Assessment of socio-psychological determinants of Turkish mothers of children with cerebral palsy

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Turkey Mothers of children with disability have to provide most of the care for their children. We aimed to evaluate the impact of having disabled children on Turkish mothers. Two hundred and forty-seven Turkish mothers of children with cerebral palsy (CP) completed the Turkish version ofthe Impact on Family Scale, Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), and Nottingham Health Profile (NHP). Mothersfrom five different regions in Turkey who had at least one child with CP and are free from any mental illness were included in the study. Of the mothers 46.2% (n=114) werein the 28 to 37 age interval, 64.4% of them had completed primary school, 95.5% were married and living with theirhusbands, and 93.5% were housewives. Total impact ofthat fact of disability to the mothers was 57.27 SD 10.08. The four sub-parameters, including financial support (9.60SD 2.29), general impact (30.56 SD 6.29), disruption ofsocial relations (24.42 SD 4.97), and coping (6.53 SD 2.06) were also computed. The average values for NHP were asfollows: NHPE: 56.63 SD 36.20; NHPP: 27.44 SD 29.32; NHPER: 46.97 SD 31.79; NHPSI: 36.47 SD 33.18;NHPS: 34.15 SD 29.92; NHPPM: 21.27 SD 18.80; NHPTOT: 271.21 SD 133.68. One hundred and eight mothers(43.7%) scored at least 17 on BDI; 56.3% scored 16 and below, indicating that about half of the mothers showed depressive symptoms. The study demonstrated that Turkish mothers of children with cerebral palsy were at risk interms of socio-psychological determinants. Therefore, themother having a disabled child should also be identified earlier before planning the most suitable rehabilitation program to prevent socio-psychological problems.