

The Study of Predictors of Family Life Impact in the Young Children with Developmental Disabilities

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Abstract

Background: A multivariate approach to the study of relationships between family life impact of the young children with developmental disability (DD) and parents/family/child demographic and service program variables has not examined in a large, multi-site sample in Taiwan. The purpose of this study was to describe family life impact, examine relationships between family life impact and demographic and service programs of early interventions, and identify predictors of family life impact in the young children with DD. **Methods:** Data were collected from nonrandom sample of 25 counties of Taiwan (27 Case Management and Early Intervention Centers of the young children with DD) ($n=415$). The well credit, reliable, and self-report instrument of Family Life Impact of young children with special need (*FLI-YCSN*) was used. The data obtained were statistically analysed by factor analysis, multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA), Pearson's correlation, canonical correlation, stepwise regression. **Results:** Family life impact can be classified into four dimensions: Family daily routine impact, Family emotion & problem solving impact, Family interaction & social impact, and Family self-development & career impact. The most impact factor was Family self-development & career. A significant difference on total family life impact was found among the family financial status, parent's burden for maintaining family function, severity of disabilities, hour and inclusive early intervention, welfare, and credit for disability. Four out of 38 variables were significant predictors and explained 28.4% the variance of family life impact: the welfare of low income, persons of family, day care service of early intervention, and age of child with DD. **Conclusions:** Predictors of family life impact in the young children with DD were primarily welfare of low income. Knowledge of these factors provides (1) information to identify the high risk family and (2) direction for the development of family empowerment service program to attenuate the negative family life impact of the young children with DD.

Key words: Developmental disability, family life impact, high risk family, young children