investigate the most important needs of the impairments children parents, the sample was consisted of ( 313 ) parents, the results indicated that ( 68% ) of the sample need information, ( 64% ) asked for support , and finance, and ( 61% ) need social services . Bakhsh ( 2002 ) assessed families stress facing mothers of mentally impaired children and its relation with family needs and social support, the result indicated that impaired child causes high stress to their mothers, he also found that the impaired person future , lack of information about impairment , his/ her needs and the social needs were the most important mothers concerns .

Dokum ( 2005 ) conducted a study in Yemen to investigate impaired person families need . this study consisted of (51) fathers, (74) mothers, (7) brothers and sisters . the results indicated that these needs were counselling, financial and social support. Obrien and Elizabeth ( 1989 ) found that auditory impairment parents were unable to cope with their sons impairment and they were worried about their future and they need good strategies to transfer their sons from school life to social and work life . Korndlatt and Heirrich ( 1985 ) investigated (24) impaired families need . the result indicated that the younger parents can't cope with their child impairments . and ( 83% ) of the families indicates that they didn't know how to make use of community services provided to the impairment persons .

### Study Problem and its Importance

The presence of an impairment child in the family exerts a huge psychological stress, because parents expect to have a normal healthy child, another source of family stress emerged from the social pressure and the social stigma to the impairment child, specially if the community is not prepared well to help those families. Impairment child families suffer from absence of educational, vocational and psychological information to deal with impairment, they also need social support. This study aimed at investigating impairment child families requirements and to assess the extent of these requirements offered by charitable organization. Precisely, this study aimed to answer these questions.

- 1- What are the impairment child families need ?
- 2- Does the charities role in family support varies according to the impairment type ?
- 3- Does the charities role differ according to the impairment severity ?
- 4- Does the charities role in providing impairment families needs differ according to the geographical location ?

### Method

#### Population

The population of the study consisted of all mental, auditory, visual, physical and autistic impairment person who were registered in charities and aged (4-16) years in Jordan. Table (1) shows the population distribution according to the geographical location.

**Table (1) Study Population**

Region	Number of Charities	Number of Persons Enrolled in the Charities
North	17	502
Middle	35	1353
South	16	426
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2281</b>

#### Study sample

The study sample consists of (232) persons which represents 10% of the population, tables 2,3 and 4 represent the distribution of the sample according to the independent variables.

**Table (2) Sample distribution according to impairment type**

impairment type	Frequency
auditory	21
visual	38
mental	91
physical	53
autism	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>

**Table (3) Sample distribution according to impairment severity**

impairment severity	Frequency
mid	54
moderate	132
sever	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>

**Table (4) Sample distribution according to impairment severity**

geographical region	Frequency
north	50
middle	119
south	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>

## Instrument

The study instrument was a questionnaire adapted to Jordanian environment using Simeonsson's and Bailey's instrument (1988). the questionnaire consisted of (32) items. These items assesses (4) domains: knowledge and information (12) items, social support (8) items, social needs (6) items and financial support (6) items .

## Results

The aims of the study are to answer the following questions :

**Question 1** : What are the impairment child families needs ?

To answer this question means and standard deviations were used. It was found that the families needs were : information needs, social support, financial needs and social needs, respectively as table( 5 ) shows .

**Table ( 5 ) Means and standard deviations of the impairment families need**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
Information needs	1.3880	.81008	1
Social support	1.3552	.81063	2
Social needs	1.2243	.80488	4
Financial needs	1.2793	.75219	3

Table (6) represents means and stander deviations for all items of the study instrument.

**Table ( 6 ) Means and standard deviations**

Needs	Mean	Std. Deviation
Charities Provides procures for impairment prevention	1.3783	1.09403
Provides information about methods to take care of impairment child	1.6710	1.09345
Charities Provides information about social services for handicapped person	1.4554	1.02776
Charities Provides information about discovering impairment in early development stages	1.3860	1.10672
The charity provides counselling information handicapped person	1.0130	1.04457
The charity provides training programs for the families of the impairment person	1.5746	1.11009
Charity holds workshops to provide information about impairment and its causes	1.3843	1.03911
Charity provides procures about impairment	1.0885	1.02465
Charity uses special training programs to train impairments family	1.4753	1.15395
Charity provides the families with updated information about impairment	1.4211	1.13335
Charity provides families with programs to cope with impairment	1.2599	1.10443
Charity provides families with strategies to solve behavioral problems of the impairment child	1.4478	1.10354
Charity provides the family with regulation and laws about their impairment	1.7069	1.12828
Charity shares families with educational plans of the impairment	1.8036	1.10311
Charity holds meetings with parents to discuss their problems	1.6201	1.11989
The charity counselor cooperates with the impairment child family to discuss his future	1.3348	1.09009
Charity provides counselling programs for all families to advice about dealing with families whose one of their sons was impairment	1.1250	1.10136
Charity has an inside home services to the impairment Childs	1.0314	1.03711
Charity provides counselling programs according to the families need	1.3246	1.01092
Media broadcasting religious programs to cope with impairment	.7699	.90440
Charity provides opportunity for the families to discuss impairment problems and exchange their experience	1.7087	1.13207
Charity provides families with some addresses and phones to help them if they need help	1.0304	.99953
Charity provides families suitable methods to have help from relatives	.9435	.94906
Charity provides families with entertainment programs	.8634	.98835
Charity motivates the family successful experience in dealing with the impaired children	1.5901	1.14492
Charity provides a net work support to help impairment	1.1765	1.08736
Charity provides suitable learning and entertainment	1.7412	1.10612
Charity provides families with the appropriate learning and entertainment games	1.2168	.98967
Charity provides families with the appropriate medical care	1.3801	1.08308
Charity provides families with medical aids and devices in a cheap price	1.2273	1.19481
Charity provides impairments with new clothes in Christmas	1.12335	1.052906
Charities maintain medical aids if needed	1.3108	1.17584

**Question 2 :** Does the charities role in family support varies according to the impairment type ?

In order to answer this question ( MANOVA ) were used, the results indicated that Wilks Lambda value equals to (0.64) F (6.58) and this value is statistically significant (  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  ). according to that impairment type is statistically significant (  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  ) for information need, social needs, financial needs and social support ( table 7 )

**Table ( 7 ) MANOVA for the effect of impairment type on families needs**

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Impairment type	Information needs	39.400	4	9.850	19.87	.000
	Social support	25.258	4	6.315	11.53	.000
	Social needs	20.482	4	5.121	9.01	.000
	Financial needs	30.994	4	7.749	17.68	.000

**Question 3 :** Does the charities role differs according to the impairment severity ?

In order to answer this question ( MANOVA ) was used, the results indicated that Wilks Lambda (0.93) F (1.89) and this value is statistically not significant (  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  ). So the impairment severity has not statistically significant effect on all the studied need fields ( table 8 ) .

**Table ( 8 ) MANOVA for the effect of impairment severity on families needs**

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Impairment severity	Information needs	.835	2	.417	0633	.532
	Social support	1.230	2	.615	.955	.386
	Social needs	1.298	2	.649	.997	.371
	Financial needs	3.268	2	1.634	2.927	.053

**Question 4 :** Does the charities role in providing impairment families need differ according to the geographical location ?

MANOVA was used to assess that effect, the result indicated that there is a statistically significant difference (  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  ) on the effect of geographical location on all impairment families fields need ( table 9 ) .

**Table ( 9 ) MANOVA for the effect of geographical location on families needs**

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
geographical location	Information needs	16.431	2	8.215	13.86	.000
	Social support	17.260	2	8.630	14.93	.000
	Social needs	9.000	2	4.500	7.33	.001
	Financial needs	19.540	2	9.770	20.10	.000

Using Tukey HSD for multiple comparisons, it was found that the south region needs for all types of need fields more than middle and south regions, and there is no statistical differences in needs between north and middle regions expect that the north region needs for financial support is more than middle region .

### **Discussion**

The result of the study indicated that the highly need of the impairment children families, was the need for the information, and this could be explained by the fact that these families have no idea about impairment because they expect to have a normal child. As a result of social stigma of the impairment persons those families need social needs and social support. The families need a financial support because the impairment persons need extra financial requirements like instruments, tools, devices and special training and teaching programs. The results indicated that there is significant differences in families need attributed to impairment type and this could be explained by the fact that each type of impairment has its own needs and requirements. The results also indicated that there is no differences in the family needs attributed to impairment severity and this thing is expected because those families have requirement severity . concerning the geographical location the southern region in Jordan is the less developed region and the highest poverty ratio exists in that region . So the highly demands of the needs exist in that region. The south and middle regions in Jordan are more developed so there is no differences between these two regions in their needs.

## **Conclusion**

Families with impairment children's need information about impairment, how to cope with impairment, social need and support, also they need the financial support .

## **Recommendation**

- Provide more support to families of children with disabilities, especially in the province of south Jordan .
- Giving Attention to aspects related to information needs of families with disabled children .
- Further studies on disability in south Jordan must be conducted .

## **References**

- Aye, S.(1982). Community care : The failure of professionals to meet family need. Paper presented at 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of Association of Professions for the Mentally Handicapped, Durham University, 6-9July.
- Bakhash. A.(2002). Family Stress of the mothers of mentally impairment children's and its relation with social need and support. Dirrasat of Educational Sciences. 29(2). (62-83) .
- Barry Carpenter. (2000). Sustaining the Family : meeting the needs of families of children with disabilities. British Journal of Special Education. Volume27. issue 3. pages 135-144.
- Battal, Z. and Masoud, W.(2001). The role of local charities in supporting special needs persons in KSA. Workshop. Bahrain.
- Bayley, M.(1973). Mental handicap and community care : A study of mentally handicapped people in Sheffield London : Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Beresford, B., Sloper, P., Baldwin, S. and Newman, T. what works in services for families with a disabled child? Barkingside: Barnardo's, 1996.
- Card, H.(1983). What will happen we have gone ? Community care, 28 July .
- Docum, A.(2007). Impairment children families need. Dirasat of Educational Sciences. 34(1). 68-84.
- Eheart, B., K. Ciccone.(1983). Special needs of low income mothers of developmentally delayed children. American Journal of mental Deficiency.
- Holoryd, J.(1982). Manual for the questionnaire on resources stress. Los Angeles, UCLA, Neuro Psychiatric Institute.
- Kandel, A.(1994). Civil Community in Arabic World. Local charities in training. Beirut.
- Khatib, J. and Hassan, M.(1997). Fathers and mothers of the impairment children's need. Master thesis. University of Jordan .
- Khatib, A.(2002). Voluntary and team works. Open Jerusalem university .
- Korandlatt, E. S. and J. Heirrich. (1985). Needs and Coping Abilities in Families of children with Development Disabilities, mental Retardation, 13-19.
- Mdanat, M.(2009). Role of charities in supporting families of impairment children. a paper presented in a conference at U.A.E.
- Quin, L.(1991). Sleep problems in children with severe mental handicap. Journal of Mental Deficiency Research, 1991, 35: 269-290.
- Quin, (1993). Working with parents : the management of sleep disturbance in children with learning disabilities. In : Kiernan, C. (ed) Research on the Challenging Behavior of people with learning disability. Clevedon, Avon: BILD Publications, 1993 .
- Reid, K.(1983). The concept of interface to services for handicapped families child. Health and Development, 9, 109-118.
- Rosenberg, S.A.(1977). Family and parents variables affecting outcomes of patents-mediated intervention. unpublsh doctoral dissertation, George Peabody College for Teachers.
- Sartawi, Z. and Shakhs, A.(1989). Battery of assessing psychological stress of the impairment children families and methods to cope with stress. Alien: Dar Alkhateb Aljamie .
- Sartawi, A.(2009). Role of charities in providing information to the impairment children families. a paper presented in a conference at U.A.E.
- Simeonsson, R. J. and D.B. Bailey.(1988). Assessing needs of families with handicapped infants. Journal of Special Education. 22(1). 117-127.
- Wilkin, D.(1979). Caring for the mentally handicapped child. London: Croon Helm .
- Yahia, K.(2000). Problems of mentally auditory and physical impairment children's in special education centers. Dirasat of Educational Sciences. 26(1). 92-108.