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## EXPERIENCES OF THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN COMORBIDITY WITH ADHD

### Abstract

In Bosnia and Herzegovina little is known about experiences of the parents whose children have intellectual disabilities combined with the presence of ADHD. The aim of this research is to get an insight into experiences of those parents through research questions referring to the process of accepting the diagnosis, support experiences and experiencing their role in a child's life. Analysis of the results showed that parents experienced unpleasant emotions and uncertainty while facing the diagnosis. They mobilize different personal mechanisms for that purpose. Formal sources of support, family and support of the wider environment are important for facing everyday challenges and some parents do not have enough of social support. They see their role through dedication to nurturing of the child and satisfying the child's needs. On the basis of the research results it can be concluded that it is necessary to work on raising the awareness of the public about numerous problems of the parents whose children have intellectual disabilities and ADHD as well as provide better and more accessible services that will be created according to the needs of those families.

*Keywords:* parents of children with intellectual disabilities; ADHD; support; facing