

# **MENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY OF MARRIAGE AMONG PARENTS TO AUTISTIC CHILDREN: A MULTIVARIATE MODEL**

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**T**he research validates a multivariate model that predicts mental health and quality of marriage to coping successfully with an autistic child. The model comprises the elements: parental stress, parental resources, parental mental health, quality of marriage and the child's autism symptoms. 176 parents of children aged between 6 to 16 diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) answered several questionnaires measuring parental stress, personal resources (sense of coherence, locus of control, social support), mental health and marriage quality and the child's autism symptoms. Path analysis showed that sense of coherence, internal locus of control, social support and quality of marriage increase the ability to cope with the stress of parenting an autistic child. Directions for further research are suggested.

## **Biography**

Ayelet Siman Tov is a Ph.d., Scholar in department of Special Education from Kibbutzim College of Education Technology and the ArtsTel Aviv in Israel.

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