

# THE SENSE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL LONELINESS AMONG THE FAMILIES OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOME VARIABLES AND THE CHILD IMPAIRMENT DEGREE

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**ABSTRACT** \_ The study aimed to unveil the level of the sense of psychological loneliness among the families of autistic children at the north of Jordan, and its relationship with some demographic variables (gender, class), the impairment degree of the child and the educational level of parents. In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the researcher used the sense of psychological loneliness test which was prepared depending on Maslow's theory of needs. To ensure the validity and reliability of this scale, the sample consisted of 32 from autistic children who were selected purposely. The researcher came up with the findings using up the arithmetic averages, standard deviations and value of (T) and the one way anova. The study showed that the Level of the sense of psychological Loneliness among the families of autistic children at the north of Jordan was medium and high, the results also assured that there weren't any statistically significant differences at ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) at the Level of the sense of the emotional psychological loneliness among the families of autistic children regarding to the variables (gender, class), and the impairment degree of the child, there was statistically significant differences at ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) at the educational level of father regarding to (university, Secondary and without), and there wasn't any statistically significant differences at the total sense of psychological loneliness test, and there wasn't any statistically significant differences at ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) the total level of the sense of psychological loneliness at the educational level of mother, the results were discussed in the light of the theoretical framework & previous studies, the study also concluded some recommendations.

**KEY WORDS:** Psychological loneliness, Autism, Autistic children, Family of Autistic children.