

## **Children with mental retardation in the family context: The perspective of typically developing siblings**

Abstract:

Research on Typically Developing (TD) children and adolescents who have a sibling with Intellectual Developmental Disorder (IDD) cannot be separated from that on special needs families. The development of new theoretical approaches, such as the systems theory, has revealed new perspectives in the study of this population. The purpose of this research is to investigate the perceived quality of sibling relationship by children and adolescents with and without an IDD sibling and to study its impact on their psychosocial adjustment, and the quality of this relationship from the parent's perspective as well. Specifically, it examines the predictive factors (i.e., socio-demographic characteristics, IDD typology) of participants' psychosocial adjustment. The sample consisted of about 100 families with and without a child with IDD from different regions of Greece. A self-report questionnaire was used to collect the data. The present study aims to bridge the research gap in this field and to provide additional evidence in terms of the dimensions of the quality of sibling relationship that impact the psychosocial adjustment of the TD siblings and to become a useful knowledge resource for persons and organizations associated with the specific area.