

## The Impact of Self-Reported Socio-Economic Factors on Parents' Lives and their Social Adjustment in Civic Life: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Rawalpindi, Islamabad

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### Abstract

Parents' involvement in civic life plays a significant role in civic adjustment despite having a child with autism spectrum disorder. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a life-long neuro-developmental disorder in children having acute impairments in communication, social interaction, cognitive ability, insensitivity, and hypersensitivity, etc. autistic anomalies affect children's everyday lives which create unbearable socio-economic challenges for parents in their civic lives. Little studies have comprehended the issue of parents' social participation in the civic arena with self-reported socio-economic factors highlighted by parents' parenting of ASD children in rehabilitation centers. The impacts of self-reported socio-economic factors in parents' lives for social adjustment were demarcated based on their age, gender age, marital status, employment status, and family nature of having children with ASD. Moreover, parents of children with ASD impairments face several socio-economic challenges in their everyday lives. They were susceptible to the acute obstacles due to the vulnerability of ASD fissures. Numerous self-trajectories were highlighted to illustrate the socio-economic impacts on parents' socio-cultural and economic adjustment in civic lives. The data were collected from 201 respondents with the cross-sectional survey. A quantitative research method was used in the study with a self-administered questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The data were collected directly from respondents having a child with ASD abnormalities, associated with rehabilitation centers after the recommendation of medical practitioners.

**Keywords:** *Autism, Parents, Adjustment, Rejection, Civic Life*

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## 1. Introduction

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a life-long neurodevelopmental disorder, often found in children with several impairments (Shapiro, 2010). Autistic disorder is featured by communication problems, aloofness from the social environment, aggressive responses, poor eye contact, stubbornness in behavior insensitivity and oversensitivity, and also other behavioral anomalies in children's everyday lives (Sivberg, 2002). In addition, some additional aberrant behavioral traits, such as self-injuring behavior, sleeping disorder, high pain threshold, or abnormal eating rhythm, as well as excessive fear and stubbornness fissures have been posited in children, suffering from ASD disabilities. (Widiger & Samuel, 2005). The genesis of the word autism was derived from the Latin term *Autismus* by Eugen Bleuler, a Swiss physician in 1910. He used this word to characterize schizophrenia. *Autismus* is a Latin word derived from a Greek word, such as *autos*, which means "self." Although the present condition of autism was found in 1938, it was named after E. Bleuler because autistic persons were reported to be morbidly self-absorbed to the exclusion of everyone else around them (Broxmeyer, 2017).

### Prevalence of Autism in Pakistan

Like other developing countries, Pakistan has also been involved in drastic health issues. Whereas, having 207.68 million population of the world's sixth populated country (Wazir & Goujon, 2019) more than 38% of the population falls under the age of 15 years old, which requires some serious strides to improve health conditions particularly mental health of the children related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Pakistan is a country of multiplicity in socio-cultural, religious, economic, and educational domains. These variations in people's lives have been professed variation in the mitigation process to comprehend the abnormalities of their children having ASD abnormalities. Whereas, a mammoth portion of the population of the country has remained paralyzed because of various implications on their socio-economic lives having ASD children. Along with fluctuations in parents' lives, some limited practitioners and resources have vigorously caused various heinous impacts on human health, particularly on parents' lives in the country (Mumford et al., 2000). Lack of required understanding of ASD has caused socio-cultural dependency on others.

Moreover, there is also a dearth of education and information as well as epidemiological research content regarding the understanding of the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in developing countries. (Hussein, 2011). Whereas, the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) was found in Karachi (Pakistan) by analyzing behavioral and emotional disorders in age groups from 5 to 11 years with 17% of the reported abnormalities. Such data holds the highest escalation in developing countries. (Hussein, 2011). High prevalence of autism spectrum disorder because of the close association with dependency on others to counter the disorders in the normal way. Furthermore, ASD children were found with such abnormalities in about 6.5% of cases with a surge of mental disorder and 1.9% of cases were found with serious cognitive disabilities. (Bashir et al., 2002). Moreover, 19 cases out of 1000 children have been suffering from mental/learning problems in Karachi. (Durkin et al., 1998). Another corroborated data in other cities reported 16 cases of ASD-related abnormalities out of 1000 children suffering from such abnormalities between 3 to 9 years of age. The surge of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) evoked by several socio-cultural and occupational causes such as inter-family marriages, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, a large number of

prenatal complications, and poor health services are the major contributing factors to the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the country. (Mubbashar & Saeed, 2001).

### Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Parents Social Adjustment

The feeling of misery by parents having a child with ASD impairments in their civic lives. The social stigma attached to ASD-impaired children's parents in their everyday lives. Social involvement is mandatory for the fulfillment of parents' socioeconomic needs. During social interaction, they have symbolized their autistic identity with feelings of distress and misery to adjust themselves in the socio-economic arena. (Link & Phelan, 2001). Another significant factor for parents' social adjustment is the sufficient economic attainments, consumption, and distribution even though having a child with autistic abnormalities. For economic attainments, parents must be involved in public activities for economic attainments in various respects. The phenomenon would become stringent for autistic children's parents to fully participate in socio-economic conglomeration with ASD vulnerabilities if they see other ASD children's parents in economically turbulent social gatherings (White, 2004). Due to ASD abnormalities, the ontology has become exasperating for ASD parents to manage their economic arrangements and their everyday expenditures not only for ASD long treatment but also for household management. People in these categories often keep themselves aloof and maintain some distance from their activities, while on the other hand they embrace connection at the same time with their like-minded people in their social gathering (Farrugia, 2009).

Another factor is the fear of job exclusion for parents due to having ASD children. The insensitive practices exhibited by ASD children's parents hold nadir apprehensions about their child's abnormalities in the public domain, these trajectories have caused acute anomalies in parents' everyday lives while getting involved in any economic activity with ASD impairments. These problems have far-flung implications on parents' lives. They bear serious apprehensions in the workplace, a sense of humiliation in social situations, and require additional precautions in their daily lives to assuage the aberrant situation (Sivberg, 2002). Numerous parents have been excluded from their jobs or several other economic domains due to ASD children's impairments. However, ASD has serious implications for ASD children's parents on their economic activities. Without sufficient economic availability have faced acute challenges due to ASD in their everyday lives. They have faced economic difficulties in the treatment process and posed an additional socio-healthcare burden on parents while mitigating ASD abnormalities. So, patients and their caregivers with ASD have mostly been dependent on others to fulfill the required responsibility in such a regard. Therefore, they have faced different types of acute parenting stress in the developing process (Singer, 2006).

Nevertheless, societal responses have remained significant epicenters in ASD children's parent's lives, and for their better survival, therefore they rely on others for socioeconomic help and psychological well-being. With retaining in the normal state autistic children's families with such abnormalities have abhorred experiences of high prevalence of stress, anxiety, and psychological distress with acute impairments. (Almansour et al., 2013). So, ASD children's parents can't apprehend normal lives without sufficient support from others in various contexts to fulfill their socio-economic needs for their ASD children's requirements and numerous other household

requisites. Therefore, socioeconomic help is indispensable to mitigate the phenols in their lives and accomplish the concomitant social-economic adjustment even though having children with ASD impairments. Despite the acute challenges, the disorder has not been comprehended with practical and serious strides to counter the formidable socio-psychological and economic challenges in the everyday life of families and more specifically the lifestyle of parents. ASD miseries in parents' social lives are primarily caused by the lack of normal parental attachment with their children, aloofness, and emotional disorder in social interaction to maintain social cohesion among family members.

While some professional experts argued the abnormality with a preventable arena in high socio-economic class. They consider it nothing but the tendency of schizophrenia or like. People are affected by the dearth of serious responses to ASD in their everyday lives. (Rahbar et al., 2011). Parents are the responsible entities for maintaining a conducive environment for their family members whereas any autistic abnormality abates them in maintaining normal social order for their family members. They often face serious challenges in their life activities such as difficulties in the diagnosis process for their autistic children. Parents of autistic children also face extreme hardships and acute challenges in everyday practices. The feeling of grief and fear of loss, have further aggravated their hardships in their normal way of life. (Hock et al., 2012). Gender-based treatment for ASD children is an acute challenge for parents in taking the treatment responsibilities for both female parents and female ASD children. Parents and their ASD children self-reported the needs and expectations of taking up children with autism spectrum disorder according to the gender and age of both parents and their children in a support group. In such regard, parents exhibit their self-reported needs and expectations differently according to their age, education, and gender in all respects. Nevertheless, parents experience about understanding that parents always face difficulties in arranging an economy for gender-based treatment for mitigating autistic abnormalities.

Therefore, ASD-related abnormalities have acutely affected a family's economic well-being and parenting skills in everyday life, which caused poor social adjustment for ASD victims' parents in due course. The level of stress and challenges have been different to their socioeconomic position in their everyday lives (Meadan et al., 2010). Relying on others for socio-economic help due to ASD children is one of the indispensable factors for parents' socio-economic adjustment and for ironing out ASD impediments in their vernacular cultural contexts for the well-being of their family structure and conformity. Furthermore, some emotional depictions have been faced by autistic parents like depression and anxiety, lack of coordination, fragile relations, and poor interest in social life, etc. (Dale et al., 2006). ) Some other emotional problems such as fear, anger, sadness, and so on also caused numerous impediments for parents in their day-to-day lives (Duarte et al., 2005).

#### Review of Related Literature

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disorder, found with acute impairment in children. (Disabilities, 2001). The study regarding (ASD) abnormalities explores several symptoms that appeared in children mostly in late infancy (the symptoms appeared around about 18 months of the child's age) but sometimes it was not found until the age of two years. Children with these

disabilities exhibit unusual behavior in social interaction. ASD children stem inclusive aberrant behavior such as communication problems and repetition with obdurate responses in daily life. These autistic behavioral disorders caused an acute threat to the vivid structure of the family and more specifically to parents in normal propagation of activities in civic matters. (Seltzer et al., 2000).

#### Psychogenic Explanation of Autism

The psychogenic approach was evoked by the predominant theories of autism at the beginning of the 20th century. These theories have explained emotional or psychological contexts rather than biological or physical which were widely accepted in the medical field. Even though, some of the proponents were inclined towards Freudian perspective of explanation. This type of autism was marked as a type of schizophrenia known as infantile autism. (Kanner, 1943). The trajectory introduced by Kanner is known as the theory of the refrigerator mother, popularized by childhood psychologist Bruno Bettelheim by his arguments of the perpetuation of media that parents are the epicenter for causing autism in their children. (Koydemir-Özden & Tosun, 2010).

#### Biological Explanation of Autism

Explaining autism, researchers have changed their inclination toward biological interpretation from psychogenic or emotional causes of autism-related abnormalities. They inculcate biological and behavioral interpretations of autism by describing neurological diseases that exist in children. (Pearce, 2007). Moreover, biological explanation posits Rimland's arguments of disapproval of the theory of "refrigerator mothers" and demonstrates that autism is caused by genetically abnormal components in children. (Edelson, 2014).

#### Sociological Explanation of Autism and the Surge of Autism

The global surveys of epidemiology constitute the surge of autism in the world's different countries which determine the global prevalence of risk with the surge of autism. The unprecedented increase in the disorder not only caused poor health concerns for children but also caused numerous socio-cultural impediments to parents' lives. They interpret the uncontrolled situation according to their understanding and socio-economic and educational background despite the real image of the child's abnormalities. Parents of autistic children give different names to their abnormal children and mostly respond to them in an aberrant way. Therefore, proper identification and understanding of ASD abnormalities can be eased out when the disorder is timely and diagnosed. (Bakare et al., 2011).

#### Limited mental health care services and rural-urban health care divide in Pakistan

In Pakistan, there are limited psychiatry services with poor implementation by the administration. The dearth of psychiatry institutions also poses several other healthcare challenges for mental health patients and parents, particularly for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The literature shows that only 200 psychiatrists have been providing their services in the relevant field, which poses a huge healthcare burden on the countries in South Asia. (Mumford et al., 2000).

#### Awareness about Autism in Pakistan and Worldwide View

A survey was conducted in Karachi, Pakistan to find out the knowledge and awareness of the parents about autism spectrum disorder. The survey shows that it is a distant dream phenomenon in terms of understanding for developing countries like Pakistan of have insufficient knowledge regarding autism spectrum disorder. It is also a

hard task for professionals to cure the disorder efficiently. The data posits that more than half of ASD professionals did not know about the word autism. Furthermore, lack of awareness and insufficient knowledge have also caused a surge of ASD disorders in developing countries like Pakistan even though it is a bleak phenomenon for practitioners to diagnose such abnormalities. (Rahbar et al., 2011). Furthermore, another apprehension about ASD rather than parents' knowledge and education about autism was the inappropriate counseling and schooling of children who have autistic abnormalities. Most of the educational institutions did not provide favorable learning environments, specifically for autistic children in their academic and recreational routines. (Cain et al., 2019).

### **Stigma Attached due to Traditional Practices of Diagnosis**

The ASD abnormalities are stigmatized due to aberrant and explicit projection of social behavior in normal life. Various negative labels have been associated with autistic abnormalities in children such as the performance of aggressive behavior during diagnosis the psychiatry abnormalities in Pakistan. Parents of autistic children mostly opted traditional methods of mitigation of the issue and they feel hesitation to disclose the actual condition of their children's behavior. They mostly hide the actual abnormal state of their children and avoid taking medical services for their children in their everyday lives. (Karim et al., 2004).

### **Educational Institutions and General Supports**

The education sector has played an integral role in the parenting process of both child and parent lives in daily life. Both formal and informal education provide an immense contribution to children's and parents' well-being in maintaining their everyday lives related to autism abnormalities. The results found in meta-analysis conducted in various programs initiated by universities to provide a framework for pointing out parents' needs to support their general perspective about better their everyday life of having autistic children (Dawson, 1997).

### **Socio-economic Support**

Socio-economic support from the general public would be helpful for parents in the diagnosis procedure of ASD. Getting public support for parents of autistic children often experienced of reducing their stress by disseminating such services system in other families. Determination of the impacts of five different kinds of public supports which postulate two types of stresses for both autistic children and parents. Their study corresponded parenting experiences in the initial phase of having autistic children. (Guralnick et al., 2008).

## **2. Method**

### **2.1 Research Design**

The study employs a cross-sectional survey research design to examine the socio-cultural factors influencing parents' social adjustment to having a child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

### **2.2 Participants**

The sample for this study consisted of 201 respondents associated with registered rehabilitation centers that provide services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in both public and private sectors. A simple random sampling technique was employed to ensure equal chances of participation for all eligible respondents, enhancing the representativeness of the findings. The selected participants included parents of children with ASD, as they are directly involved in the social adjustment process. The study aimed to gather diverse perspectives from individuals with varying socio-cultural backgrounds

to better understand the factors influencing parental adjustment. Data collection was conducted using a self-administered questionnaire designed with a Likert scale to capture structured responses in a cross-sectional manner.

### **2.3 procedure**

The research questionnaire fulfills the required information about socioeconomic impacts on parents with ASD children by using scales to get sufficient responses from autistic victim parents. Socio-economic determination of parents' status remains significant in parents' approaches to acknowledging social adjustment and social rejection specifically in public spheres due to the economy. In such phenomenon, parents were involved to take their personal opinions such as "I mostly feel misery for my children due to the effects of ASD" and "I mostly saw parents in difficulties to manage their earning activities of having autistic children". It was also recorded from the respondents to find out their views about the difficulties in managing their earning activities with ASD children and also about their job exclusion.

Some parents were excluded from their jobs due to ASD children and have been facing economic difficulties in curing their ASD child and also facing acute difficulties in the medical arena, that why they are dependent on others for their financial help. One of the attributes was relevant to parents' satisfaction with community help in the economic domain due to an ASD child and also, they could not take up the economic burden of having an ASD child. Another sub-attribute posit that "In my opinion, socio-psychological support is mandatory from the community for parents of having autistic children/child". While they expressed their opinion that "I mostly rely on society for other social support due to autistic children/child". The last two statements posit the parents' experiences "I understand that parents always faced difficulties to arrange economy for gender-based treatment of autism" and "ASD affects my family's economic wellbeing and parenting skills in everyday life."

## **3. Result**

Less than two-thirds (126, 62.7%) of the respondents highlighted that they mostly felt misery for their children due to ASD abnormalities. One-fifth of the respondents (42, 20.9%) of the respondents had not felt misery for their ASD children. So, the majority of the frequency distributions regarding parents' experiences had felt misery about their children due to ASD abnormalities. Little less than two-thirds (131, 65.2%) of the respondents thought that they mostly saw parents in difficulties managing their earning activities of having autistic children. Major findings of the above item in the table that the majority of parents had faced difficulties in earning activities due to having ASD abnormal children. Less than half (96, 47.7%) of the respondents thought that it was difficult for them to manage their earning activities of having autistic children/children. However, the major findings enunciate difficulties in parents' lives in earning activities having an ASD child. Little less than one-third (64, 31.8%) of the parents had mostly felt fear of job exclusion due to having autistic children/children. Less than half (91, 45.3%) of the respondents did not feel fear of job exclusion due to ASD children. So, the major findings indicate that parents of ASD children had not felt fear of job exclusion. Frequency distribution of parents' experiences that more than half (112, 55.8%) of the respondents were excluded from job(s) due to autistic children/child.

Table 1

*Frequency distribution of socio-economic impacts on parents' lives of having a child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (N=201)*

Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
I mostly feel misery for my children due to the effects of ASD.	48 (23.9%)	78 (38.8%)	33 (16.4%)	28 (13.9%)	14 (7.0%)
I mostly saw parents in difficulties managing their earning activities of having autistic children.	37 (18.4%)	94 (46.8%)	39 (19.4%)	20 (10.0%)	11 (5.5%)
It is difficult for me to manage my earning activities of having autistic children/children.	31 (15.4%)	65 (32.3%)	39 (19.4%)	43 (21.4%)	23 (11.4%)
I mostly feel fear of job exclusion due to having autistic children/child.	27 (13.4%)	37 (18.4%)	46 (22.9%)	47 (23.4%)	44 (21.9%)
I was excluded from a job(s) due to autistic children/children.	18 (9.0%)	27 (13.4%)	44 (21.9%)	52 (25.9%)	60 (29.9%)
I have mostly been facing economic difficulties in curing my autistic child.	31 (15.4%)	59 (29.4%)	46 (22.9%)	34 (16.9%)	31 (15.4%)
I am dependent on society's responses in terms of financial or medical help due to having autistic children/child.	24 (11.9%)	45 (22.4%)	35 (17.4%)	56 (27.9%)	41 (20.4%)
I am not satisfied form people's economic help.	38 (18.9%)	52 (25.9%)	46 (22.9%)	40 (19.9%)	25 (12.4%)
I cannot bear the economic burden of having an autistic child.	22 (10.9%)	46 (22.9%)	42 (20.9%)	58 (28.9%)	33 (16.4%)
In my opinion, socio-psychological support is mandatory from the community for parents of autistic children/children.	57 (28.4%)	80 (39.8%)	38 (18.9%)	14 (7.0%)	12 (6.0%)
I mostly rely on society for other social support due to autistic children/children.	23 (11.4%)	45 (22.4%)	52 (25.9%)	51 (25.4%)	30 (14.9%)
I understand that parents always faced difficulties in arranging the economy for gender-based treatment of autism.	30 (14.9%)	46 (22.9%)	52 (25.9%)	43 (21.4%)	30 (14.9%)
ASD affects my family's economic well-being and parenting skills in everyday life.	30 (14.9%)	70 (34.8%)	47 (23.4%)	35 (17.4%)	19 (9.5%)

(Strongly Agree=SA, Agree=A, Neutral=N, Disagree=D, Strongly Disagree=SD)

So, the majority of the findings show that parents had not been excluded from jobs due to ASD children. Less than half (90, 44.8%) of the respondents were facing economic difficulties in curing my autistic child. Whereas, more than one-fifth (46, 22.9%) of the respondents had not faced economic difficulties of having ASD children. So, the majority of the parents had faced economic difficulties due to having an ASD child. Less than half (97, 48.3%) of the respondents were not dependent on society's responses in terms of financial or medical help due to having autistic children/children. Whereas, more than one-third (69, 34.3%) of the respondents were dependent on others for medical and financial help for having ASD children. So, the majority of the findings show that parents are not dependent on others for economic and financial help with having ASD children. Less than half (90, 44.8%) of the respondents were not satisfied form people's economic help. Whereas, little less than one-third (65, 32.3%) of the respondents were satisfied form others' economic help.

While, more than one-fifth (46, 22.9%) of the respondents remained neutral about others' economic help due to ASD children. So, the majority of the findings posit that parents had not been satisfied with other economic help due to ASD children. Less than half (91, 45.3%) of the respondents thought that they could not bear the economic burden due to having an autistic child. While, little more than one-third (68, 33.8%) of the respondents remained neutral regarding the economic burden of having ASD children. So, the major findings indicate that parents of ASD children could not take up the economic burden due to their ASD children. Little less than two-thirds (137,

68.2%) of the respondents argued that socio-psychological support is mandatory from the community side for those parents having autistic children/children. Whereas, little less than one-fifth (38, 18.9%) of the respondents remained neutral regarding parents' socio-psychological support from others having ASD children. So, the majority of the findings indicate that parents had the opinion that socio-psychological support is mandatory for parents from the community of have ASD children.

Frequency distribution of social support that a fifth (81, 40.3%) of the respondents have not relied on societal social support even though of have autistic children/children. While, little more than one-third (68, 33.8%) of the respondents were dependent on others for social support for their ASD children. So, the majority of the findings enunciate that parents of ASD children had not relied on others for social support. Less than two-fifths (76, 37.8%) of the respondents had always faced difficulties in arranging enough economy for ASD gender-based treatment. So, the majority of the findings evoke, that parents had always understood the difficulties in gender-based treatment for their ASD children. Almost half (100, 49.7%) of the respondents thought that ASD could affect the economic well-being and parenting skills of parents in their everyday lives. While, less than one-fourth (47, 23.4%) of the respondents remained neutral concerning the influences of ASD on parenting skills and the economic well-being of their families. So, the majority of the findings indicate, that parents' parenting skills and families' economic well-being have always been affected due to ASD abnormal children.



**Table 2**  
**Reliability analysis of Study Scales (N=201)**

Scales	No. of Items	Scale Mean	Cronbach's Alpha
Socio-economic impacts on parents' lives	13	37.46	0.812

A thirteen-item scale was used to measure self-reported socio-economic factors of parents' experiences of dealing with their autistic child for social adjustment. Reliability analysis indicates that the scale is highly reliable ( $\alpha=.812$ ).

**Table 3**  
**Pearson's *r* Correlational Analysis between Independent Variables and Negative Reinforcement (N=201)**

Independent Variables	Negative Reinforcement
Socio-economic impacts on parents' lives of having a child with ASD	.461**

Frequency distribution of socio-economic impacts on parents' lives of having a child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) that the majority (126) of the respondents have mostly felt misery for their children due to ASD impairments. While a large number (65.2%) of the parents had seen parents in difficulties managing their earning activities due to ASD children. That is why the majority ( $f=64$ ) of the parents had mostly felt fear of job exclusion and a mammoth number (55.8%) of the respondents were excluded from job(s) due to autistic children/child. Exclusion from jobs caused severe challenges for parents such as ( $f=90$ ) of the respondents have faced economic difficulties in curing autistic children but a major portion ( $f=90$ ) of the respondents were not satisfied from people's economic help. Whereas, (45.3%) of the parents could not bear the economic burden of ASD treatment. However, the overwhelming (68.2%) of the caregivers were dependent on the zenith of socio-psychological support from others, but ( $f=81$ ) of the respondents have not been satisfied with societal social support. So, it the acute autism that affects the majority (49.7%) of the parents' economic well-being and parenting skills in everyday lives.

Socio-economic impacts on parents' lives of having a child with ASD was measured with negative reinforcement which was significantly correlated with negative reinforcement ( $r=.461$ ,  $p<.01$ ). The above-mentioned model presents the entrepreneurship of relationships between the variable, which significantly corresponds to socioeconomic factors have a positive correlation with negative reinforcements. This finding shows that with the escalation of negative reinforcements, the effects of unfulfilled socioeconomic factors are responsible for various hurdles in parents' lives for social adjustment having a child with ASD impairments.

#### 4. Discussion

The present study exhibited parents' socio-cultural experiences of having a child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in a Pakistani socio-cultural context. The findings of the study regarding positive and negative reinforcements of parental socio-economic experiences in civic lives were the mandatory trajectories of their personal lives in Pakistani culture. This study stemmed from the correlational analysis between the independent variables and negative reinforcements. The findings of the research model with highly significant and positive correlation with each other. The inclination

of the researcher was the illustration of his preliminary interest in finding out the sociocultural experiences of parents of having ASD children with positive reinforcement which corresponds to their social adjustment in the civic domain. (CJ & Hamby, 2016) Or negative reinforcement which causes social rejection in public and private domains (DePape & Lindsay, 2015).

The study objectives have elucidated the epicenter of behavioral outcomes, such as parents' social acceptance and social rejection of having children with ASD impairments in the Pakistani cultural context. (Fombonne, 1999). Apart from Western cultural literature, various other socio-cultural studies such as South Asian and African studies were also incorporated into the research. (Abubakar et al., 2016). The study examines the rational and logical evidence of parents' challenges in the Pakistani cultural context and the behavioral consequences of Pakistani parents having a child with ASD abnormalities. Whereas, negative reinforcement is highly significant and correlated with barriers such as parental stress, and mental and behavioral impairments that have been faced by parents of ASD children in the parenting. Furthermore, socioeconomic impacts have been a gigantic domain in parents' everyday practices. (Beauchesne et al., 2004).

A study similar in nature was also conducted by Zappella in 2017 to determine parents' experiences of having children with autism. Moreover, proper knowledge and awareness also demonstrate the personal and social spheres of the parents. (Shin et al., 2020). Which have been urged for the representation of self-direction and self-autonomy of the parents. In addition, parents of ASD children also show their inclination in the exposition of their socio-economic dependency and promulgation of cathartic social lives in their civic domains. Furthermore, parents and their family members also showed their experiences in the collected data of social stigma and aberrant responses from others which were the preliminary causes of their life's disturbance such as social rejection in socio-cultural lives. The acute impacts of ASD found across the world were also identical to the local culture of Pakistan where Papadopoulos civic lives because of socioeconomic impairments. The study was aligned with the findings of mother experiences in the same nature of research conducted in Greece. (Papadopoulos, 2021). So, the findings of the research posit that the civic lives of parents of ASD children have been facing serious implications on their personal and public lives due to their devastating socio-economic representation in society.

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