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Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a kind of mental disorder that affects the brain in the early childhood and it increases with time. It is why it is also called as neurological disorder. It affects the cognitive skills and the communication skills of an individual. Due to ASD an individual cannot communicate with others. Initially, researchers directly blamed both mother and father for ASD and stated that it is an outcome of mothers who rejects their children. However, there is a science of genetics behind ASD and parents cannot be blamed for it. Moreover, many genetic factors and pre-birth infections play an important role in increasing the risk of this disorder.

It is unclear about the increase in infections but data from researchers suggest that autism rates have increased by 10-fold in last ten years. According to a journal of Pediatrics which was released on October 5, 2009, reported that among the age of 3-17 children, infectious rate is one percent. It means in every one hundred children, there is one infected. However, in 2007, a report was published by Center for Disease Control in which it was made clear that only 1 in 150 children is infected with Autism. This disease is higher in boys as compared to girls. There is no connection found related to the family status, and religion in the identification of autistic patients.

This disease requires strong awareness and recent improved diagnostic methods have helped the health care professionals in the diagnoses. There are conspiracy theories which believe that childhood vaccines are the reason behind ASD. It was claimed in a research paper published in 1998 by Andrew Wakefield who was a British Medical doctor. It was then this disease was discussed in talk shows and the risks it imposes on health were discussed. Due to bias and poor credibility and bias, the original published paper was not accepted. Many studies were conducted by the researchers on a larger scale which shows that there is no relationship between the vaccine and ASD. As a result mothers has stopped using vaccines during pre-birth time period because of the fear of the vaccination. As a result, the risks for other diseases such as measles has increased that negatively impact the development of a child.

ASD is responsible for a variety of different behaviors and causes disabilities. Children who suffer from ASD are not able to communicate with others. They also have poor intelligence and cannot solve simple mathematical problems. As a result they have a learning disabilities and have ritualistic behavior. A small population who have ASD have some sort of special skills such as music and art. They are wonderful artists and singing skills and sometimes have an ability to perform complex mathematical problems. However not everyone has these qualities.

People suffering from ASD have some sort of language delays and sometimes their intelligence is poor and sometimes have a very high intelligence. However, they are afraid of meeting with people, and do not understand the conversations of other people and lack social empathy. Many researchers also call this behavior as Asperger syndrome.

Individuals suffering from ASD needs support in three level. In level 3, they need a high support. This condition is applied to the people who have poor verbal and communication skills. Such individuals are shy of meeting others and often jump, rock and flap their hands. In the second level, individuals require substantial support and in level one, basic support is required. All three levels deal with deficiency in communication skills and improving the social behavior of the individuals (Williams et al. 615).

Since 1943, researchers and health care professionals discovered new ways to treat the autistic child. The credit goes to Sigmund Freud who discovered that parents who do not communicate with child, should not expect any improvements. Whereas parents who are closed to their child saw numerous improvements. Although, it was a great discovery by Frued but it lacked useful critical information: parents didnt give enough time to children because of his autistic behavior and secondly it was transferred genetically ("A Timeline of the History of Autism Spectrum Disorder", 2020). For a specific time, children were taken away from the home to observe any progress but there were no evidences of this method in the future.

Due to various researches and studies, it was found that the best way to treat autistic child is to improve communication that can bring improvements. For example, through communication autistic child can improve his/her communication skills and able to communicate with other. Child can control emotions and parents can help the child to continue working on communication and controlling emotions. Today, one of the widely used method to treat autistic child is Applied Behavior Therapy which is used with the combination of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. There are side effects of each type of treatment but there are also good points of the treatment. ABA was developed by Dr. Ivar and he used the Skinner theories to treat autistic children. In this treatment method Dr. Ivar used rewards for kids in the form of toys and reffered to it as acceptable behavior. On the other hand, there was no punishment for the bad behavior and poor communication. This procedure includes multiple steps and a strong set of rules to be followed. However, this method is very long and consumes a lot of time. However, it is very useful in treating the patients. There are many other theories such as personality development theory which are used to treat patients.

There are some teaching strategies that can be implemented in classroom:A proper daily classroom routine, Use of clear language which doesn’t include humor, Make it clear that bad behaviors are not acceptable, Communicate with each child individually, Give them warning if they try to change their routine, Know how to control abnormal behavior, Use new teaching methods to get the expression of students feelings by using photographs and video recordings, Provide them opportunity to use how and why questions, use a lot of charts in the classroom to learn about the drawing skills of individual students.

In a nutshell, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a mental disorder that affects the communication skills of individuals and it can be treated with communication and new teaching methods with the cooperation of parents with the child. However, the diagnosis is still in development stages even after decades and the reasons behind this disorder are still unknown.

Work Cited Page

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