

Professional Performance of Social Workers with Mothers of Children with Multiple Disabilities

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ABSTRACT

The mother's first reaction when she learns that her child may be disabled is a feeling of shock, frustration, and guilt. The mother experiences a feeling of rejection, and she denies that there is a problem with the child. Some of them even confirm that their child will have a great importance in the future. Then, the stage of understanding and awareness comes which clarifies that there is a problem with the child. Accordingly, the mother feels extremely anxious and depressed and may withdraw and retreat and leave this problem for others. Finally, the stage of acceptance and searching for a way out of this problem comes. The sample of this study consists of (38) social workers working with mothers and people with multiple disabilities. It aims at identifying the level of professional performance of the casework specialist with mothers of multiple disabilities. It also displays the obstacles that hinder the social workers from performing their role. It finally presents some suggestions for overcoming those obstacles.

KEYWORDS

Professional Performance, Social Worker, Child with Multiple Disabilities

INTRODUCTION

The family plays an extremely important role in a child's life. It is responsible for transforming the child from a biological being into a social being. It plays an effective role in socialization, as well as providing social and psychological care for the child. It is responsible for providing the child with his/ her biological and psychological needs for achieving normal growth and social harmony. Disability serves as a source of pressure for the disabled person and those around him, as it is considered a shattering of expectations, a loss of self-confidence, and other feelings that could threaten the psychological entity of the disabled person and his family (Hanafi, 2007, p. 37).

The problem of child with multiple disabilities poses many difficulties that the parents can face, but usually the one who suffers is the mother during the stage of training and education regarding the child and rehabilitation directed to people with multiple disabilities. It is usually difficult to confront it except by opening channels of communication with the disabled, their families, and the institutions that provide them with rehabilitation services. These institutions ensure connecting everyone's efforts and achieving the best results for children with multiple disabilities, their families, and their society in general (Al-Balwa, 2011, p. 335).

A child with multiple disabilities constitutes a significant category of the total number of disabled individuals in society (Ramadan, 2021, p. 158). The effects of the presence of a disabled child in the family are not limited to the parents only but extended to the rest of the family members, especially, the mother. Her care for her disabled child makes her feel psychologically stressed. She may experience feelings of guilt, anger, and irritability. The family of the disabled person experiences many changes in various fields as a result of the pressures associated with the disability. By the passage of the time, the parents and the disabled child grow older. Therefore, the mother faces many future fears that increase her anxiety towards her child and the events that may happen that the family may not be able to face (Ayesh, 2016, p. 109:112). Mothers of children with multiple disabilities suffer from many psychological pressures that vary between positive pressures that push them towards achieving their goals in caring for their disabled child and negative pressures that negatively affect their lifestyle and hinder them from achieving their goals (Sloper et al, 1991).

Perhaps the development of the professional performance of the social caseworkers, working in the field of disability, sheds light on important dimensions. Social workers still depend in their practice on their personal capabilities. Their personality plays an important role in the performance of his professional work, because social work is still characterized by an artistic (skillful) nature that its performance depends on the personality of the social worker himself. On the other hand, the social workers' continuous need for acquiring more knowledge, skills and experience in a way that refines his professional personality enables them to perform their responsibilities and contribute in achieving development in society. They seek improving their professional practice and improving the professional service that they provide to their clients whether they are individuals, groups, families, organizations or societies (Habib, 1997, p. 149).

Social work is one of the fields that seek, through its various methods, knowledge, and skills, to play multiple roles in dealing with its clients. This is done by ensuring that social workers have the necessary knowledge, skills, and values. Hence, they can deal with their clients in a way that creates opportunities to achieve their preventive, developmental, and therapeutic goals when dealing with all groups especially, mothers of children with multiple disabilities. In

this case, the role of the social worker with the mothers becomes clear in helping them solve their problems and understand their needs.

The goal of the current study is to identify the level of professional performance of the social caseworkers with mothers of children with multiple disabilities, and to identify the obstacles that hinder the social workers from performing their role with the mothers of those children. The current study also offers some suggestions from the social workers' point of view to overcome those obstacles.

LITRATURE REVIEW

Abu Zaid (2020) carries out the study. It aims at identifying the social problems of families of children with multiple disabilities and the role of social casework in dealing with them. It concludes that there are many social problems that a family with multiple disabilities suffers from, the most important of which are educational problems, family problems, and friends' problems.

This is what is confirmed by the study of Naeem Abdel Wahab Shalabi (2007) that aims to alleviate the problems of social relations resulting from the presence of a child with multiple disabilities in the family. Shalabi 's study confirms that multiple disabilities negatively affect the social performance of the family, that the family members assume their responsibilities towards those children. The study displays the effectiveness of general practice in alleviating the severity of social relationship problems in families of children with multiple disabilities.

Muhammad's study (2021) indicates the effectiveness and continuity of the counseling approach in reality at alleviating the severity of pathological fears among children with multiple disabilities. The results of that study confirm the effectiveness and continuity of the reality counseling approach in alleviating the severity of pathological fears among children with multiple disabilities.

Where will mothers of multiple children reach programs that help them deal with their child? Bedaiwi et al. (2013) indicates aims to enhance and shed light on the psychological pressures of mothers of multiple children on Facebook through a guidance program for the presence in the world of art and the behavior of its artists. In the light of that, a set of organizational rules has emerged for the actors in general, who have children with special needs in general, and multiple in particular. In addition, the study of Jansen et al (2013) entitled *what parents find important in supporting a child with multiple disabilities*, the aim of this exploratory study is to examine what parents who have

a child with multiple disabilities find important in supporting their child. The study concludes that parents are satisfied with providing support to their children; however a minority of parents indicates that they don't receive the support they need.

Jamal's study (2016) aims to investigate the requirements for activating the professional performance of social workers with people who suffer from multiple disabilities as indicators for developing a training program from the perspective of social casework. He indicates that disability is a problem that is not limited to social and economic borders. There are hereditary and environmental factors as well. He also explains the practice of social work in rehabilitation programs for children with multiple disabilities. He presents the role of the social workers with children with multiple disabilities. The study concludes that the most important modern trends of social work in the social rehabilitation of a child with multiple disabilities, including interest in individual and group rehabilitation together, group rehabilitation may take place first. Then individual rehabilitation follows according to the type of disability and the nature of the disabled people that they deal with.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

1. The Concept of Professional Performance

Professional performance is an act linked to a specific person. The levels of abilities of performance differ from one person to another. Therefore, professional performance varies from one person to another (Abdullah, 1995, p. 17). Professional performance of the social worker in this study is the performance of the social worker to his professional role and professional responsibilities according to the extent of his competence within the framework of the institution in which he/ she works, relying on the social work knowledge, skills, attitudes and professional processes that he/ she acquired through his professional practice in order to achieve the goals of the social work profession with mothers who have children with multiple disabilities and dealing efficiently with their problems.

2. The Concept of Children with Multiple Disabilities

The concept of the handicapped refers to an individual who differs from what is called normal or ordinary in physical, mental, temperamental, or social aspects to the degree that requires rehabilitation operations until he/ she reaches the maximum use of his abilities and talents (Bucking, 1994, p. 75). Multi-disabled children are those children who suffer from two or more types of disabilities,

and these categories include the following: hearing impairment, visual impairment, developmental disabilities, mental disability, severe behavioral disorders, and communication disorders. (Magellan Health.com)

Kafafi (1990) defines Multiple Disabilities as a condition in which there are more than one mental or physical disability. Through the above, children with multiple disabilities can be defined as “children who suffer from more than one disability in their bodies, such as mental disability and blindness, mental disability and deafness, autism and deafness.” A procedural concept for "children with multiple disabilities" can be developed in this study through the following: “They are the children who visit the disability centers where the social worker works because they suffer from more than one disability, such as: mental disability with deafness, physical disability with autism, and the social worker deals with their mothers in his/ her professional capacity to help them deal with their disabled child's problems and accept his/ her disability.”

AIM OF THE STUDY

This descriptive study seeks to measure the efficiency of the professional performance performed by the social caseworker with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. It also aims to identify the most important skills, approaches, methods, and therapeutic models that he/ she uses in working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. This study identifies the most important obstacles and difficulties that limit the efficiency of professional performance as well for the social worker in working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities.

STUDY QUESTIONS

The study seeks to answer the main question, which is, “What is the level of professional performance performed by the social worker with mothers of children with multiple disabilities?” Other questions are:

1. What are the most important skills, approaches, methods and therapeutic models used by social workers in working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities?
2. What are the most important obstacles and difficulties that limit the efficiency of the professional performance of social workers in dealing with mothers of children with multiple disabilities?
3. What are the suggestions that can help the social workers in efficiently performing professional work with mothers of children with multiple disabilities?

STYDY HYPOTHESES

- 1- There are no statistically significant differences between males and females in the professional performance of social workers working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities.
- 2- There are no statistically significant differences in the professional performance of social workers with mothers of children with multiple disabilities due to the type of academic qualification.

METHOD

Study Design

The style of this study is determined in the descriptive study, as descriptive research represents a step towards strengthening the effectiveness of the professional practice of the social worker in the field of disability. Therefore, the social survey approach is considered appropriate for this type of study. The researcher has relied on the use of a comprehensive social survey approach, applied to social workers dealing with mothers of children with multiple disabilities.

Population

The population of this study consists of (38) social workers by comprehensive social survey who work with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. The researcher finds that the mothers of these children suffer from many problems compared to the mothers of children with one disability.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study uses a questionnaire that is designed to be applied on social workers working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities after their approval. The social workers are also informed of the purpose of the questionnaire ensuring the confidentiality of the data they provide while filling out the form. The data collection process continues for about 35 days.

MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENT

The author utilizes a single data collection method to analyze the subject of the study. That is 'A questionnaire to identify the level of professional performance of the social worker working with mothers of multiple disabilities' The researcher formulates the dimensions of the questionnaire in its initial form, which amounted to (7) dimensions as follows:

1. The first dimension: regarding primary data related to social workers
2. The second dimension: the therapeutic methods used by the social workers with mothers of multiple disabilities
3. The third dimension: The professional skills used by the social worker with mothers of multiple disabilities
4. The fourth dimension: the roles that the social workers use with mothers of multiple disabilities
5. The fifth dimension: the therapeutic methods used by the social worker with mothers with multiple disabilities
6. Sixth dimension: obstacles and difficulties that limit the social worker from performing his role
7. The seventh dimension: necessary proposals to overcome obstacles and difficulties

The final instrument is reviewed to ensure its accuracy by seven social work professors at the Faculty of Social Work, Assiut University; the Faculty of Social Work, Fayoum University; and the Higher Institute of Social Work in Kafr El-Sheikh. The researcher tests the reliability and validity of the study instrument, and the accuracy of the tool is confirmed after conducting the necessary statistical procedures for assessing reliability and validity.

STATISTICAL METHODS

The researcher uses the Statistical Analysis Program (SPSS V 26.0) and applies the following few statistics: Mean, Standard deviation, Pearson Correlation Coefficient, T-Test.

STUDY RESULTS

The First Result: Characteristics of the study population:

Table No. (1) Shows the characteristics of the study population

| N | Gender | K | % |
|---|--------------------------|----|-------|
| 1 | Male | 23 | 60.53 |
| 2 | Female | 15 | 39.47 |
| N | Age | K | % |
| 1 | Less than 25 | 15 | 39.47 |
| 2 | 25-30 | 14 | 36.48 |
| 3 | 31-35 | 5 | 13.16 |
| 4 | 36-40 | 4 | 10.53 |
| N | Grades | K | % |
| 1 | Department of Sociology | 10 | 26.32 |
| 2 | Bachelor of Social Work | 18 | 47.37 |
| 3 | Master of Social Work | 6 | 15.79 |
| 4 | Doctorate in Social Work | 4 | 10.53 |
| N | Experience | K | % |

| N | Gender | K | % |
|---|--------|----|-------|
| 1 | 3-5 | 15 | 39.7 |
| 2 | 6-8 | 10 | 26.32 |
| 3 | 9-11 | 8 | 13.16 |

The previous tables show the variables related to the characteristics of the study sample. Regarding the gender variable, it is found that the percentage of female social workers working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities is 60.53 while, the percentage of males is 39.47. The average age of the study sample ranges between (25-30), with the largest age group of social workers falling into the category that represents 39.47%. It becomes clear that the largest percentage of disability specialists held a Bachelor's degree in social work is 47.37%, due to their ability to deal with disabled children and their mothers and the related problems. The study sample has the enough experience that gives them the ability to deal with the problems of mothers with multiple disabilities.

The Second Result

Answering the Study's Questions

1- What are the most important skills, approaches, methods and therapeutic models used by the social caseworkers in working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities?

Table (2) shows the knowledge that the social worker benefits from While working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities (n=38)

| No | Aspects of benefiting from theoretical and practical study at the college | Fre. | % | Ranking |
|----|--|------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Knowledge in the field of disability and Knowledge of the values | 35 | 92.11 | 1 |
| 2 | Knowledge about forms of disability | 33 | 86.84 | 3 |
| 3 | Knowledge of disability problems | 34 | 89.47 | 2 |
| 4 | Principles of social work in the field of disability | 23 | 60.53 | 4 |
| 5 | Knowledge of legislation related to people with disabilities | 20 | 52.63 | 5 |
| 6 | Knowledge of innovations in the field of disability | 17 | 44.47 | 6 |
| 7 | Knowledge related to the role of social work with people with disabilities | 20 | 52.63 | 5 |

Table (2) shows the knowledge that social workers working with mothers of children rely on the most. It also shows that the knowledge that they benefited from the most is knowledge related to disability, which comes at of the first place with 92.11%. Then, the knowledge related to disability problems that come in the second

place with 89.47%. After that, knowledge related to forms of disability comes at the third place with 86.84%. From the presented data in table (7), it becomes clear that social workers in their work with mothers of children with multiple disabilities possess a lot of theoretical knowledge related to disability.

Table (3) shows the extent to which the social worker uses professional skill During practice with mothers of children with multiple disabilities (n=38)

| Professional Skills | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|---------------------|--|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Observation skill | 37 | 97.37 | 2 |
| 2 | The skill of establishing a professional relationship with clients | 36 | 94.74 | 3 |
| 3 | Communication skill | 38 | 100 | 1 |
| 4 | Interview skill | 38 | 100 | 1 |
| 5 | Recording skill | 36 | 94.74 | 3 |
| 6 | Problem solving skill | 30 | 78.95 | 5 |
| 7 | Follow-up skill | 32 | 84.21 | 4 |
| 8 | Skill in coping with pressure | 26 | 68.42 | 6 |

Table No. (3) Displays the skills used by social workers regarding the problems of mothers of children with multiple disabilities. It shows that the most important skills used by social workers are: the communication skill (100%), the observation skill (97.37%), the skill of establishing a professional relationship and the registration skill with an equal percentage (94.74%), the follow-up skill came, and finally, the skill of confronting pressures (68.42%). Based on the previous data, social workers have the ability to use the skills of social work represented in the communication skill, skill of observation and the skill of establishing professional relationships with clients.

Table (4) shows the type of roles the social worker plays while working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities (n=38)

| Professional roles | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|--------------------|---|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1 | The role of the therapist is to solve problems | 34 | 89.47 | 1 |
| 2 | The role of the mentor guides the mother in the resources that help her solve her problem | 22 | 57.89 | 6 |
| 3 | The role of the enabler helps mothers obtain their social rights | 30 | 78.95 | 4 |
| 4 | The role of the expert solves problems in light of scientific theories | 32 | 84.21 | 3 |
| 5 | The role of the mediator to resolve the conflict | 20 | 25.63 | 7 |

| Professional roles | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|--------------------|--|-----------|-------|---------|
| 6 | The role of the stimulant modifies attitudes about disability | 23 | 60.53 | 5 |
| 7 | The role of a teacher who raises awareness about multiple disabilities and dealing with them | 33 | 86.84 | 2 |
| 8 | An administrative role that helps mothers obtain assistance | 18 | 47.37 | 8 |

Table No. (4) Shows the professional roles that social workers use with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. Their professional role as therapists who solve problems comes at the first place with 89.47%. At the second place is their roles as teachers who educate mothers about multiple disabilities and how to deal with their children. At the third place comes their role as an expert who solves problems in the light of scientific theories 86.84%. Finally comes their role as activators who modify the mothers' attitudes about disability at the fourth place (84.21%). Based on the data in the previous table, it is obvious that social workers have awareness of their professional roles, as their roles come as an administrator in the last rank.

Table (5) shows the type of therapeutic models on which social workers depend in dealing with problems related to mothers of children with multiple disabilities (n=38)

| Therapeutic models | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Cognitive therapy | 36 | 94.84 | 1 |
| 2 | Cognitive behavioral therapy | 33 | 86.84 | 2 |
| 3 | Family therapy | 18 | 47.37 | 3 |
| 4 | Task centered model | 10 | 26.32 | 7 |
| 5 | Problem solving | 17 | 44.74 | 4 |
| 6 | Reality therapy | 16 | 42.11 | 5 |
| 7 | Spiritual therapy | 12 | 31.58 | 6 |

Table No. (5) indicates that 'To what extent social workers rely on scientific theories related to social work as cognitive therapy' comes at the first place with 94.84%, and as 'A cognitive behavioral therapy' comes at the second place that the social worker relies on it with 86.84%, which is a great percentage due to its importance as a therapeutic model in serving the individual 'Family therapy' comes at the third place due to the connection between the problems of mothers of disabled children and the family as a whole.

Table (6) shows the type of therapeutic techniques which the social worker uses with mothers of children multiple disabilities (n=38)

| Therapeutic Techniques | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|------------------------|--|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Psychological Aid: It provides psychological support to mothers of children with multiple disabilities | 38 | 100 | 1 |
| 2 | Building communication channels: between a mother and her disabled son | 33 | 86.84 | 5 |
| 3 | Emotional release: freedom to express their problems | 31 | 81.58 | 6 |
| 4 | Persuasion: convincing the mother to accept her son's disability | 33 | 86.84 | 5 |
| 5 | Arousal: Stimulating the mother to benefit | 24 | 63.16 | 8 |
| 6 | Interpretation: Clarify and explain the problem in a correct way | 34 | 89.47 | 4 |
| 7 | Professional relationship: as one of the most important therapeutic methods | 38 | 100 | 1 |
| 8 | Role integration: Convincing the mother of the necessity of integrating roles within the family | 35 | 92.11 | 3 |
| 9 | Initiative: Helping the mother take the initiative in making her decisions | 36 | 94.74 | 2 |
| 10 | Observation: Observing the mother's behaviors during interviews | 34 | 89.47 | 4 |
| 11 | Generalization: Generalizing effective results to similar cases | 30 | 78.95 | 7 |
| 12 | Encouragement: Encouraging mothers to make positive decisions | 32 | 60.53 | 9 |

Table No. (6) Shows the most important professional techniques that social workers use with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. It indicates that the most important technique which comes at the first place is the 'Psychological aid technique' where the social worker provides psychological support to mothers of children, as well as the professional relationship technique, with 100% of the specialists. Social workers and the initiative style come at the second place with 94.74%, as most mothers suffer from fear of seeking help from a social worker. The 'Integration of roles' comes at the third place with 92.11%. The 'Role of the interpreter' comes at the fourth place, as it explains to mothers the nature of the problems that they may face.

2- What are the most important obstacles and difficulties that limit the efficiency of the professional performance of the social worker in working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities?

Table (7) shows the professional obstacles that limit professional performance of social workers in working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities (n=38)

| Professional Obstacles | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|------------------------|--|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Inadequate training of social workers regarding working with mothers | 25 | 65.79 | 1 |
| 2 | Social workers sympathized with the suffering of mothers | 14 | 36.84 | 3 |
| 3 | Weak professional role of the social worker with mothers | 13 | 34.21 | 4 |
| 4 | Lack of knowledge of the steps of professional practice with mothers | 16 | 42.11 | 2 |
| 5 | The social worker's lack of familiarity with modern professional models in the field of specialization | 10 | 26.32 | 5 |
| 6 | Lack of coordination between the social worker and the organization's work team | 14 | 36.84 | 3 |

With reference Table No. (7) Refers to the professional obstacles that social workers suffer from while working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. The table shows that they suffer from a group of obstacles. At the first place comes 'the lack of training for working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities, as all the focus was on the children themselves (65.79%) At the second place among the professional obstacles is 'the lack of knowledge regarding the steps of professional practice with mothers (42.11%). Based on the data in this table, it becomes clear that there is a group of professional obstacles that social workers suffer from when working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities.

Table (8) shows the administrative obstacles that limit professional performance for the social worker working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities (n=38)

| Administrative Obstacles | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1 | The small number of social workers working in the center | 17 | 44.74 | 3 |
| 2 | Inadequate laws relating to the disabled and their families | 14 | 36.84 | 6 |
| 3 | Feeling of job instability | 30 | 78.95 | 1 |
| 4 | There are no publications or administrative records | 15 | 39.47 | 5 |

| Administrative Obstacles | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|-------|---------|
| 5 | Lack of a suitable place to work | 16 | 42.11 | 4 |
| 6 | Many problems to be solved | 24 | 63.16 | 2 |
| 7 | Lack of work-related administrative skills and experience | 9 | 23.68 | 7 |

Table No. (8) That referring to the administrative obstacles in social workers suffer from while working with multi-disabled children and their mothers, it is obvious that they suffer from a group of administrative obstacles. At the first place is their feeling of job instability (78.75%). While, at the second place is the abundance of problems (63.16%). Accordingly, social workers suffer from a large number of problems related to the institution and it is their responsibility to solve them. There is also a group of administrative obstacles that hinder social workers from carrying out their work.

3-What are the suggestions that can efficiently help the social worker practice professional work with mothers of children with multiple disabilities?

Table (9) shows professional proposals to overcome obstacles (n=38)

| Professional Proposals | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|------------------------|--|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Increase the number of training courses for social workers | 35 | 92.11 | 1 |
| 2 | Training the social worker on modern therapeutic models in the field of disability | 30 | 78.95 | 2 |
| 3 | Conduct more studies on mothers with multiple disabilities | 17 | 44.74 | 5 |
| 4 | Exchanging professional experiences between disability institutions | 26 | 68.42 | 3 |
| 5 | Holding seminars and workshops on work in the field of disability | 25 | 65.79 | 4 |

Table No. (9) Shows some professional proposals by social workers to overcome the obstacles that limit the efficiency of their professional performance. 'Increasing the number of training courses related to working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities' comes at the first place with 92.11%. At the second place among the proposals is 'Training social workers on modern therapeutic models' with 78.95%. While, 'exchanging experiences between institutions' comes at the third with 68.42%.

Table (10) shows administrative proposals to overcome obstacles (n=38)

| Administrative Proposals | | Frequency | % | Ranking |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Amending some articles of the law related to the disabled and their families | 15 | 39.47 | 5 |
| 2 | Increasing the number of social workers working in the field of disability | 17 | 44.74 | 4 |
| 3 | Providing printed records and reports | 15 | 39.47 | 5 |
| 4 | Providing suitable places to work | 32 | 84.21 | 3 |
| 5 | Providing financial income equivalent to work | 33 | 86.84 | 2 |
| 6 | Providing an appropriate administrative device to assist the social worker | 34 | 89.47 | 1 |

Table No. (10) Shows some administrative proposals that can help them with the efficiency of their professional performance. The first place among the administrative proposals is 'providing an administrative apparatus suitable for the work' with 89.47%. 'Providing a financial income suitable for the required work' comes second with 86.84%. Then, 'providing suitable places to work' comes third with 84.21%. Hence, social workers dealing with mothers of children of disabilities need many requirements to efficiently carry out professional performance.

The results related to the professional performance of social workers working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities reveal the following points in the light of some previous studies. When the questionnaire is applied to social workers asking them about their professional performance with mothers of children with multiple disabilities, it becomes clear that social workers have awareness of some professional aspects and rely strongly on them. It is also indicated that some professional aspects are weak when dealing with mothers of children with multiple disabilities.

The results of the study display that social workers need training courses for supporting their work with mothers of children with multiple disabilities, as children with multiple disabilities constitute a significant group of all disabled individuals in society. The effects of the presence of a disabled child in the family are not limited only to the parents, but extend to the rest family members. Therefore, the social work profession must provide attention and support to the family in general and to the mother in particular, as she is the person who deals most with the multi-disabled child.

DISCUSSION

The results of this study are consistent with the results of many previous studies. For example, the results of this study find that social workers relied heavily on cognitive therapy and cognitive-behavioral therapy during their work which is consistent with the study of Abdel Latif (2012). Shehata's study (2004) also confirms that social workers depend in their work on a large extent on the skills of social work such as the skill of observation, the skill of establishing a professional relationship, and the skill of communication the result that this current study confirms.

In addition, Khairy's study (2007) confirms the presence of many professional obstacles that limit the efficiency of the professional performance of social workers in the field of working with disabled children and their families. That study develops a set of proposals to overcome these difficulties which is what the current study also does. Moreover, the current study confirms the presence of some deficiencies in the use of therapeutic models such as spiritual therapy. This confirms the existence of some deficiencies in professional performance which is also confirmed by the study of Shehata (2003). The results of this study also agree with the study of Hashem (2020) on the presence of a group of obstacles that limit the performance of social workers in their work with children. This study also agrees with the study of Abu Al-Hassan (2008), which confirms the presence of deficiencies in some of the professional roles of the social worker.

Finally, the current study confirms that professional performance of social workers with mothers of multi-disabled children helps increase the social competence of the family of the multi-disabled child and increase communication channels and openness to the environmental system in a positive and better way, which is also confirmed by the study of Shalabi (2007).

STYDY HYPOTHESES RESULT

1- There are no statistically significant differences between males and females in the professional performance of social worker working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities.

To verify this hypothesis, the researcher used a T-test for two independent samples to calculate the significance of the differences between males and females in the professional performance of Social worker with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. The following table shows this:

Table (11) Shows T-test results to calculate the significance of the differences between males and females in the professional performance of social worker with mothers of children with multiple disabilities (n= 38)

| The professional performance of the social worker with mothers of children with multiple disabilities | Group | N | Average | standard deviation | value (T) | Significance level |
|---|-------|-------|---------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| | Male | 23 | 27.44 | 2.29 | | |
| Female | 15 | 26.56 | 1.92 | 0.630 | 0.53 | |

Table (11) shows that the (T) value was (0.630), which is not a statistically significant value. This indicates that there are no statistically significant differences between males and females in the professional performance of social workers with mothers of children with multiple disabilities, and this is evident by comparing the average scores of the two groups.

The lack of statistical significance between gender and the level of professional performance of social workers may be due to social desirability because the researcher filled out the questionnaire from the social workers themselves, so it may be natural for the specialist to raise his professional level within the scale.

2-There are statistically significant differences in the professional performance of social workers with mothers of children with multiple disabilities due to the type of academic qualification.

To verify this hypothesis, the researcher used a one-way analysis of variance test to calculate the significance of the differences in the professional performance of the social worker with mothers of children with multiple disabilities, which is due to the type of academic qualification (social arts, bachelor's degree in social work, master's degree in social work, doctorate in social work), and the table The following explains this:

Table (12) Shows the Results of (one-way analysis) of variance for recognition on the significance of differences in professional performance according to academic qualification (n=38)

| The professional performance of the social worker with mothers of children with multiple disabilities | Source of variance | Sum of squares | Degrees of freedom | Mean squares | Value (F) | Significance level |
|---|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
| | Between groups | 10.924 | 3 | 3.641 | 0.845 | 0.479 |
| | Within groups | 146.444 | 34 | 4.307 | | |
| | Total | 157.368 | 37 | | | |

It is clear from the previous table (12) that the “F” value for testing the significance of differences in the level of professional performance due to academic qualification (Social Arts, Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, Doctorate in Social Work); It is (0.845), which is a statistically non-significant value, which indicates that there are no differences in the professional performance of specialists due to academic qualification.

The lack of statistical significance between qualification and the level of professional performance of social workers may be due to social desirability because the researcher filled out the questionnaire from the social workers themselves, so it may be natural for the specialist to raise his professional level within the scale

STUDY LIMITATIONS

There are some limitations to this study. Firstly, the study is conducted on a sample consisting of 38 social workers working with mothers of multi-disabled children in some of the disability centers in Assiut Governorate, and it is possible to obtain different results if a larger sample size is regarded. Secondly, since the study is conducted specifically on social workers in some disability centers in Assiut Governorate, it is also possible to obtain different results if the study is conducted in a different community or different governorate.

IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

The results of the current study present a set of important results about the level of professional performance of social workers working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. Through the results presented about the level of performance, the study reaches a set of recommendations that can be taken into account, as follows:

- 1-Emphasis on holding training courses for social workers on the problems faced by mothers of children with multiple disabilities and not limiting these courses only to the disabled themselves
- 2-Conducting workshops on the development in the profession and the changes occurring in it, because the results confirm the lack of awareness among social workers regarding developments and new therapeutic models
- 3-Focusing awareness on the rest of the family members such as the siblings of children with multiple disabilities
- 4- Conduct a periodic evaluation by the institution in which social workers work to follow up on the deficiencies that they suffer from.
- 5- The proposals reached by this study must be circulated to inform institutions of their deficiencies

CONCLUSION

This study aims to identify the level of professional performance of social workers working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. It is applied on a sample of (38) social workers in some disability centers in Assiut Governorate. It shows some deficiencies in the professional performance of social workers when working with mothers of children with multiple disabilities. In addition there are some deficiencies, professional and administrative shortcomings and some proposals have been put forward to overcome those shortcomings.

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