

The Lived Experience of Siblings of Autistic Children; From the Private to Public Sphere

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Abstract : Although many people with autism spectrum disorder around the world face many problems and challenges, their conditions may unintentionally affect the lives of the people around them. In this research the experiences of siblings of autistic children have been investigated in both the public and private spheres of their lives. "Private sphere" includes the experiences of research participants in socializing with relatives and family, assignments and responsibilities, as well as how they spend their leisure time and lifestyle. The "public sphere" includes the experience of their presence in society, such as university, or workplace and any outdoor activities that could have been affected by their sibling's disorder. The present research has been done using the qualitative research method and in-depth interview technique with siblings of autistic children. The sample population is 15 individuals who participated in the research theoretically and purposefully. Based on the findings, the private and social experiences of these individuals is very different compared to peers who do not have siblings with autism disorder in the family. The difference is to such an extent that causes them to separate and distance themselves from other members of the society, and depending on their special conditions, it can affect their goals and life opportunities such as job, marriage, having children, etc.

Keywords : autism spectrum disorder, siblings, private sphere, public sphere

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