



## **ASSESSMENT OF HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS' PARENTS' LIFE QUALITY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

20 women, who are  $35.25 \pm 3.62$  years old and have hearing impaired children, joined this study voluntarily that was done to assess life quality of hearing impaired students' parents. To assess life quality of participants, Life Quality Survey (SF-36) was used. As a result of study, it was found that emotional role, general health and dynamism scores of parents are lower than general scores and, although mental health, physical role and social function scores are higher than emotional role, general health and dynamism scores, they are lower than general scores. In parents' physical function scores, it was found a result that is close to general scores. It can be said that having a hearing impaired child effects the life quality of parents negatively.

**Keywords:** Hearing impairment, life quality, parent

### **INTRODUCTION**

Hearing loss is a case that hearing sensibility can not fulfill completely its tasks in adaptation, developing, especially communication (Atay, 2007). Hear impairment means that audio stimulus is not enough for receiving information. To regard a student as hear impaired, hear loss must effect the educational performance. Degree of hear impairment determine the physical movements they do. children they have hear impairment that can't be improved need for special interest and care. %20-30 of hear impaired children show behavior disorders. This rate is %7-10 in normal children. It is thought that this situation arises from children don't know how they behave exactly (Özer, 2001).

It is predicted that %0,6 of world population has hear Children who have hear impairment have more negative things compared to normal children in terms of motor, mental, social and emotional aspects. Among disabled people, the most problem group is children who have hear impaired (Yılmaz and Arıkan, 2008). Having a disabled child may effect the life, emotion, thoughts and behaviours of parents negatively (Küçükler, 1993). Having a disabled child creates stress and anxiety on parents in terms of future worries, health problems, not able to give enough education, spending more time compared to other children (Özşenol and Işıksan, 2003). These kinds of cases effect parents' life qualities. Because life quality is effected by physical health, psychological situation, independent level and social relations.

### **METHOD**

Mothers of secondary school students, who continues their education at hear impaired people rehabilitation center in Afyonkarahisar, joined to this study voluntarily. To determine life quality, survey (SF-36) method was used. Life quality scale is a survey that has an international validity. Survey has 8 sub-dimensions. These sub-dimensions are Physical Function, Physical Role, Body Pain,



General Health, Dynamism, Social Function, Emotional Role, Mental Health. Data was calculated and assessed by SPSS 18 package programme

### **FINDINGS**

20 women who are  $35.25 \pm 3.62$  years old, their Body Mass Index (BMI) is  $25.46 \pm 3.06$  and have hear impaired children joined this study voluntarily. People's, who joined to the study, average of physical function score  $78.75 \pm 27.28$ , average of physical role score  $51.25 \pm 46.92$ , average of body pain score  $13.5 \pm 20.07$ , average of general health score  $42.50 \pm 9.38$ , average of dynamism score  $47.00 \pm 8.49$ , average of social function score  $50.62 \pm 13.73$ , average of emotional role score  $45.00 \pm 12.21$ , average of mental health score  $50.60 \pm 7.14$  were found. As a result of study, it was found that emotional role, general health and dynamism scores of parents are lower than general scores and, although mental health, physical role and social function scores are higher than emotional role, general health and dynamism scores, they are lower than general scores. In parents' physical function scores, it was found a result that is close to general scores.

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

Family is an institution that lives together and have relations between members. So, if a family member has a disability, this effects other family members' life (Taaniala, Syrjala, Kokkoken, & Jarvelin, 2002).

Mostly, mothers look after the disabled child. This case effects mother's business and social life. So, mother's psychological balance is effected by this case (Midence, 1994). Having a disabled child cause parents to worry about their futures. Especially, fear of "after they die, who will look after their child" increases worries(10). Mothers who have disabled children are sad because of this situation (Özşenol, Ünay, Aydın, Akın, & Gökçay, 2002). Low level of dynamism, mental health and emotional scores that take place in our study can be explained as having a disabled child, relationships with social environment and mother's worries about child's future,

No matter what the disability is, families that have disabled individuals are effected psychologically. Concretely, they have difficulties in child care and education. In families that have disabled child, changing occurs in their life style and their relations with environment are effected negatively (Özşenol, Işıksan, Ünay, Aydın, Akın, & Gökçay, 2003). Families that have a disabled child spend less time for joining entertainment environment, spending less time with social environment and travelling. Families don't want to meet because of society's view to disabled individual. This situation effects the social life of parents who have disabled child (Çavuşoğlu, 2002). Low level of the social function, physical role scores which take place in our study can be explained with reasons above. Parents of hear impaired children bear several problems that arise from having a disabled child. These problems effects the life quality of parents negatively.

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