

MIFGASH

JOURNAL OF SOCIAL-EDUCATIONAL WORK

- Risks and academic self-efficacy among students during the "Iron Swords" war
- Becoming less religious among adolescents with ADHD as a risk factor
- Parental alienation in childhood: Impact on behavior and sensitivity to rejection in adulthood
- Coping mechanisms among Bedouin mothers of children with special needs
- Job satisfaction among college-educated Arab and Arab-Bedouin women
- Policy paper: Suicide prevention among young autistic people in Israel



Vol. 33, No. 58 • June 2025

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SOCIAL-EDUCATIONAL WORK

Vol. 33, No. 58 • June 2025

Published by:



EFSHAR – The Association for the Development of
Social & Educational Services

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Social & Educational Services

The Israeli Branch of AIEJI - International Association of
Social Educators

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ISSN 0792-6820
Ramat Gan 2025

Annual subscription fee: 80 NIS
Price for a single copy: 40 NIS

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ABSTRACTS

Situational risks, constant risks, coping resources and academic self-efficacy among higher education students during the “Iron Swords” (“Haravot Barzel”) war

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Since October 7, the academic institutions in Israel have been facing the challenge of responding to numerous students who belong to different at-risk groups. The study comprised 834 college students divided into 5 groups: 176 students facing situational risks (evacuees, reservists, and their partners); 215 students with an ongoing risk (specific learning disabilities (SLD) and attention deficit disorders (ADHD)); 84 students who believed that they have a neuro-developmental disability but were not formally diagnosed; 151 students with combined risks (students with SLD and/or ADHD who were also evacuees, reservists, and their partners); and 208 students who were not included in the four at-risk groups (i.e., the comparison group). We examined whether personality resources (hope, and sense of entitlement), anxiety as well as institutional and social support predict students' academic self-efficacy. As hypothesized, students in the at-risk groups reported a lower academic self-efficacy than the comparison group. In addition, students in the group with neuro-developmental disabilities and those in the combined group reported higher levels of anxiety than the comparison group. The factors of hope, entitlement, anxiety, and perceptions of support from friends and families predicted the levels of academic self-efficacy. The interventional implications are presented in the discussion.

Key words: Iron Swords War, students, reserves, evacuees, SLD, ADHD, academic self-efficacy, anxiety, hope, social support

Becoming less religious among adolescents with ADHD as a risk factor in state-religious education

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Adolescents with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in a religious society are in a unique risk situation, in addition to other risks stemming from ADHD. Becoming less religious and ADHD are two risk factors for adolescents due to sociological and psychological factors. This study examines the interaction between these risk factors, comparing adolescents with and without ADHD, both treated with medication and untreated. A total of 276 boys in grades 9-12 in the state-religious education system completed a personal details questionnaire, the Conners 3rd edition questionnaire (2008) for self-reporting symptoms of ADHD, and a religiosity questionnaire (Winograd-Jan, 2005). The findings indicate that adolescents with ADHD define themselves as less religious and report a greater distance from religion than adolescents without ADHD. Moreover, the findings reveal that the more severe the ADHD symptoms, the greater the distancing from religion. Medication was found to have a significant contribution only in relation to the sense of belonging to the religious community, which serves as a factor of resilience against risk behaviors among adolescents. The research findings have implications for caregivers, parents and educators in religious society, for example, in defining the educational-religious expectations of adolescents with ADHD, and the required support.

Key words: ADHD, religiosity, becoming less religious, adolescents at risk

The relationship between parental alienation in childhood and motivation for behavior in adulthood mediated by sensitivity to rejection

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The main goal of this study was to examine the relationship between the experience of parental alienation in childhood and motivation for behavior in adulthood, mediated by sensitivity to social rejection. The study included 254 women (51.2%) and men (48.8%) who are children of divorced parents. The study was conducted through questionnaires. The results show that the variable 'sensitivity to social rejection' mediates the relationship between the experience of parental alienation in childhood and motivation styles, but only concerning motivation for revenge and not regarding avoidance or forgiveness, in a sample that included men and women. This study's contribution is in presenting a mediation model of long-term interpersonal implications that accompany a child who experienced parental alienation into adulthood. Thus, this study helps raise public awareness to the fact that a child who suffered parental alienation carries difficult scars into adulthood. These findings shed light on the importance of preventing cases of parental alienation by therapists and welfare workers. Also, the study suggests directions of focusing on significant perceptions to treat the alienation phenomenon, in order to help decrease revenge feelings that could manage the adult lives of children who experienced parental alienation and in reducing their high sensitivity to rejection.

Key words: parental alienation, sensitivity to rejection, motivation for behavior, revenge, forgiveness

Coping processes among Bedouin mothers of children with special needs: 'God gave me this child out of his great love for me'

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The coping of parents of children with special needs is a complex process, and it is important to examine this process among parents from different cultures. Our mixed method research aimed to examine the religious and emotional process of Bedouin mothers of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) or intellectual developmental disability (IDD). Forty mothers participated in semi-structured interviews and answered the religious coping methods questionnaire and the pathological narcissism inventory (PNI). Although the statistical analysis showed a significant correlation ($p=.01$; $r=.39$) between narcissism and negative religious beliefs, no significant correlation was found between narcissism and positive religious beliefs. The content analysis revealed pessimistic religious processing regarding the child's disability that included the perception of God as a punishing, testing and oppressive figure, as well as optimistic religious processing regarding the child with the disability as a gift from God, acceptance of fate and a belief in God as a benevolent authority. The pessimistic emotional processing regarding the child's disability was expressed by feelings of fear, astonishment and sadness, while the optimistic emotional processing was expressed by feelings of love and concern for the child and acceptance of the child. The research findings revealed that Bedouin mothers are characterized by unique coping processes that correspond to both their religious and emotional perspectives. Therapists should, therefore, be aware of these factors in order to culturally adapt the intervention they offer these mothers.

Key words: religious and emotional processing of the diagnosis; Bedouin mothers of children with special needs; parents' counseling; qualitative and mixed research methods

Job satisfaction among college-educated Arab and Arab-Bedouin women: The role of personal, family, community, and organizational resources

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Over the past two decades, significant changes have taken place in the Arab society, particularly in two areas: academization and the integration of Arab and Arab-Bedouin women into the Israeli labor market. This study examines the resources available to college-educated Arab women and compares them to the resources available to Arab-Bedouin women, as well as their contribution to job satisfaction. The participants included 105 Arab-Bedouin women and 149 women from the non-Arab-Bedouin society. The participants completed six questionnaires that examine personal coherence, community coherence, satisfaction with family life, inclusive management, and job satisfaction. Significant differences were found between the two groups in terms of community coherence and satisfaction with family life. Positive correlations were revealed between various resources and levels of job satisfaction. Additionally, job satisfaction was found to be related to income level, personal coherence, and inclusive management practices. Among all the resources examined, organizational and personal resources, specifically inclusive management and personal coherence, were found to promote better integration and to contribute to job satisfaction.

Key words: educated Arab women, Arab-Bedouin women, job satisfaction, employment, resources

Policy paper: Suicide prevention among young autistic people in Israel – A multi-system perspective

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This policy paper addresses suicide prevention among autistic youth in Israel, a critically significant topic given the elevated suicide risk in this population. The paper presents a broad, multi-system perspective that integrates insights from professionals, experts, autistic individuals, and their families. Its goal is to outline the challenges in preventing suicide among autistic youth and to propose consensus-based recommendations for optimal policy and practice. The paper focuses on three core areas: (1) Addressing suicide risk among autistic youth, prevention, referral, assessment, and treatment, (2) Ensuring continuity in educational and therapeutic frameworks, and (3) Promoting research in the field of suicide prevention among autistic individuals. This policy paper synthesizes stakeholder input through preliminary discussions with autistic adults active in the autistic community, and a conference that included roundtable discussions with a diverse range of stakeholders. The paper highlights challenges such as the lack of knowledge and awareness, absence of dedicated policies and budgets, and a shortage of tailored tools for prevention, identification, referral, assessment, and treatment. The policy recommendations include integrating this issue into a national program, fostering inter-ministerial collaborations, establishing professional training frameworks, adopting adapted risk assessment tools, developing tools, and advancing research and data collection. The policy paper emphasizes the need for comprehensive policymaking and multi-system collaboration, with significant involvement of the autistic community. The importance of

tailoring a national program to the autistic population stems from the high prevalence of suicidal thoughts within this group and the unique challenges in identifying and preventing suicide among autistic individuals. This policy paper serves as a call to action for all relevant stakeholders, with the aim to develop a comprehensive program tailored to the needs of the autistic population in the realm of suicide prevention.

Key words: suicide prevention, autism, policy