THE PERSPECTIVES OF SAUDI MOTHERS REGARDING THE TECHNIQUES THAT PROFESSIONALS EMPLOYED WHEN INFORMING THEM ABOUT THE DIAGNOSIS OF THEIR CHILD’S DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: THE EARLY INTERVENTION STRATEGIES TO MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL DRAWBACKS

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ABSTRACT. This investigation used a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. It examines the perspective of 59 Saudi mothers pertaining the professional techniques employed in informing them about the diagnosis of their children with developmental disabilities. The researcher explores their suggestions and ambition to improve this type of service. The children of the recruited sample attend special rehabilitation centers in Saudi Arabia. The quantitative and qualitative analysis indicated that 25-63% of the sample perceive the techniques used as painful and very painful and 80% of them were informed by the physicians. In contrast, the qualitative analysis of the mother’s perception reveals four major domains: 1) Relation to Allah; 2) painful experiences; ambitions; and suggestions. It is speculated that this study will shed light in to such sensitive aspect of the services offered to patients and families of children with special needs in particular. The hope that professionals benefit from the research-based and approved techniques offered to revise their practice when informing the bad news to parents. In addition, to highlight the importance of creating training programs for professionals. All together are considered interventional strategies to minimize their drawbacks on families if ignored. This believed to have an impact in improving the quality of service that secures the quality of life they deserve and the aims of their governments.

KEY WORDS: Informing parents, telling the news, Diagnosis of disabilities, children with developmental disabilities.