



Primary school teachers' knowledge regarding autism

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Abstract

Autism, also called autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is a complicated condition that includes problems with communication and behavior. More children are diagnosed with autism now than ever before. But the latest numbers could be higher because of changes in how it's diagnosed, not because more children have a disorder.

Materials and Methods: The study was a descriptive survey study to assess the knowledge on Autism among 100 Primary School Teachers who were willing to participate in the study. After the consent, a structured questionnaire prepared by the investigator was given to them.

Results: 48% had Average knowledge for Autism. There was an association between knowledge and year of experience was found to be significant ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The study depicted that Primary School Teachers having average Knowledge regarding autism. Information book-let play an important role in providing information for others.

Keywords: Autism, spectrum, disorder, complicated, communication, behavior

Introduction

Autism is a developmental disorder that is characterized by impaired development in communication, social interaction and behavior. It is a spectrum disorder. In other words, the symptoms and characteristics of autism can present in a wide variety of combinations, from mild to severe. Two children, both with the same diagnosis, can vary differently from one another and have varying skill. Autism is not a rare disorder, being the third most common developmental disorder. Typically about 20 in a population of 10,000 people will be autistic. 80% of those affected by autism are boys. It is common among high socio economic status. Typically, the onset occurs before the age of 2 ½ years. In some cases, the onset may occur later in childhood. Such cases are called as childhood onset autism. The exact cause is unknown. Structural or functional damage to the central nervous system can produce autism. Elevated serotonin level result in autistic disorder. Altered catecholamine also may lead to the impairment in developmental stage. Autism is not caused by an unhappy home environment, both parents working, mental stress during the Pregnancy, poor handling by the mother, an emotional trauma or other psychological factors.

Problem Statement

Assess the Knowledge regarding Autism among Primary School Teachers in Selected Schools in Aurangabad City in a view to develop an information booklet.

Objectives

1. To assess the Knowledge regarding Autism among Primary School Teachers.
2. To find out the association with Knowledge and selected demographic variables.

Assumption

1. Primary School Teachers may have some Knowledge

Autism.

2. Knowledge regarding autism have strong influence on the adaptation of healthy behavioral practice while take care of students with autism.

Review of Literature

The extensive review of the literature has been done and arranged in the following headings,

- Literature review related to Autism
- Literature review related to recognition and management of Autism
- Literature review related to teachers knowledge related to Autism

Material and Methods

The research design selected for the study was a descriptive survey approach. A non-probability convenience sampling technique was used to select the samples for the study. The study was conducted at selected 5 Schools at Aurangabad, Maharashtra. The sample of 100 Primary School Teachers on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria were selected. The tool used for the study was the structured questionnaire consisting of section I (Socio- demographic variables such as Age, Gender, Residence, Educational Status, year of experience and previous experience with Autism and section II (consisting of 30 items related to Knowledge regarding Autism). The content validity of structured questionnaire was found by submitting the tool to the experts in the field of Psychiatry (Psychiatrist, Psychologist and Mental health nursing) and Pediatric (Pediatrician, Child Health Nursing). A pilot study was conducted on 10 Primary School Teachers in the selected school of Aurangabad. Reliability of tool was established by Karl Pearson's Correlation coefficient. The reliability of tool was calculated and it was 0.87. After the ethical clearance, administrative permission and consent from participants, data was collected.

Result and Findings

Related to Socio demographic variables of Primary School Teachers: According to sample characteristics of Primary School Teachers the majority of Teachers 65(65.00%) were in age group 30-35 years and females were more in number 57(57.00%).The maximum Teachers 55(55.00%) belongs to semi-urban area. According to educational standard of Teachers the maximum Teachers 66(66.00%) were completed MA B.ed. The majority of Teachers 73(73.00%) had more than 15 years of experiences and only 12(12.00%) teachers had a previous experience with Autism.

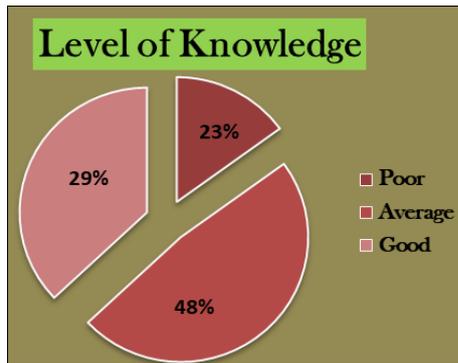


Fig 1: Percentage distribution of level of Knowledge regarding Autism among Primary School Teachers

Recommendation

1. Replication of the study could be done with a large samples to validate and generalize the findings.
2. Comparative study can be carried out to determine the relationship between Knowledge and attitude.
3. An experimental study can be conducted with Knowledge and some intervention.
4. The study can be carried out in a different setting with a different samples.

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