



# Counselling Needs for People with Special Needs and their Families from the Perspective of Workers in the Social Care Centers

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## ABSTRACT

The study aimed to identify the counseling needs of people with special needs and their families from the point of view of workers in the social care centers, and whether there is a difference in the workers' views regarding the counseling needs according to the variables of age and gender. The sample of the study included (94) persons of both sexes who were randomly chosen among workers in the social care centers in the city of Dohuk. Those who applied the questionnaire that was prepared by researchers, which included (35) paragraphs distributed in five areas. Each paragraph has three alternatives to answer. The data were processed using the pearson correlation coefficient, and analysis of variance, a statistical method. The results showed that people with special needs and their families have counselling needs in several areas, which are, respectively: (the psychological field, the family field, the health field, the social field, the educational field). the results revealed that there are no significant differences in the workers' views regarding the extension needs according to gender variable, as well as the results indicated that there are significant differences in the views of workers regarding the counselling needs according to age variable. In light of the results, a set of recommendations and proposals were presented.

**Keywords:** Counselling, special needs, families, workers, social care.



## Introduction

Since ancient times, disability has been an obsession, and it has remained until now. Societies have varied in their view of the disabled and in their treatments of them according to the religious and social values, norms, and ideas prevailing in each of them. With the progress of thought and human civilization, and the development of research, students began this category of taking their natural right to care, guide and rehabilitation of happily life. In the context of their potential and capabilities, they are trying to transform these forces and human energies broken into productive forces of the contribution of actors in the process of progress contributes. The social role played by this group which is based on the efficacy and positivity, not on the negativity and indifference.

Global estimates indicated that (10%) of the total population, that is, approximately (600) million in the world, are in need of some kind of educational and special rehabilitation assistance for many reasons, as this number increases with the growth in the population. By the year, 2025 AD, the world will reach nine billion people (David, 2006). It was also found that the proportion of the disabled rises in developing countries, reaching (15%) and even (25%) in some regions of the third world countries (Awada, 2006).

There is no doubt that various disabilities affected by the physical, health, cognitive, psychological and social aspects of the person with a disability, and the impact of these disabilities is not limited to the individual with a disability himself, but also on the family and society. Effectively to meet the special needs of individuals with disabilities, and to reach to the maximum degree of development of their energies and abilities which allows various programs. It must be implemented at different levels that take into account the aspects affected by disability, including special education programs, therapeutic intervention, and different rehabilitation programs, including different programs. The success and effectiveness of these programs depended on the extent to which they ultimately achieve resilience and ability for individuals with disabilities to live independently in an understanding family and supportive community (Al-Samadi, 1999).

The education of children with special needs is one of the main issues that receive continuous attention from those in charge of the educational process all over the world, as it is important in meeting the needs of the students. The integration of children with special needs represents one of the modern educational concepts that have become part of educational policies in many developed countries in the field of education for people with special needs. The past decades have witnessed successive developments (Aloud et al. 2011). There is no doubt that the development in the perception and education of persons with disabilities reflects on an evolution in society's attitudes towards them, and the shift in the educational style from private institutions to public awareness of education in education however from private institutions to learning in order to advocate and recognize their rights to education in public schools (Al Zyoudi, et al., 2011; De Boer, et al., 2012).

(Al-Muhairi, 2008) points that at inclusion from a point of view based on the importance of individuals obtaining their right to education regardless of their



abilities, and providing the principle of equal opportunities. Parents in the evaluation process on appropriate education in the least restrictive environment, and the preparation of an appropriate individual educational program, and the provision of services that meet the individual needs of all students.

(Abu Qamar and Musalaha, 2007) points out to the importance of the integration program for the following reasons:

1. The integration process leads to a change in the social view of disability from negative to positive, by recognizing a child with a disability and searching for a solution or solutions to his problem through the integration program.
2. The increase of children with disabilities in some societies, especially the developing societies, and the scarcity of private educational institutions.
3. The development of educational philosophical thought in support of the idea of integrating the disabled in regular schools.
4. The emergence of laws and legislations that require giving children with disabilities their health, psychological, educational and social rights, just like their peers.

The results of the studies (Al-Khatib, 2004) indicated that the academic and social benefits of inclusion for children with special needs, and the impact of this on the psychological and social adjustment of children and their families. In spite of the benefits of integration, it should be noted that the process of putting the merger into place for implementation is not an easy process due to the presence of many factors and challenges that are reflected on these students in the event of a conflict and in the event of the correct implementation or his family, the school, the entire educational system, or the community in which the child lives (Al-Quraiti, 2011).

In order to make the process of integrating students with needs in the regular school of an effective process that meets the needs of these students. there is an urgent need to study the currently practiced integration programs, the extent of their support for academic performance, the social and emotional adaptation of students with special needs. It is also considered a topic of trends towards disabled children and children with disabilities. The effectiveness of integration programs, especially the attitudes of ordinary students towards their peers with disabilities due to the direct interaction between these students and the role of educational, psychological and family counseling emerges.

Mavropoulou & Sideridis (2014) indicated that the importance of trends whether it's positive or negative, it's for the performance of students with special needs. Hence, the need to study the effectiveness of counseling programs that works to develop positive trends towards inclusion, thus contributing to the development of inclusion programs and providing support for academic performance and support for social and emotional adjustment of students with disabilities.

It is known that special education aims to modifying the attitudes of ordinary individuals towards individuals with disabilities in order to increase their emotional and social acceptance which is reflected positively on the services provided to them and the improvement of educational, social programs and educational programs for their needs (Wolfer, et al., 2012). Group counseling can contribute in this context. In a study conducted by Bebono and other resreachers (Papaionnou et al., 2013) aimed to



learn the effectiveness of a training program based on the awareness of the nature of disability. The result of the study indicated a positive effect of the program. Ordinary persons view towards their peers with disabilities as a result of their participation in this program, and their access to adequate information about the nature of disability however how to deal with people with disabilities.

The delegation of handicapped people in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq received the attention of the official and civil authorities, and the care of various affairs. It was crystallized in a modern social philosophy that views people with disabilities as a social group that it has the full right to equal opportunities just like other members of the society. Society's commitment to developing its social philosophy towards people with disabilities. In implementation of this law, the Ministry of Education in the region approved the educational integration system for children with special needs in public schools. But we believe that the success of the integration process in our schools need to provide support services in addition to the educational service including educational and psychological counseling for individuals with special needs and their families.

#### **The problem of the study:**

The category of the students with disabilities in general faces many obstacles in its adaptation and integration with society, especially in our eastern societies, which is still lacking many legislations and administrations that enables the category of society to contribute to it. Facilitating opportunities for rehabilitation and development to overcome the view of compassion, at times, which is dependent on the society at another time.

The researchers noticed through their academic work and their communication with educational institutions, centers for caring and rehabilitation for individuals with special needs, and the discussion of workers in those institutions that there is a lack of counseling services in general. Many families do not know about the services and opportunities available to handicapped individuals. Rather, many parents are ignorant of the ways of dealing with children with special needs and lack of skills which requires the availability of counseling services to help them overcome difficulties also finding out solutions to the problems that they may face in daily life. Accordingly, the current research problem can be formulated in the following questions:

What are the counseling needs of people with special needs and their families from the viewpoint of workers in social care centers? And does the perception of workers in social care centers differ regarding extension needs according to demographic variables?

#### **The importance of studying:**

The importance of the current research can be illustrated through two aspects:

A. The theoretical importance: It is represented by:

1. Focusing on the importance of the research variable, namely, the counselling needs of people with special needs and their families which is one of the important variables. It needs more studies and research in the current period as our society has



witnessed social and cultural changes. The economic crisis that had repercussions on the nature of daily life and in particular on individuals with special needs.

2. Providing the library with the theoretical aspects presented by this research on family counseling that fall within the framework of counseling in its various of family, educational and professional fields. As local studies are still limited in scopes, especially those related to counseling people with special needs.

B- Application importance: It is represented in:

1- Obtaining accurate digital indicators about the counselling needs of people with special needs and their families in the Kurdistan Region. It can be done by analyzing the data that can be obtained from the application of scientific tools.

2. The results of research can be invested in the field of human development and the development of social care services so that the orientation of individuals with special needs and their families in our society becomes a positive direction towards life by helping them to solve the problems and difficulties that they face in daily life.

3- Investing the results in building informational and informational programs that develops the positive side of personality among individuals with special needs in our society. By spreading guidance awareness, which reflects positively on the social life of people with special needs in general and their professional and family life in particular.

#### **Aims of the study:**

The current study aims to identify:

1- The health, psychological, social, educational and family counseling needs of people with special needs and their families from the viewpoint of workers in the social care centers.

2- Exposing the significant of differences in the health, psychological, social, educational and family counseling needs of people with special needs and their families from the viewpoint of workers in the social care centers according to age and gender variables.

#### **The limits of the study:**

The current of the study is limited to a sample of workers in the social care centers in the city of Dohuk during the academic year 2019/2020.

#### **Defining terms:**

Guidance needs: They are the needs that workers in social care centers think are necessary to help individuals with special needs and their families in solving their problems. In the current study, the needs are divided into five areas, which the workers in the care centers deem to necessary to being met. The following is a definition of each of these needs:

1- Health needs: the needs are for the workers in the care centers which they think are necessary in treating the health problems of individuals with special needs.

2. Psychological needs: the needs are associated with the psychological aspect, and meeting them is necessity to strengthen the psychological aspect and increase self-confidence among individuals with special needs.

3-Social status among people with special needs.



4. Educational needs: the needs that the workers see as necessary to help individuals with special needs in education and developing their academic performances.

5- Family needs: are the essential needs of the individual's family with special needs and in meeting them. It enables the family to play its active role in raising people with special needs.

#### **previous studies:**

The two researchers conducted a literature review that dealt with the issue of extension needs. accordingly, some studies that focused on the problems of the disabled and the difficulties are facing by people with special needs, their need for guidance in order to benefit from their procedures also their findings will be presented, and they will be presented in chronological order.

Sharari's study (2002) aimed to know the social difficulties facing the visually impaired from the point of view of parents and teachers, and to know the impact of some variables (parental treatment, monthly family income, educational level, educational level). The study community was made up of all the blind students at the Al-Noor Institute in Riyadh, which is numbered of (126) students. The data were collected in the field through two questionnaires. The results indicated that social difficulties are dependence on others, social anxiety, cooperation, and the skill in establishing personal social relationships and skills. As the study showed that there are differences on the dimensions between the evaluations of parents and teachers. they were in the favor of the teachers. As the results showed many differences on the dimensions of the different scales.

Al-Zuraikat and Al-Imam (2005) conducted a study aimed at identifying the problems of the students with hearing disabilities and their relationship to some variables. To achieve this, the researchers developed a study tool consisting of four areas: family problems, Al-Shakaliya problems, and the problems of communication. The sample of the study consisted of (130) male and female students. The results indicated that there are statistically significant differences in the age variable in the areas of family problems, communication problems, and emotional problems. The study recommended the necessity of providing students with hearing disabilities with counseling, educational, and family services to meet their special needs.

The study of Beth & Gloria (2014) dealt with the effect of counseling on individuals with special needs. The study indicated that people with special educational needs find it extremely difficult to comply with the requirements and expectations of the society. the reason for this may be due to their lack of performance or capabilities. Potentially, they are often treated with little or no interest, and sometimes sympathy for them, with nervousness, fear, embarrassment or even disgust. Accordingly, the study discussed the effects of counseling on people with special needs, as well as the challenges that they face in the community and school. By discussing the concepts related to counseling. They stressed that the participation of people with disabilities in counseling is thus improving the challenges facing people with special needs and perhaps addressing them. The results of the study indicated that the educational challenges facing this group of people are very clear and they need new strategies to solve them through counseling.



Through the aforementioned brief presentation of some of the efforts exerted in studying the subject of extension needs. It becomes clear that individuals with special needs face various difficulties and challenges which requires providing counseling services to them. It is noticeable that despite the volume of studies that reflect a wide interest in this phenomenon which took place at the Arab and foreign levels. there is a scarcity at the local level that calls for research on the subject of extension needs, especially in the light of the social transformations witnessed by the society in its various segments and institutions, especially a group of people with special needs which is considered by many psychologists to be more susceptible however willing to be affected by psychological pressures. It necessitates studying their counseling needs, which is what this study seeks to achieve.

### **Method and procedures:**

#### **1- The Approach:**

In order to achieve the objectives of the research, the researchers used the descriptive research-survey study's methodology in the study. It can be said that the nature of the phenomenon or problem is what forces the researcher to determine the type of research method that it should be used in reaching the results that is given the nature of the study and the objectives of two researchers seek to achieve them, to answer the questions contained in the research. The two researchers have relied on the survey method by the sample method. It is the most used method in psychological and social research which is based on the study of reality or phenomena as it exists in reality. It is concerned with an accurate description. The survey is done by the sampling method in which it is sufficient to study a limited number of cases within the limits of time, effort and capabilities available to the researcher.

The descriptive approach is defined as: "A form of organized scientific analysis and interpretation to describe a certain phenomenon or situation, and quantitatively depict it by collecting codified data and information about the phenomenon or situation, classifying it, analyzing it and subjecting it to careful study (Melhem, 2008).

#### **2- Society and sample study:**

The research community is composed of all the workers in the social care centers for people with special needs affiliated to the directorate of handicapped care in Dohuk Governorate which is the number of (200) employees and employees distributed into five institutes for education, training and rehabilitation of people with special needs, namely: (Ronahi Institute for the Blind, Hiwa Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, Institute Awat for the mentally retarded, Hana Institute for Physical Disabled, Autism Center).

As for the study sample, it consisted of (94) individuals of both sexes who were randomly selected from workers in social care centers for people with special needs, and the sample constituted (47%) of the community members. Table (1) shows the characteristics of the sample.



Table (1)

## Demographic characteristics of the research sample

variable	Repetition	The ratio
<b>Gender:</b>		
Male	30	%31,9
female	64	%68,1
<b>Education level:</b>		
Medium	12	%12,8
Middle school	11	%11,6
Institute	34	%36,2
University	37	%39,4
<b>Social status:</b>		
Unmarried	79	%84,0
Married	12	%12,8
Widower	2	%2,1
absolute	1	%1,0
<b>Center or Institute:</b>		
Hannah	11	%11,6
Hiwa	20	%21,3
Ronahi	20	%21,3
Autism	21	%22,3
Awat	22	%23,4

**3. Study tool:**

The current study relied on data collection and measuring the counselling needs on a questionnaire prepared by the two researchers. The questionnaire consists in its final form of (35) paragraphs representing and covering five dimensions that constitute the areas of guiding needs, and each field includes (7) paragraphs, these groups are designed to constitute tests sub-independent. each of them which can be used as a tool to uncover a guiding need in a specific area.

The researchers choose this formula in preparing a research tool because of its importance that is evident in its coverage of the need for extension services in several dimensions or the absence of the need for guidance in that area, and its suitability for different age levels and both genders.

**Tool validation:**

Honesty is one of the most important characteristics of educational and psychological tests and standards, as it indicates the extent to which the scale performs the purpose that it should achieve, and the extent to which it performs the function. It is supposed





to perform when it is applied to a class for which it has been established. (Lind Coast) means validity as the degree of validity with which the scale measures what we want to measure (El-Nimr, 2008).

The validity of the tool used in the current research was verified by using the apparent validity, through a competent judgment on the degree of test measurements for the measured characteristics, and since this judgment is characterized by a degree of subjectivity, so the test is given to more than one arbitrator and the degree of apparent validity of the test can be evaluated through agreement between the judgments 'estimates (Odeh, 2002). Most methods of estimating apparent validity depend on the experts' judgments and this means that their opinions regarding the extent of symmetry between the scale paragraphs and the content of the attribute or characteristic to be measured. The number must not be less than five for the purpose of revealing the extent of consistency in their estimates. It is preferable that the percentage of agreement on each paragraph of the paragraphs is not less The test is 80% (Abu Allam, 2014). In order to ensure the validity of the paragraphs, we presented the tool, in its initial form including (35) paragraphs to a group of experts and professors refereeing in the field of education and psychology. The number reached (10) experts to pass their judgment on the formulation of the paragraphs and their suitability to measure the topic of the research. There was unanimous opinion on the validity and suitability of the paragraphs to measure the counselling needs, and this is considered an indicator of the validity of the tool.

#### **Tool reliability:**

The researchers of this study reached the reliability of the questionnaire by applying the test and re applying it to a sample consisting of (20) people working in the social care centers. The correlation coefficients between the two applications for the tool fields ranged between (0.81-0.87) indicating at a level of significance (0,05), and Table (2) shows that.

**Table (2)**  
**Correlation coefficients between the first and second applications of the questionnaire.**

Coefficient of correlation between the two applications (reliability)				
First field (Health)	Second field (Social)	Third field (Psychological)	Forth field (Educational)	Fifth field (Family)
0,85	0,82	0,84	0,81	0,87

Based on the foregoing, the research tool has the power to provide psychometric properties in it through indicators of validity and reliability.

#### **4- Statistical methods:**



The data in the study were processed by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program, and the researcher adopted the following statistical methods:

1. Frequencies and percentages to determine the sample characteristics.
2. An analysis of variance to perform a comparison between the averages of security scores according to the minority variable.
3. Binary variance analysis is to make a comparison in the sense of security according to the sex and age variables.

#### Search results and discussion:

The results will be displayed according to the research objectives as follows:

The first objective: (the health, psychological, social, educational and family counseling needs of people with special needs and their families from the viewpoint of workers in social care centers).

In order to determine the counselling needs, the weighted average of scores for each of the paragraphs was calculated as the paragraph that gets a weighted mean higher than the standard adopted by the researchers (the hypothetical mean of the three-alternate scale) and the adult (2) degree is considered as a problem that defines the needs in light of it, as follows:

#### 1- Results of the health field:

It is evident from the analysis of the data related to the health field that the range of weighted mean values ranged between (2.79 - 1.22) for the items included in this field. according to the standard adopted by the researchers, it can be said that there are (5) needs whose weighted mean exceeds the average scores of the scale, the trio of alternatives was ranked first, paragraph No. (6), which is (People with special needs suffer from physical problems) While paragraph No. (5) came in second place, which is (People with special needs suffer from speech problems). in the third place came paragraph No. (3) The saying (People with special needs suffer from breathing problems), while Paragraph No. (1) was ranked fourth, which states that (People with special needs suffer from problems with vision), and in the fifth place came Paragraph No. (2) which says (People with special needs suffer from hearing problems), while paragraphs (4 and 7) came last, and their weighted average was less than criterion (2) and therefore it is not considered a problem. Table (3) shows that.

**Table (3)**  
**Students' counseling needs in the health field**

N.	Paragraph	Weighted center	Paragraph arrangement
1	People with special needs suffer from vision problems	2.24	4
2	People with special needs suffer from hearing problem	2.31	5
3	People with special needs suffer from breathing problems	2.33	3
4	People with special needs suffer from the problem of epilepsy	1.22	7
5	People with special needs suffer from speech problems	2.57	2
6	People with special needs suffer from physical problems	2.79	1
7	People with special needs suffer from sleep disturbance	1.45	6



## 2- Social field outcomes:

It is evident from the analysis of the data that it related to the social field that the range of weighted mean values ranged between (2.76 - 1.22) for the paragraphs included in this field. according to the standard adopted by the researchers, it can be said that there are (4) counselling needs exceeding the weighted mean of the average scores, the triple scale of alternatives was ranked first, paragraph No. (6), which is (People with special needs suffer from a negative view of others), while Paragraph No. (7) came in second place, which is (People with special needs suffer from a problem of mockery), and in the third place came Paragraph No. (5) The saying (People with special needs suffer from the problem of harassment), while Paragraph No. (2) was ranked fourth, which states that (People with special needs suffer from difficulty getting along with colleagues), while the last three ranks came in paragraphs (3, 4, 1). The weighted average for each of them is less than criterion (2) and therefore is not considered a problem, as its shown in Table (4).

**Table (4)**  
**Students' counseling needs in the social field**

N.	Paragraph	Weighted center	Paragraph arrangement
1	People with special needs struggle with their parents	1,22	7
2	People with special needs have difficulty getting along with colleagues	2,35	4
3	People with special needs struggle with teachers	1,43	6
4	People with special needs suffer from stress with siblings	1,98	5
5	People with special needs suffer from harassment	2,48	3
6	People with special needs suffer from negative perceptions of others	2,76	1
7	People with special needs have a problem with making fun	2,54	2

## 3- Psychological field results:

It is evident from the analysis of the data related to the psychological fields that the range of weighted mean values ranged between (2.85 - 1.89) for the items included in this field. according to the standard adopted by the researchers, it can be said that there are (6) counselling needs whose weighted mean exceeds the average scores, the triple scale of alternatives, where paragraph No. (6) was ranked first which is (people with special needs suffer from a lack of self-confidence) while paragraph No. (5) came in the second place which is (people with special needs suffer from a feeling of shyness). In third place, it came paragraph No. (4), The saying (People with special needs suffer from excessive anxiety) while Paragraph No. (7) occupied the fourth place which states that (People with special needs suffer from a feeling of inferiority) however paragraph No. (1) came in the fifth place, it indicates that (People with special needs suffer from a feeling of isolation). Paragraph (2) ranked sixth among the counseling needs in the psychological field, saying (People with special needs suffer from confusion while speaking) furthermore, Paragraph (2) says that (People with



special needs suffer from rapid anger). In the salary the latter, the weighted average of which is less than criterion (2) therefore it is not considered a problem, as its shown in Table (5).

**Table (5)**  
**Counseling needs of students in the psychological field**

N.	Paragraph	Weighted center	Paragraph arrangement
1	People with special needs experience a feeling of isolation	2,58	5
2	People with special needs suffer from confusion while speaking	2,43	6
3	People with special needs often get angry	1,89	7
4	People with special needs suffer from a feeling of excessive anxiety	2.64	3
5	People with special needs suffer from feeling shy.	2,76	2
6	People with special needs suffer from a lack of self-confidence	2,85	1
7	People with special needs suffer from a feeling of inferiority	2,62	4

#### 4- Results of the educational field (academic):

It is evident from the analysis of the data; it was related to the educational field that the range of weighted mean values ranged between (2.41 - 1.58) for the items included in this field. The triple scale of alternatives was ranked first, paragraph No. (1), which is (people with special needs suffer from distraction and lack of concentration) while paragraph No. (3) came in second place, which is (people with special needs suffer from difficulties in reading). In the third place, it came paragraph No. (6) It is said that (People with special needs suffer from difficulties in calculating) however Paragraph No. (4) occupied the fourth place which states that (People with special needs suffer from irregularity in work). Paragraph No. (2) came in the fifth place which indicates that (people with special needs suffer from lack of motivation to learn) while paragraph (5) ranked sixth among the counseling needs in the psychological field, it is saying that (People with special needs suffer from difficulties in writing), while Paragraph (7) that says (People with special needs suffer Special needs from test anxiety (test anxiety) is in the last place, and its weighted average is less than criterion (2) therefore is not considered a problem, as it is shown in Table (6).

**Table (6)**  
**Counseling needs of students in the educational field (academic)**

N.	Paragraph	Weighted center	Paragraph arrangement
1	People with special needs suffer from distraction and lack of focus	2,41	1
2	People with special needs suffer from a lack of motivation to learn	2,11	5
3	People with special needs have difficulty reading	2,25	2
4	People with special needs suffer from irregularity at all times	2,18	4
5	People with special needs have difficulty writing	2,08	6
6	People with special needs have difficulties with calculation	2,20	3
7	People with special needs suffer from test anxiety	1,58	7

#### 5. Results of the family domain:



It is evident from the analysis of the data which is related to the educational field, the range of weighted mean values ranged between (2.66 - 2.30) for the items included in this field. according to the standard adopted by the researchers, it can be said that there are (7) counselling needs exceeding the weighted mean of the average scores, the triple scale of alternatives was ranked first in paragraph No. (2) which is (The family of the disabled suffers from their lack of knowledge of the available services.) While Paragraph No. (3), it came in the second place, which is (the family of the disabled suffers from psychological pressure due to the presence of a disabled person). In the third place, paragraph No. (1) came by saying that (the family of a disabled person suffers from a lack of knowledge of how to deal with their child). Paragraph No. (4) occupied the fourth place which states that (the family of the disabled suffers from the negative perception by others of them) however paragraph No. (5) In the fifth place, it indicates that (the family of the disabled suffers from the economic burdens resulting from disability). paragraph (7) is ranked as the sixth among the counseling needs in the psychological field, it was saying that (the family of the disabled suffers from a lack of familiarity with behavior modification methods) AS Paragraph (6) demonstrates (the family of the disabled suffers from disturbed relationships within the family) in the last place. It is shown in Table 7.

**Table (7)**  
**Counseling needs of students in the family domain**

N.	Paragraph	Weighted center	Paragraph arrangement
1	The family of a disabled person suffers from a lack of knowledge of how to deal with their child	2,48	3
2	The family of a disabled person suffers from not being aware of the available services	2,66	1
3	The family of a disabled person suffers from psychological stress due to the presence of a disabled person	2,55	2
4	The family of a disabled person suffers from negative perception by others of them	2.45	4
5	The family of a handicapped person suffers from the economic burdens of disability	2,38	5
6	The family of a disabled person suffers from disturbed relationships within the family	2,30	7
7	The family of the disabled person suffers from a lack of familiarity with behavior modification methods	2,35	6

These results can be explained by the deteriorating of social and economic conditions that is in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is experiencing in general due to the economic crisis and previous wars. This led to weak and limited services provided to individuals with special needs and their families which is resulted in the existence of many problems that require the provision of counseling services to help them in overcoming those problems and difficulties that this category faces in daily life.



The second objective: (To reveal the significance of the differences in the health, psychological, social, educational and family counseling needs of people with special needs and their families from the viewpoint of workers in the social care centers according to age and gender variables).

In order to know the significance of the differences in the health, psychological, social, educational and family counseling needs of people with special needs and their families from the viewpoint of workers in the social care centers according to age and gender variables. the data were statistically processed using the binary variance analysis, and the following results were shown:

- 1- The existence of significant differences in the counselling needs of people with special needs and their families from the viewpoint of workers in social care centers at a significance level (0.05) due to the age variable.
2. There are no significant differences in the counselling needs of people with special needs and their families from the point of view of workers in the social care centers at a significance level (0.05) attributable to the gender variable.
3. Likewise, significant differences in the counseling needs of people with special needs, their families did not appear from the viewpoint of workers in the social care centers at a significance level (0.05) due to the interaction between the gender and age variables. Table (8) illustrates this.

Table (8)

## Difference in counseling needs according to gender and age

The source of the contrast	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Average of squares	F value	Indication level
Gender	1.225	1	1.225	0.013	No Sig
Age	591.971	2	295.985	3.195	0.05
Interaction	2.951	2	1.476	0.016	No Sig
The error	12968.721	140	92.634		

This result can be explained by saying that both sexes (males and females) lived in the same environment and they are exposed to the same social influences. Therefore, there was no significant difference in their views on the counseling needs of people with special needs and their families while there were statistically significant differences according to the age variable because of the variation in ages. It leads to the differences in experiences and information however this leads to differences in views on these aspects.

**Recommendations and proposals:**

In addition to the intended benefit of the current study, the researchers recommend the following:

- 1- Providing counseling services by establishing centers to guide people with special needs and their families affiliated with the General directorate of social welfare or in the universities.



- 2- Preparing mentors specialized in counseling people with special needs and family counseling to work in this area and to support their social role.
3. The general directorate of education in the province opened developmental courses to train special education teachers in the schools to guide people with special needs and their families in order to contribute in this field.
4. The media shed light on the counseling needs of people with special needs and their families, and the positive role of counseling in this regard.
5. Specialists in the universities prepare and implement counseling programs to alleviate the psychological and social pressures that families of children with special needs suffer.
6. Finally, the researchers believed that there is a need to conduct more studies in this field in order to highlight the role of educational and psychological counseling in the adaptation of people with special needs and their families.

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