

A Study on Normal Siblings of Mentally Retarded Persons

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Abstract

This study examined how normal people perceive their mentally retarded siblings and what they see to be their future relationship. Normal siblings of mentally retarded persons were given a questionnaire regarding their relationships with their parents and mentally retarded siblings during childhood and how they introduced their mentally retarded siblings to their fiances. In most cases, they had good relationships with their mentally retarded siblings during childhood. Most of them also intend to take care of their mentally retarded siblings after their parents pass away. However, some seemed to have ambivalent feelings about their mentally retarded siblings in connection with marrying and starting their own families. Half of the married normal siblings had informed their partners about their mentally retarded siblings before they married. Some of the married normal siblings were worried that they might have a mentally retarded child.
