

- 🌸 **Name of the study:** Aging Families with a child with Intellectual Disabilities in Ultra-Orthodox society in Home and Out-of-home Housing: Needs versus Resources from an Ecological point of view
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Abstract

With the increase in life expectancy of people with intellectual disabilities, the aging experiences of families living alongside them have received increasing attention in both research and practice. This issue has not been researched in the Ultra-Orthodox Jewish sectors of contemporary societies, despite the relatively high prevalence of intellectual developmental disability in these communities. The aim of this research was to describe and analyze the experience of the aging ultra-Orthodox family alongside and with a person with developmental intellectual disabilities in home and out-of-home placement, focusing on the resources and family needs. This research was conducted with an emphasis on the phenomenology of the phenomenon together with ecological-cultural aspects of the arrangement of reciprocal relations between the person with the condition, his or her family, and the Ultra-Orthodox community. This research studied a sample that included 14 Ultra-Orthodox aging family units that reside alongside a person with an intellectual disability. In half of those family units, the son/daughter with an intellectual disability resided in the same domestic household, while in the other half, the relevant son/daughter resided out of the home. In every family unit, parents, other caretakers, and the person with intellectual disability were interviewed. In addition, 12 key members of the Ultra-Orthodox community were sampled (rabbis, heads of charity organizations, neighbors residing close to intellectually disabled people and treatment personnel). In total, the sample included 55 interviewees according to the theoretical saturation principle.

The findings indicated that the aging experience of family members of intellectually disabled people in Ultra-Orthodox society is based on three main themes.

The first theme was: "'we have the strengths but we are tired": the challenges that the aging Ultra-Orthodox families, alongside and with a person with developmental intellectual disabilities, confront". This theme compares the needs and resources of home housing families to out-of-home housing families. The second and third themes discuss the joint experience of Ultra-Orthodox families whose intellectually disabled son/daughter lives at home or out of home placement.

The second themes: "it must be scaring to be like this...where are dad and mom?": finitude of life of parents in relation to a person with developmental intellectual disabilities in the Ultra-Orthodox context". The third theme was: "'Left rejects and right brings closer': the ambivalent attitude in Ultra-Orthodox society towards aging families living alongside a person with an intellectual disability"

The discussion chapter deals with the main findings of the analysis in light of the academic literature. In the first part of the discussion, the familial life experience of aging Ultra-Orthodox families of people with an intellectual disability is introduced. Theories that deal with inter-generational relations in the family are used as an anchor to understand what shapes patterns of familial togetherness in an Ultra-Orthodox reality of life.

The second part of the discussion deals with the finitude of life and the right of people with developmental intellectual disabilities to mourn, examines the reasons why ultra-Orthodox people with developmental intellectual disabilities are prevented from mourning and the mental costs of this exclusion. On the other hand, the importance of Jewish ceremonies that allow a person with developmental intellectual disabilities to worship and present his mourning in front of the community to which he belongs.

The third part of the discussion focuses on a ecological examination of the relationship between the person with the intellectual disability (including his/her family) and the Ultra-Orthodox community, the rabbinical authorities and the treatment institutions of the state

The implications of the research for practice and policy indicate the need to treat the family of the person with developmental intellectual disabilities as a whole entity. The rights of all family members should be protected and promoted. A tailored service package should be developed for them, while recognizing the unique characteristics of the ultra-Orthodox family. Culturally sensitive therapeutic approaches should be considered as the basic attitude.

The implications of the research for practice and policy indicate the need to treat the person's family with Moshe as a whole entity. The rights of all family members should be protected, promoted and a tailored service package developed for them. Recognize the unique characteristics of the ultra-Orthodox family and use **Cultural sensitivity** intervention approaches.

Keywords: intellectual disability, ultra-Orthodox, aging, out of home placement, intersectionality



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