

# The Jordanian Mothers Acceptance for Their Autistic Children

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## Abstract

The study aim to identify Jordanian mothers' level of acceptance for their autistic children. as for the study sample, it consisted of (39) mothers of autistic children, whom has been enrolled in special education centres. The study's tool prepared by the researcher, which was a questionnaire containing (42) paragraph, was applied after verifying its reliability and stability. To analyse the results of the study, the three-way ANOVA was used. The study's results showed; that the acceptance level of Jordanian mothers to their autistic children is low. The results also showed, that there was a difference with a statistical significant between the two average arithmetic for the study's sample perceptions on the paragraphs concerning the Jordanian mothers acceptance for their autistic children, due to the age variable of the autistic child, in favour of children under the age of 12 years old. There is a difference with a statistical significant between the two average arithmetic for the study's sample on the paragraphs regarding the Jordanian mothers acceptance of their autistic children, due to the variable of the family monthly income, in favour families with a monthly income of 300 Jordanian dinars or more.

**Keywords:** mother's acceptance, mothers of autistics children, autistic child.

## Introduction

The birth of a child with disability, affects all of his/her family members especially the mother, for she is; the premier tutor of her child, the materialistic burdens rests on her shoulders, and she is the one who goes through a range of psychological and emotional strains, which might reflect on the parents relationship and the family in general.

The mother's acceptance of her child disability, the family's recognition of the disability and dealing with the it objectively, the attending of educational and therapeutic programs, and participating in it is very crucial. for the family postponement of the acceptance of the child disability, hinders him /her from benefiting of the educational programs and treatment at an early stage of him /her life, for if the mother accepts her child disability, it will positively affect her disabled child, where the refusal will deprive him/her from benefiting of such services (Khatib, 2001).

The mother's acceptance of her child disability is affected by; the severity, the type, and the gender of the child. The more the disability becomes severe, and associated with the external appearance, and the abnormal behavioural and the emotional manifestations, i.e., extreme aggression, destruction and excessive activity, as in autism, the mother tends to conceal her child from others or may wish for his/her death.

Some studies indicate, that the presence of a person with a disability in the family, showed; that parents displayed problems relating to; hatred, humiliation, and contempt for themselves, because of the existence of a person with a disability in their own family, (singer& farkas1989) and the more the disability is mild, the more the mother is accepting and understanding, and the family attitude of acceptance and the desire to enrol the child in one of the centres for Special education prevails, (Zreikat 2006).

Also the mother's acceptance of the disabled child is affected by his/her gender, Whereas the male bears the name of the family and his birth with disability, increases the feeling of sadness and sorrow among the family members., the effect of a female with disability, although the family suffers from fears for her future and her fate (Qarouti, 2009), the impact of the disability, is more moderate and the sense of loss is lesser.

In addition to that; the acceptance a person with a disability, differs according to the gender, and depending on society's concept of males and females. While some societies accept disabilities in male and disapprove them in females, some societies are on the contrary (Almghlout, 1999).

In her study aimed to investigate problems caused by autism in the family, Nora 1991 pointed out; depression and the lack of social adjustment are the biggest problems facing the autistic's family, and that the presence of unmarried autistic females in the family, forms a higher level of stress tension than that caused by an autistic male.

Among the indications that guides the mother's acceptance of her disabled child, is;

- The understanding of the special needs of the child, and the attempt to look for the services available in the community.
- To involve him/her in family activities and programs, such as; trips, visiting relatives, shopping.
- The adaptation of educational and diagnostic programs, and to effectively participate in associations and bodies dealing with their child disability.
- To review the programs provided, and with those interested in the field of disability

- And to be diligent in the search for modern information and seeking to participate in conferences, seminars and workshops.
- Voluntary participation in providing expertise to other families of disabled people.
- Confidence and faith in the capabilities of their child to develop and progress,  
As for the indications that cause the mother not accepting her child disability, they can be summed in (botros, 2009).
- Over protectiveness.
- Doing some tasks on his behalf.
- Loss of trust in the child and his abilities.
- Detesting of the child's behaviour and disliking him.
- Criticizing and insulting the child.
- Depriving the child of satisfying his/her needs.
- Isolating him/her from others

Also the process of the mother accepting her disabled child, is related to the financial and materialistic means of the family, because the presence of such capabilities provide the family with the ability to cope with child disability, and the unavailability of such means, will become an extra burden, as in some circumstances, the family might need a servant, which in turns increase the family's expenditures and burdens (Rashed 1996).

The mother c of the disability, is also related to the age of the disabled child, for the acceptance degree is at its best in the stage of his/her early childhood, which is due to the limited needs of the child, and his/her intense emotional behaviour has not emerged yet. Then, at the school stage, adolescence and beyond, the acceptance level decreases (Masoud, Muhammad and Murad, 2005), and the psychological pressure increases because of the presence of an autistic teenager in the family, Where development problems are acute, creating additional problems and more a complex family relationships, and the mother makes more effort for the child to appear in an acceptable manner.

Evidence of not accepting the disability is; the increase of divorce cases among families of t disabled children, compared with families where there are no disabled children (Hodapp and Kranser, 1995), Vajaratkar, Desai, Lieves & Patel 2012 indicate; that the rates of divorce and separation among families of children with special needs was higher, comparable to that of ordinary children, and stress was one of the most factors that led to divorce and the collapse of these families.

As pointed out by Khatatnah 2000, families of disabled, suffer from economic and social burdens, and the unease of getting married to other members of the society, which forces them to marriages from members of families with disabled children, and that they - the families of the disabled - suffer from hearing insulting words by members of society.

Sartawi and alshukhes 1998, stated that; family system, the degree of ties between its members, and the amount of social and economic support provided to the family of the disabled, are all factors that help the family to face the pressures of the birth of a disabled child, and thus the family accept the disabled.

### **The study problem**

The discovery of autism in a child is shocking to the family, and makes it live under stressful psychological conditions, socially and financially to a varying degrees, for autism is a form of disorders that make family life more difficult, as autistic child needs constant care and mothers' of autistic children faces a lot of difficulties, such as caring for the autistic child and his disordered growth, and the lake of social and linguistic skills, and some abnormal behavioural manifestations, like hand fluttering, the twirling around, impulsiveness, and body vibration, which could expose mothers' of autistic children to depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts more than parents of ordinary children, and even more than parents of children with other disabilities (sevim, Kealye, 2007).

Mothers' of autistics faces many crises and psychological reactions associated with birth of a child with disability, such as trauma, denial, guilt, shame, anger, anxiety, tension and depression (Al-Qadi, 2010), and as a result of the mothers continuous subjection to these pressures, imposed by their autistic children, They might lose the ability to make decisions or interact with others, and affect the relationship between family members, which in turn affects the child's performance and self-esteem.

The disability is a problem that does not concern only the disabled, but extends its effects to all those around him/her. The problems experienced by the disabled because of family and society and their attitudes toward the disability, are more serious than the disability itself (Khatib, 2006). In the event of accepting the disabled, the family can help him/her to appreciates him/her-self, plan his/her life and assess his/her abilities properly, hence, the study's problem is; to recognize the extent to which the Jordanian mothers accepts her autistic child and tries to minimize the impacts of not accepting him/her.

The study's problem can be identified through the following question:

To what extent does a Jordanian mother accept her autistic child in the light of some variables?

From the above question, the following questions stems:

- 1- Is there a statistical significant for the averages degrees of the sample members on the mother of autistic children acceptance scale?
- 2- Dose a Jordanian mother acceptance of her autistic child differs according to gender?
- 3- Dose a Jordanian mother acceptance of her autistic child differs according to age?
- 4- Dose a Jordanian mother acceptance of her autistic child differs depending on the level of monthly income of the family?

The Study's Terms:

Acceptance: The highest degree achieved by the mother of the autistic child on the questionnaire scale for the Jordanian mother acceptance of her autistic child, (prepared by the researcher).

Autistics: they are the autistic individuals in the special education centres, in the governorates of Ajloun and Irbid, who are diagnosed with autism through their centres, and their age is from 3 to 16 years and above.

Mothers' of autistics: mothers' of autistic individuals in special education centres targeted by the acceptance questionnaire.

The Study's Importance:

- This study helps to direct the attention of the disabled and the mothers' of the disabled in general, and in particular mothers' of autistic children, so as to help activate the role of institutions and schools in the designing of programs directed at mothers, and not only disabled people.
- The importance of this study is highlighted by giving a better understanding of the mother's attitudes towards her autistic child.
- Uncover the relationship between the mother's acceptance of her autistic child, the child's self-acceptance, and society acceptance of the disability.
- Applied importance; this study contributes to the uncovering of the mother's acceptance or non-acceptance of autism, and thus can work through it, to educate families and mothers on the importance of the acceptance of disability, through awareness programs.
- This study contributes to the design of guiding and training programs for families.
- Developing a tool to measure mothers' acceptance of autistic children.

The Study's Objectives:

The present study aimed to identify; the Jordanian mothers' level of acceptance to her autistic child in the light of some demographic variables:

- I. To acknowledge whether the mother does or doesn't accepts her autistic children.
- II. To acknowledge the mother's acceptance of her autistic child according to his gender.
- III. To acknowledge the mother's acceptance of her autistic child according to his/her age.
- IV. To acknowledge the acceptance of the mother to her autistic child depending on the monthly income level of his/her family.

The limits Of the Study:

- I. This study is in unification with its subject, and that is; the Jordanian mothers' acceptance for her autistic child.
- II. The place of the study is the Governorate of Ajloun.
- III. The time of conducting the study is the second semester of the year 2015-2016.

The study's theoretical framework:

Autism is one of the most severe and the most obscured disabilities, therefore we find parents of autistic children live under pressure exceed those of parents with other disabilities (Walter & Tay, 2014), (Abu al-Atta 2015). These pressures are due to the fact that autism is one of the most difficult categories of disabilities, and it is difficult to understand the child because of his/her self-isolation and self-segregation, the characteristics of his/her complex behaviour and his/her lack of social interaction ability, verbal communication and typical behaviour (Al-Khamisi 2011).

Some mothers view the reality of their autistic child as a challenge, and confrontation, and it affect the coherence and cohesion of the family positively. In contrast, mothers' of autistic children might face many problems, these problems drains their energies, and made them lose their ability to be patient and tolerant (Abu al-Saud, 2000). If the mother accepts her disabled child and helps integrating him/her into the family, his/her brothers and sisters will accept him regardless of their rejection or jealousy, and this affects his/her interaction with the family members and the breaking of his/her isolation (alKhatib, 2006).

The stage of adaptation and acceptance of the reality, is one of the parents' recognition of the reality of their child's disabilities, and start of realistic thinking, and dealing with the child without sense of shame or guilt, and beginning to care for the child and the methods of treatment, and the identification of the educational programs that will develop his/her skills. The family in this phase, starts in accordance with the new situation, and gradually faces the new situation, and search for solutions and requirements for the child, and the adjustment

with the new situation, social and psychological (Tanbawi, 2008).

In this stage, the mother understands the situation of her child, and that he/she is different from others, and he/she needs his/her own ways of growth. It is necessary to help the mothers by specialists, to take on her supporting role for her child, and to take care of his/her different needs (Nasrallah, 2001). The disabled feeling the appreciation of those around him/her leads to higher appreciation of him/her-self, and feels the security, reassurance, and acceptance, but deprivation of appreciation, will make him/her feels failure and not to participate positively (Abu al-Nasr, 2004).

Ahmed 2016 confirmed the existence of a positive correlation, between the method of parental acceptance and the degree of self-concept of the visually impaired and the existence of a negative correlation between the method of parental rejection and the self-concept of the visually impaired teenager.

Many studies confirm that there is a positive correlation between the method of parental acceptance and the child affirmative behaviour, that the method of acceptance or parental acceptance of the child is directly proportional to their affirmative behaviour, and whenever the parental treatment is positively accepted, impact on the children confirmation of themselves is positive, and parental tolerance is positively linked to children self-esteem, and that a combination of love and acceptance of the child, often leads to an upright social upbringing, and that the methods of parental treatment, which perceived acceptable, lead to the enjoyment of children with good personal characteristics and social harmony and freedom from anxiety.

Previous studies:

The Rivard et al. 2014 study was designed to describe parenting pressures for both fathers and mothers of autistic children, at the beginning of the Early Intervention Program. The sample consisted of (118) fathers and (118) mothers of children with autism in Quebec City, Canada. The results showed that the level of stress in fathers is higher than that of the mothers, and that there is a correlation between the severity of stress and the age of the child, and the level of intelligence and severity of symptoms in favour of older children.

Allen 2013 study aim was to assess the parental pressure of fathers and mothers of autistic children in the light of four dimensions, especially the symptoms of autism, language, social interaction, senses and health. The sample was; 101 mothers and 23 fathers, of autistic children in Australia and Victoria. The study tools were the psychological stress gauge questionnaire, and the evaluation form of autism symptoms. The results showed that the dimension of the interaction can predict the pressures on the mothers, and the dimension of the senses predicting pressure on the fathers. Autism the results have shown that the dimension of the interaction can predict the pressures of the mothers and the dimension of the senses predicting pressure on the parents.

Kusikko-gauf fin 2013 study aim was to compare the symptoms of social anxiety among autistic parents and parents of ordinary children in Finland. The sample consisted of 131 parents of autistic children as a pilot project group, and 599 ordinary members as a group. The tool used was social phobia and anxiety battery. The results show that social phobia and anxiety are more pronounced in mothers of autistic children, compared to mothers of ordinary children. The scale scored higher pressures in the physical symptoms, fears and cognition in fathers of autistic children, compared to fathers of ordinary children. The study recommends supporting parents of autistic children, because their psychological characteristics contribute to the emotional development of their children.

Leithead, 2012 study aimed; to determine the level of parental stress in parents of autistic children and compare their levels with autism symptoms. The study consisted of 7 fathers and 99 mothers of autistic children at the age of 4-9. The study tools were the measure of social responsiveness and the measure of parental pressure. The results showed that fathers of autistic children showed a higher level of pressure than the fathers of normal ones, and child-related pressure in parents of autistic children, higher than the parents of normal ones.

Pisula & Kossakowska, 2010 study purpose was; to compare the level of cohesion and loneliness among parents of autistic children and parents of normal children, and to examine the relationship between feeling cohesive and coping with stress. The sample consisted of 26 parents autistic children and 29 parents of ordinary children, a sense of coherence and confronting stress questionnaires were used as an a tool. The results showed that the cohesion of parents of autistic children was low and that they used the strategy of escape and avoidance to cope with pressure more than the parents of ordinary children. The results also showed, feeling of cohesion among parents of autistic children, positively associated with social and economic support, and self-control and negatively associated with acceptance of responsibility.

Qaryuti 2011 study which aimed to determine the extent of acceptance of Omani mothers to their disabled children in various types of disability; (auditory, visual, paralysis, mental retardation). The acceptance questionnaire was used for mothers of 363 disabled child in Muscat - Oman, and the results indicated no differences with statistical significant on all variables on acceptance for mothers of children with auditory. No differences with statistical significant on acceptance for the mothers of children, in relation to the type of disability. There was differences with a statistical significant on acceptance for the mothers of children visually impaired, due to the gender of the disabled in favour of males, and the existence of differences with a statistical significant on acceptance for the mothers, due to age of the disabled with less age.

Al deeb 2016 study which aims to know the sources and level of psychological stress in mothers of children with autism disorder. The sample of the study consisted of 174 autistic children who were attached to rehabilitation centres in the United Arab Emirates. The sample was randomized and the sample of the psychological stress of the mothers of children with autism was applied, and the mother's needs questionnaire was designed by the researcher. The results indicated; that the most pressing pressures on mothers are the behaviours of an autistic child, and the emotional pressure in the second place. The results indicated a high level of needs in mothers, the community needs was first, and then cognitive and training and social, also the results showed a positive relationship between the level of pressures and needs.

Al-Mutairi 2006 conducted a study aimed at investigating the sources of psychological stress faced by mothers of autistic children in Riyadh KSA, and the relationship of these pressures to some variables such as educational level, age of mother and family income. The sample of the study members (95), mothers of autistic children, it was chosen by the intentional method. The study found that the main sources of stress among mothers of children with autism were institutional care, family disintegration, and lack of personal self-sufficiency.

Gray 2006 study which was conducted on fathers and mothers of children with autism, and how to adapt them to disability, based on the customs and traditions of different communities, the study's sample was formed of (19) mothers and (9) fathers of autistic children, the results of the study showed, that a small group of fathers adapt to this disability, and that the larger group was facing autism through their religious convictions and believing in it.

Elson 2000 examined the economic and social impact of families of individuals with severe disabilities. The sample included 28 mothers of severely disabled. The results of the study showed; that the families of the disabled recorded a high degree of materialistic need and social support. Mothers of the disabled have negative feelings, and do not accept disability for their child because of their continuous care.

Qaryuti 2008 in his study aimed at identifying the acceptance degree of Jordanian mothers to their disabled children, the study sample was 405 mothers of disabled. 167 of which mothers of children with impaired hearing, and 96 mothers of children with impaired vision, 165 mothers of children with cerebral palsy, and 96 mothers of children mentally disabled. The results of the study showed differences with statistical significant on acceptance for mothers of disabled in relation to the type of the disability, And in favour of auditory and visual versus mental, results also showed statistical significant differences in the acceptance of mothers due to the degree of disability, to the favour of severe hearing disability, gender of the disabled in favour of females, and the interaction between gender and age.

Asfour 2012 study which aims to detect the psychological pressure on the mothers of autistic adolescents, the study sample consisted of 40 mothers of autistic teenagers, were chosen by random method, the researcher developed the a measure of psychological stress especially for mothers of autistic children, and she used the implications of sincerity and consistency and used the (t) test and Single variance analysis (ANOVA).

The results of the study showed that the level of pressure on mothers was within the medium level, and that the highest average was for the dimension of the burdens of the autistic teenager, while the feelings of despair and frustration of the teenager was the lowest level.

The results showed no differences with a statistical significant in relation to gender, educational level of the mother, and the economic level of the mother, while it has shown differences with statistical significant in relation to the teenager's future, as well as in relation to bearing the burden of the autistic teenager when is the last born. As well as in relation to family and social problems.

Bu shearia, and Taher 2014 study, which aimed to identify the differences between psychological stress and its relation to family harmony, according to some variables as; gender, age, educational level, number of family members. The study sample consisted of 120 fathers and mothers of autistics, and responded to the scale of psychological stress for parents of the disabled and the measure of family consensus. The results of the study indicate that there is no relationship between psychological stress and family harmony for parents of children with autism. And there are differences in the level of pressure in favour of mothers, and the absence of differences according to other variables.

Mater and Litany 2015 study which aimed to determine the level of psychological stress for the mothers of children with autism. The sample of the study consisted of 10 mothers of autistic children. The researchers used the descriptive method of the phenomenon as a method of study. The psychological pressure scale of Al Sartawi and Al shakhes was used. The results of the study indicated that the psychological pressure in the mothers of child with autism, was high because of its association with severe autism symptoms, and inability to meet demands, and fear of the future.

Begam & Nor AC, 2013 study aim was to identify the difficulties faced by the mothers of children with autism and mothers of the mentally disabled, and the extent to which their children were affected by their participation in social life. The study consisted of 21 mothers of children with autism children, and, 21 mothers of children mentally disabled.

The analytical descriptive approach was used through the questionnaire and interview mechanisms, and the results showed that the mothers of the disabled face difficulties in social life, difficulties related to the inability to carry out social activities such as visiting neighbours and relatives, shopping or traveling or using public transport, and they feel frustrated and despair as a result of the attitudes of others toward s them and their disabled children.

Al Badayneh 1996 study which aimed to know the extent of acceptance of disabilities and measure the social distance between the disabled in the Jordanian society, it consisted of (433) participants. The researcher developed a suitable tool to serve the purposes of the study. The results indicated that there is no acceptance of disability in general, and that there are differences with statistical significance that mild disability was more acceptable than severe disability, where severe disability, such as mental retardation, was the most disability in rejection.

It also showed that there was a consensus in the direction of acceptance of disabilities from both gender due to the gender variable. It was also shown that there is a consensus in the direction of acceptance of disabilities in both sexes due to gender variable.

Jameel 1990 study, which aimed to identify the differences in the attitudes of the father and mother in the acceptance of mentally retarded. The sample consisted of 80 mothers' and fathers' of disabled children aged 9-12 years, where the researcher used a measure of parental trends towards underdevelopment, it is a measure for acceptance and self-assessment of mentally retarded, and the result showed the existence of a difference between the attitudes of fathers and mothers towards the mentally retarded, and there is a positive relationship between the acceptance of both father and mother to their child and his/her self-esteem.

Abdul Mute and Abo Kalla 2011 study aimed to identify the needs of families of children with special needs and its relationship to accept the disabled child. The study consisted of (87) parents of children with special needs aged 25-48 years of age. The parents have different levels of education. The study tool was a questionnaire for the family acceptance of a disabled child, and the results reached was, the need for parents to care for their normal and disabled children, the support of husband and wife, and the study found a negative correlation between the needs of families and the degree of acceptance of the disabled. The study also revealed a statistically significant effect of the gender of the disabled in favour of males, and a statistical significant effect of the type of disability in the acceptance of the disabled child.

Jibril et al. 1995 study which aimed at studying the special education centres in Jordan indicated that the disabled child is a source of threat to the unity and cohesion of the family. This threat can affect family relations and roles, and may lead to the formation of psychological pressures in the family. The results also indicate that the presence of a disabled person in the family adds to the family social, financial and economic burdens, in addition to the psychological burden, and that this disabled individual limits the chances of social activity of the family, thus limiting the interaction of brothers, sisters and parents with building relations with the community. The study confirmed that the physical appearance and the irregular behaviour plays a role in the feeling of the disabled siblings, especially with regard to activities and trips, which indicates that some families do not accept the disabled child.

### **Comments on previous studies**

Studies show that in the field of mothers acceptance of their disabled children in general, and autistic in particular, there is noticeable differences, while some studies show the disintegration of families, and the occurrence of divorces among the families of the disabled, other studies indicates cohesion and sense of loneliness and accept the disability, and its positive impact on the family.

Other studies indicate to the acceptance of the male autistic, while other studies suggest that female autistic is accepted. While studies show that mothers suffer from phobias and social anxiety, other studies show that mothers takes their disabled children out of the house, and the family does not shy away from mixing with people.

The examiner of the previous studies in general, notes the magnitude of the pressures facing the mothers' of children with autism, which reflected the acceptance or rejection of the mother to her autistic child.

It is noted that the pressures that relate to social trends towards autism and towards their mothers, also is one of the most important pressure indicators on the mother to reject her autistic child, In addition, the mother's fear for her child's future or the fear of being sexual assault, and fear of the future of the family and its disintegration is considered a parental pressure that drives the mother to reject her child or to preach from his behaviour.

The study sample:

The researcher distributed the questionnaire through the special education centres, in both Ajloun and Irbid governorates, to the mothers' of the autistic children enrolled in these centres. The mothers were addressed by the teachers of the autistic children regarding the researcher's desire to apply a questionnaire about the mother's acceptance to their autistic children which was 40 questionnaires.

One questionnaire was excluded because it's unrealistic. The sample of the study was 39 mothers of autistics. The sample can be observed in Table (1).

Table (1)

Distribution of the study's sample according to the variable: the gender of the autistic child, his/her age, and the monthly income of the family (in Jordanian Dinars)

The Variable	Level/Category	Number	Ratio%
Gender of Autistic Child	Male	25	64.1
	Female	14	35.9
	Total	39	100.0
Age of Autistic child	Below 12 years of age	15	38.5
	From 12 years of age and older	24	61.5
	Total	39	100.0
Family Monthly Income in Jordanian Dinar	Less than 300JD	20	51.3
	From 300JD and above	19	48.7
	Total	39	100.0

The study's tool:

The researcher built the questionnaire (the Jordanian mothers' acceptance o for her autistic child benefitting from the theoretical literature and previous studies;

(Al-Qaryuti, 2008), (Jibril, 1995), (Asfour, 2012), (Debard, 2014), (Begum & Action), and his personal practical experience as; teacher of education, supervisor of special education, a teacher of special education, and mixing with people with special needs in general, and with autistics in particular through the follow-up with his students in field training for special education, where he continued with autistic children and their families and listened to their concerns and problems. The questionnaire consisted of 42 paragraphs reflecting the degree to which the mother accepts her autistic child

Tool's reliability:

The tool was presented to 12 arbitrators of experts in the field of special education, including 8 professors at Al-Balqa Applied University, Al-Yarmouk University and Irbid National, and two special education teachers, employees of autism centres, and for a mother of an autistic child, and 2 supervisors for special education in order to know the paragraphs relativity to dimensions that measure them. After the analysis of the results of the arbitrators, agreement ratio of 95% was adopted. The results of the analysis showed that the paragraphs of the questionnaire were adequate for what they were designed for.

Tool's stability:

The coefficient of stability was calculated by the cronbach's alpha to measure the internal consistency between the response vertebrae, and the value of cronbach's alpha was 0.89

Tool's Correctness

The instrument related to the level of acceptance by the Jordanian mother for her autistic child consisted of 42 paragraphs. Where the respondent places a (x) sign in front of each paragraph to indicate whether the content of the paragraph matches the concept of what the respondent sees adequate the content . Note that the selections were as follows: strongly agree, which was given the degree 5, and OK, which was given a degree of 4, and neutral which was given a degree of 2, and strongly disagree, which was given a degree of 1.

Statistical Standard

To determine the level of acceptance by the Jordanian mothers' of her autistic son, the following statistical criterion was used - based on the average arithmetic - shown in Table 2.

Table 2

The statistical criterion for determining the level of acceptance by the Jordanian mothers' of her autistic child

Average Arithmatic	Acceptance Level
From 1.00 - below 1.80	Very low
From 1.80 - below 2.60	Low
From 2.60 - less than 3.40	Medium
From 3.40 - lower than 4.20	High
From 4.20 to 5.00	Very High

Study's variables: The study includes the following variables:

- A. Independent variables; include:
  - i. Autistic child gender: It has two categories (male, female).
  - ii. Age of autistic child: It has two levels (less than 12 years, and 12 years and above).
  - iii. Monthly income of the family (in JD): It has two levels: (less than 300, and 300 and above).
- B. The dependent variable; the level of acceptance of the Jordanian mothers' to her autistic child;

represented by the arithmetic average of the estimates of the sample members of the study on the paragraphs of the tool as a whole.

#### Statistical treatments

To answer the first question, use the computational environment and standard deviations to determine the level of acceptance by the Jordanian mothers' of her autistic child in the sample of the study.

To calculate the statistical significance of the virtual differences between the computational circles of the estimates of the sample members of the study's sample, the statistical variables were used according to the variables; gender, age, and monthly income of the family in Jordanian dinars, and three way ANOVA. On the paragraphs of the Jordanian mothers' accept her autistic child according to the variable; the gender of autistic child, age, monthly income of the family in Jordanian dinar.

View results:

The results of the first question, which states: What is the level of acceptance of the Jordanian mothers' to her autistic child?

To answer this question, the computational and standard deviations of the estimates of the individuals in the study sample were calculated on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mothers' acceptance of her autistic child. Table 3 shows that.

Table (3)

Computational and standard deviations of the estimates of the individuals of the study's sample on each paragraph of the Jordanian mothers' acceptance of her autistic child and on her as a whole, in descending order according to the computational

Paragraph Number	The Paragraph	Average Arithmetic	Standard Deviation	Rank	Acceptance Level
40	God gave me this child and I praise God for him/her.	3.54	1.64	1	high
36	I am ashamed to receive people in my house.	3.21	1.70	2	medium
39	My child does not communicate with his brothers.	3.15	1.65	3	medium
41	My distinct children is only anomaly.	3.13	1.79	4	medium
1	I feel headaches, fatigue and exhaustion	3.05	1.52	5	medium
16	I have trained myself to help my child	3.03	1.56	6	medium
17	My child uses the computer distinctly	3.00	1.75	7	medium
21	I will strike my child	2.97	1.78	8	medium
37	I worry about my child's future	2.85	1.91	9	medium
34	Financial requirements to care for my child beyond my abilities and potential.	2.82	1.23	10	medium
32	My social relationships are very limited because of my child.	2.77	1.65	11	medium
42	I understand the needs of my child.	2.74	1.46	12	medium
3	I visit my child at the school or centre.	2.72	1.47	13	medium
31	resort to smoking sometimes	2.72	1.65	13	medium
18	Some autistic children are gifted and creative	2.67	1.64	15	medium
35	people do not respect my feelings.	2.67	1.51	15	medium
24	resentment of his sexual behaviour.	2.64	1.18	17	low
2	I talk to people about some improvement in the case of my child	2.59	1.55	18	low
15	My child has talents and can be developed.	2.59	1.65	18	low
22	I curse my child and hurt his/her feelings wounded.	2.59	1.50	18	low
23	My child is cut off from others.	2.59	1.33	18	low
33	I feel afraid that my child will be sexually harassed	2.59	1.58	18	low
38	I am afraid of having another child.	2.59	1.48	18	low
11	I was trying to find up-to-date information about my child's disability.	2.54	1.05	24	low

Paragraph Number	The Paragraph	Average Arithmetic	Standard Deviation	Rank	Acceptance Level
12	I am seeking to participate in conferences and workshops on my child's disability	2.54	1.50	24	low
26	I find no one to guide me to deal with my child.	2.54	1.35	24	low
14	My child has abilities and strengths.	2.46	1.67	27	low
20	My child can do some manual work in the future	2.31	1.44	28	low
4	Share my child playing with people.	2.28	1.55	29	low
25	I am troubled by the questions of others about my child.	2.28	1.41	29	low
5	My son accompanies the ceremonies and weddings	2.26	1.45	31	low
6	Communicate with my child always and do not neglect him/her.	2.26	1.16	31	low
8	I always try to look for services available in the community.	2.21	1.20	33	low
13	I love to help mothers of autistic children	2.15	1.39	34	low
19	I know a lot about my child's disability.	2.13	1.28	35	low
9	Share the child in family activities.	2.10	1.39	36	low
28	I feel the reason why my child is handicapped.	2.08	1.31	37	low
27	I am troubled by the look of compassion from others to me and to my child	2.00	1.36	38	low
30	I relied on myself to meet the needs of my child.	1.95	0.94	39	low
10	I participate in the development of educational plans and programs for my child	1.90	0.97	40	low
29	I have marital problems	1.77	1.11	41	low very
7	I fear that my children will not marry because their sibling has been hampered	1.74	0.97	42	low very
Total Tool's Paragraphs		2.54	0.64		low

Note from Table 3 that the degree of acceptance of the Jordanian mothers' to her autistic child is low, with an average of 2.54 with a standard deviation of 0.64. The computational range of the paragraphs ranged between 1.74 and 3.54, at a tolerance level between very low and high. Where paragraph 40 was stated; God gave for me this child and praise him that. came in the first place with an average of 3.54 degree of acceptance high, while the paragraph 7 which stated that; I fear that my daughters will not marry because of their brother's disability in the last rank with an average of 1.74 To a degree of acceptance very low. As noted by Table 3; there is one paragraph of acceptance level high, 14 paragraph of medium level acceptance, 23 paragraph of acceptance low level acceptance, and 2 paragraph of acceptance level very low.

The results of the second question, which states; Are there statistically significant differences at the level of statistical significance ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) between the computational circles of the estimates of the sample members of the study on the paragraphs that the mother accepts for her autistic child? (Jordanian dinar)?

In order to answer this question, the computational and standard deviations of the estimates of the individuals of the study's sample were calculated on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mother's acceptance of her autistic child according to the variable ; gender, age, and monthly income of the family. Table (4) shows that.

Table (4)

Computational and standard deviations of the estimates of the individuals of the study's sample on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mother's acceptance of her autistic child, according to the variables; gender, age, and monthly income of the family in Jordanian dinar.

Variable	Level / category	Average calculation	Ratio
Autistic Child Sex	Male	2.93	0.29
	Female	1.85	0.50
	Total	2.54	0.64
Age of autistic child	Less than 12 years	3.12	0.19
	12 years and above	2.18	0.55
	Total	2.54	0.64
Monthly income of the family (in Jordanian Dinars)	Less than 300	2.07	0.54
	From 300 or more	3.04	0.24
	Total	2.54	0.64

Table 4 shows the existence of apparent differences between the computation of the estimates of the individuals of the study sample on the subjects of the Jordanian mother's acceptance of her autistic child according to the variable (gender, age, and monthly income of the family). In order to determine the statistical significance of these differences, Application of three way ANOVA - without interaction - Table (5) shows

Table 5

Analysis of the three-way variance of the computational mean of the individuals of the study sample on the subjects of the Jordanian mother's acceptance of her autistic son according to the variables; gender, age, and monthly income of the family in Jordanian dinar.

Variable	Total square	Degrees of freedom	Squares of Average	F Value	Statistical significance
Autistic Child Sex	1.105	1	1.105	*12.844	.001
Age of autistic child	.846	1	.846	*9.835	.003
Monthly income of the Family	.791	1	.791	*9.187	.005
Error	3.012	35	.086		
Total	15.662	38			

\* Statistical significance at the level of statistical significance ( $\alpha = 0.05$ )

Table 5 shows the following:

The statistical value of the child gender variable 0.001, Which is below the statistical significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ ; Indicating a statistical significant difference at the level of statistical significance  $\alpha = 0.05$  Between the two computational averages of the sample of the study on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mother's acceptance of her autistic child, due to the gender variable of autistic child, and from the average arithmetic, Table (4) shows that the difference in favour of males. The statistical value of the variable age of autistic child 0.003, Which is below the statistical significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ ; Indicating a statistical significant difference at the level of statistical significance  $\alpha = 0.05$  Between the two computational averages of the sample of the study's sample on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mother's acceptance of her autistic child, due to the variable age of autistic child, and from the average arithmetic, Table 4 shows that the difference in favour of autistic children under 12 years of age.

The value of the statistical significance of the variable monthly income of the household 0.022, Which is below the statistical significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ ; Indicating a statistically significant difference at the level of statistical significance  $\alpha = 0.05$  Between the two computational averages of the estimates of the sample members of the study's on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mother's acceptance of her autistic child, due to the variable monthly income of the family, and from the average arithmetic Table 4 shows that the difference in favour of families with a monthly income of 300 or more dinars.

### Results discussion

The present study aimed at identifying the level of acceptance by the Jordanian mothers' of her autistic child. The first question was; what is the level of the Jordanian mothers' acceptance of her autistic child? In order to answer this question, the computational and standard deviations were calculated for the estimates of the individuals in the study's sample on the subjects of the Jordanian mother's acceptance of her autistic child. The results of the study showed that the level of acceptance by the Jordanian mother to her child is low.

This may be attributed to the severity of the symptoms of autism and their abnormal and typical behaviour which are contrary to social norms, which; affects the level of their interaction and communication with others,

which again; is reflected in the interaction and communication of their mothers with the community.

Autism also shows unacceptable and strange behaviour in social situations which causes embarrassment to their mothers and thus leads to their rejection and failure. The results of this study were on agreement with the results of study of IMter and Zlitane 2015, which indicated that the mother did not accept her autistic child because of their abnormal behaviour, and fear of the child's autism.

And the study of Asfour 2012, which showed that psychological pressure, was the difficulty of the mother's motherhood of teenagers, and similar results of the study with the results of the study of tayare and action 2013. Which has indicated indicate that; the most difficult difficulties faced by mothers of autistics and mothers of children with mental disabilities, related to the difficulties of social life represented by the inability to carryout social activities and frustration and anxiety, due to the negative attitudes of others and their autistic child and their mentally disabled child.

It is also similar to the results of the Al deeb2016 study, the Rivord 2014 and the Kusikko-gauf fin 2013 study, which showed that mothers are not acceptance as a result of the child's unethical behaviour that violates social norms, and the many needs and requirements of the autistic child. The results of this study were similar to the results of the Cray 2006 study, which indicated; that a small number of parents of autistics, had adapted to their child's disability.

The results of this study were similar to those of Qaryuti 2011. Al Badyneh1996, Abdul mutti and Abo Kalla 2011, And Gabriel 1995. Whose results indicate that there is a lack of acceptance and rejection of severe disabilities such as mental retardation disabilities, disruptive behaviour of children to social standards, and the association of rejection and non-acceptance with material and social needs, and affects the marital life and cohesion nature of disability in terms of severity or lightness. The results of this study were similar to those in the theoretical framework, where Zreikat 2006 and Abu Ala 2015. And Walteraa, Taya, 2014, all indicated to the relationship between the severity of disability and its association with the behaviour of the child and the mother's needs of social and economic, and the level of family acceptance of disability. Acceptance of disability is necessary to conduct, teach and adjust appropriately, but this is difficult to achieve with autistic children, more than the Mongolian example, because autistic people lack some nonverbal skills, so parents feel difficult to accept.

As for the paragraph that states; God gave me this child, and I praise him for that, where the acceptance level was high, the researcher explanation is that; the religious trends of these mothers and this is what Karnak pointed out that religion is a powerful energy for the positive life of the families of the disabled.

Families with religious beliefs are more receptive and more adaptive to the care of the disabled, and the mothers of the disabled who engage in religious beliefs, follow more positive techniques. (Crank 1993). And corresponds to the study of Cray 2006. Whose results indicate that the larger group of autistic's fathers and mothers are facing autism through their religious beliefs and belief? The paragraph states; I fear that my daughters will not marry because of the disability of their brothers, and the paragraph that states; I suffer from martial problems because of the disability of my child, which came at an acceptable rate very low.

The researcher explanation is; that the social view of the disability that threatens the family entity and its disintegrations, and that is on agreement with what khtatnih 2000 indicated; it is not easy to marry among members of society due to the disability of a member of the family - and to the internal marriage - from the families of the disabled, and went to agrees with what Divan, Vajaratkar, Desai, Lievers & Patel 2012 Hodoppand Kranser, 1995, argued that divorce rates and separation between families with special needs were high compared to ordinary families. As agrees with the study of Kossakowska, 2010 (pisula) which its results indicates to low level of cohesion among autistic parents.

To discuss the results of the second question, which states; Are there statistically significant differences at the level of statistical significance  $\alpha = 0.05$  between the computation of the estimates of the individuals of the study's sample on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mothers' acceptance of her autistic child?

The results on the existence of statistically significant differences at the level of statistical significance  $\alpha = 0.05$  for the estimates of the sample members on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mother acceptance her autistic child due to gender variable in favour of males. Where the results of this study are similar to the results of the study of Abdulmatti and Abo Kalla 2011. and partially with the study of each of the Al Badyneh 1996. And the study of Qaryuti 2011, whose results indicated that male versus female are acceptable, and differ with the results of the study Karyuti (2008), which indicated that there are differences in receptivity attributed to the benefit of females, and what Nora (1991) found that the presence of autism in the family was more stressful than that of males and krioti (2009), that the Acceptance of disability for the female is lighter than acceptance of male disability.

The researcher explains the result of this hypothesis in the view of the Eastern society of disability, severe obstruction of the female may undermine the marriage of her sisters and threaten the whole family, which leads to the family to bear social burdens and serious stigma and internal marriage of the disabled.

The results of the third question, which states: are there statistically significant differences at the level of

statistical significance  $\alpha = 0.05$  between the computational circles of the estimates of the individuals of the study sample on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mothers' acceptance of her autistic child? The results of the study showed statistically significant differences between the two mean variables for the estimates of the sample on the receptor segments due to the variable age of the autistic child in favour of children aged 12 years or less.

The results of this study are similar to those of Rivard 2014 and Asfour 2012, which were associated with the intensity of pressure and acceptance of the age of autistic children in favour of older children and with the study of Karyouti 2008, which indicated the results of the acceptance of disabled mobility for age less than six years and the age of (6 years - 12 years), and non-acceptance for the age (18 years) and above.

In order to increase the requirements and needs, such as intensive training and permanent treatments, this burdens the family financially and morally, and increases the material needs, which leads to non-acceptance. The researcher explains the results of this hypothesis due to the increasing pressure and suffering faced by mothers of autistics in the age of teenager, because of the intensification of the unrest and increased needs and anxiety of sexual behaviour, and fear for, male or female sexual harassment, which expose mothers to feel depressed and anxiety, and suicidal thoughts, more than mothers of ordinary Children or with other Disabilities Sevim & Kealye.

The same is true of what is stated in the theoretical framework, as Masoud, Muhammad, and Murad 2005 point out; The acceptance of the child in the childhood stage is better than accepting him at the school and teenage stage, due to the lack of his/her needs at the childhood stage and the absence of his emotional behaviour in teenage, and the increasing severity of developmental problems in the late stages, resulting in additional problems, and more complex family relations.

Deterioration is evident in the mental abilities in the teenage period and some of them experience seizures, Epilepsy (Al Zaraa, 2010). It also shows in teenager many of the problems and sexual disorders represented by the development of excessive and publicly visible in public, and inductive: the tendency to detect sexual organs in public places (Odeh, 2010). This leads to greater pressure on the mother and family, and helps this is because the mother does not accept her child.

To discuss the results of the fourth question, which states: Are there statistically significant differences at the level of statistical significance  $\alpha = 0.05$ , between the computational circles of the estimates of the study sample members on the paragraphs of the Jordanian mothers' acceptance of her autistic child? The results showed that there is a statistically significant difference between the two computational averages of the study's sample on the subjects that the Jordanian mothers' acceptance for her autistic child, due to the variable monthly income of the family, in favour of families with a monthly income of 300 or more dinars.

It is consistent with the results of the study of Abdul Muti and Abo Kalla 2011, and study of Jibril 1995, and the study of Amater and Zlitani 2011, and Elson 2007, and Plsula & Suossekossua 2010; Whose results indicated a high level of pressure and lack of acceptance due to the high level of needs in mothers, and that the mothers of the disabled recorded a high degree of need for material and social support, and that there is a relationship between the inability to meet the demands and fear of the future of autism, and therefore not to accept it, and that there is a negative correlation between the needs of families and the degree of acceptance.

The results of the study show that the families of the disabled suffer from an economic burden that affects the mother's acceptance of her disabled child. Sartawi and the Al Shakhes also indicate that the amount of acceptance is related to the amount of economic support and social development of the disabled. The lack of acceptance is also linked to this.

This is what Zareiqt 2016 has pointed out; having a child with a disability may mean other financial expenses in terms of increasing expenses, adding to expenses to repair what the autistic child may destroy, and may need additional help. Financial expenditure increases with the progression of the autistic child age.

### Recommendations

- I. Conduct further studies on the admission of disabled persons to different categories by the family and society.
- II. Educating parents to accept disability and the positive result effects reflected on the disabled.
- III. Encourage families and mothers to contact official and civil institutions related to the affairs of persons with disabilities.
- IV. Provide financial support to the disabled and their families.
- V. Holding training and training courses for disabled families.

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