

The Needs of Caregivers caring for children with autism in Morocco

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Published in: "Autism: the international journal of research and practice, Special Issue: Autism Research in a Global Context", 2023

What We Looked at in This Study?

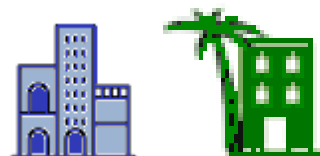
- What are the care needs of Moroccan caregivers raising a child with autism?
- Which services or interventions did they receive?
- Where there any differences in needs and service use between caregivers living in urban and rural areas in Morocco?

Why This Study Matters?

Understanding caregivers' needs will help inform healthcare policymakers, develop or improve services, and empower caregivers.

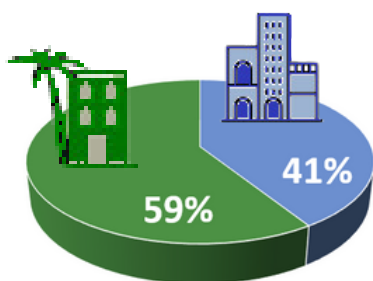
Our Approach: How We Conducted the Study

We interviewed parents of children with autism in urban and rural areas. ^{1,2}



Who Participated in our Study?

131 parents / caretakers from 5 of the 12 regions of Morocco

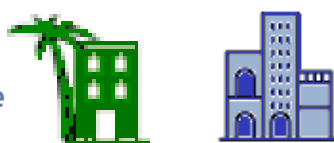


More mothers than fathers participated in urban areas.



The educational level of mothers in urban areas was higher than that of mothers in rural areas.

The autistic children were 2-18 years of age



No significant differences in age or gender between the children from urban and rural areas

¹ Urban communities defined as >100,000 inhabitants

² the Caregiver Needs Survey was used, developed by Autism Speaks (Daniels et al., 2017).

Key Discoveries



Caregivers often had to travel long distances to receive diagnostic services, especially those from rural areas.



76% of the caregivers reported financial problems due to caring for their autistic child.

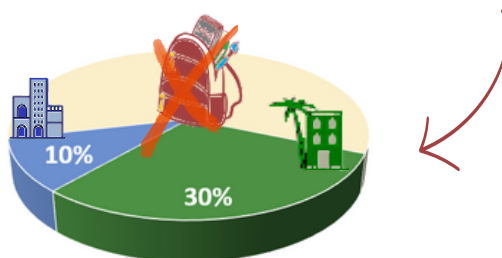


Many caregivers experienced stigma or feelings of helplessness.



Approximately a quarter of all the children were not enrolled in school:

Education



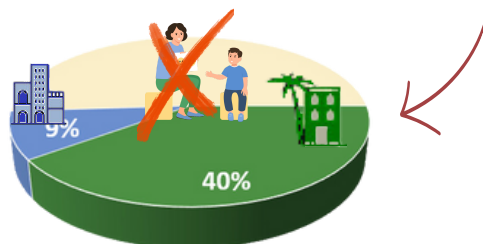
Care

These were the interventions children most often received:



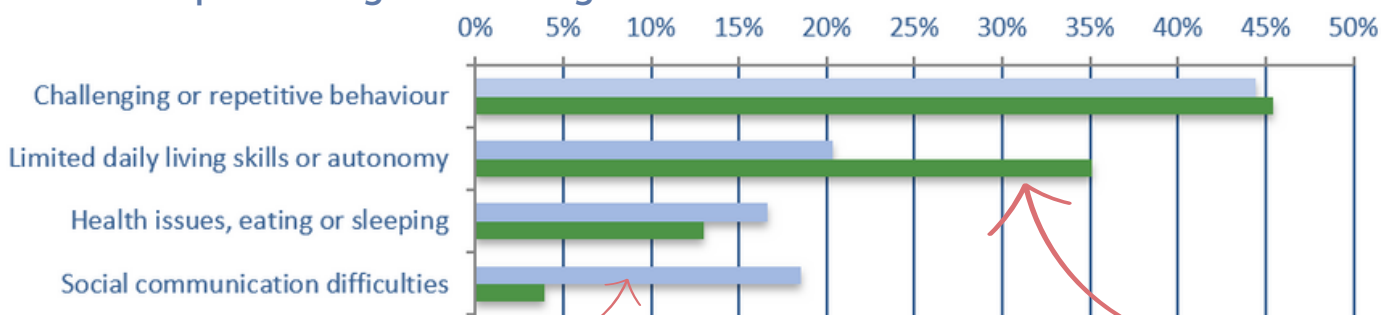
- Speech / language therapy
- ABA
- Social skills training
- Psycho-motor therapy
- Sensory integration therapy
- Cognitive therapy
- Occupational therapy

BUT: a significant proportion of children never received any intervention:



Needs

Top challenges to caring for a child with autism



Limited social-communicational skills most challenging






Limited autonomy skills most challenging

What did we Learn?

-  Children from urban areas were much more likely to receive intervention and attend school than children from rural areas.
-  Caregivers expressed similar needs for improved care and education.
-  Caregivers from rural areas reported more challenges with their children's autonomy skills, such as eating and toilet training.
-  Caregivers from urban areas reported more challenges with their children's social-communicational skills.

What are the Implications of our Results?

-  These differences may inform healthcare policy-makers and program developers.
-  Adaptive interventions are important to respond to regional needs.
-  Challenges in caring such as costs, barriers in access to education, care and information, or stigma, should be addressed.

More Information and Gratitude

READ THE FULL PAPER HERE:



Our sincere gratitude goes to the American Moroccan Competencies Network, WPI Global Studies Program, students, parent organizations and participating parents.

THANK YOU  شكراً

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