Relationship Between Family Needs and Optimism of Mothers of Children with an Intellectual Disability

Pınar DOĞAN, **Esra ARDAHAN AKGÜL**, Atiye KARAKUL, Hatice YILDIRIM SARI,
İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Pediatric Nursing

According to American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities “Intellectual disability is a disability characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills. “ This disability originates before the age of 18. Mothers of children with disability may experience stress, pessimism, emotional breakdowns in family relationships and social relationships.

Aim: The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between family needs and optimism levels of mothers of children with an intellectual disability.

Methods: This descriptive and cross-sectional study was conducted with mothers of children with an intellectual disability. Data were collected from 101 mothers who agreed to participate in the study using Mother’s Information Form, Optimism Scale and Family Needs Scale.

Results: The mothers’ mean age was 38.7±9.56, 28.7% was high school graduate and 78.2% was not working. The children mean age was 9.20±7.8, 66.3% is boy.

The average score of Optimism Scale, was 66.71±8 and Family Needs Scale was 60.22±12.85. The average score The Financial Needs subscale of the Family Needs Scale was 11.17 ± 3.84, Explaining to Others was 12.08 ± 4.10, Needs for Information was 25.0 ± 4.39, and Needs for Support and Community Services was 11.96 ± 3.97.

	Family Needs Scale	Optimism Scale
Presence of a person to Leave the Child for a Short Time		
Yes	58.17±12.37	67.03±6.85
No	63.63±13.08	66.18±9.70
p	.038	.899
Child’s Condition of Health		
Very Healthy	48.00	68.00
Healthy	55.82±12.02	67.77±7.81
Moderate	61.58±12.93	65.27±8.67
Sick	67.14±11.29	69.21±5.07
p	.020	.321

It has been found that there were statistically significant differences between Family Needs Scale and **presence of a person to leave the child for a short time (p=.038)** and **child’s condition of health (p=.020)**. There wasn’t any statistically significant differences between mother’s level of education, mother’s marital status, mother’s work, familial financial status, type of family, child’s level of incompetence, child’s sex and Family Needs Scale and Optimism Scale

There was a weak positive correlation between the scores the mothers obtained from the Optimism Scale and Family Needs Survey.

There was a weak negative correlation between the scores the mothers age and family needs, financial needs, needs for information, explaining to others subscale scores.

Conclusion: Mothers who participated in the research were above average of their optimism scores also there was a relationship between optimism, age and familial needs. As the mothers’ages increased, their needs decreased