Abstract
Recently there has been an increase in the impact of modern stress and coping theories from a cognitive point of view on the research in the field of families having children with disabilities. These theories, also, have an impact on the studies regarding reactions of different family members to having a disabled family member and the research focusing on their adaptation to this circumstance. Our study is based on the cognitive adaptation theory of Taylor and on the Double ABCX Model of McCubbin and Patterson that was introduced to describe post crisis adaptation of family members to child disability. Applying Kansas Inventory of Parental Perceptions to 185 parents, 92 parents with children with disabilities and 93 parents with children without disabilities, we have undertaken a comparative analysis of parents’ perceptions on their children as sources of positive contributions. In the case of parents of disabled children in particular, we studied their perception on the situation of having a disabled child. We were motivated by our wish to make a step toward understanding the perceptions' role in cognitive adaptation to child disability.

Keywords: perceptions, adaptation, child disability