

My Experience in dealing a child with Autism

Anonymous

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ABSTRACT

My only child has Autistism but we couln't recognize that he has Autistism till three years of age. Infact we weren't familiar with this problem. He was restles , speech problem, walked on toes but we would never imagine that it will be everlasting problem of my child.

Keywords: Autism, developmental disability

INTRODUCTION

My only child has Autistism but we couldn't recognize he has Autistism till three years of age. Infact we weren't familiar with this problem. He was restless, speech problem, walked on toes but we would never imagine that it will be everlasting problem of my child.

Child specialist doctor advised us to admit him to school. Environment of school would help him to speak and socialize. But he didn't say that he has some problem. Neighbors said both you and your wife talk a little and your son too. They suggested to talk more with him. After six months of his school admission, there was no significantly changed of his behavior. His age gradually increased but his mental development was not satisfactory. We afraid whether our child would never be normal like other's child. Watching a program on child mental health on TV, I came to know psychiatrist may help us. Psychiatrists of the hospital (in a tertiary care teaching institute) observed him and a lot questions about his birth, behavior, family background and then suggested to his CARS Test (Childhood Autism Rating Scale). Receiving report they decided that he has Autism and he well never be normal. We shocked, tears came out from eyes. Our struggle against autism began from that day. A lot difficulties and disadvantages came to our way but we never give up our hope. We took parents training on nurturing a child with Autism. We tried to follow every step suggested by PSW teacher (Psychiatisc Social

Worker). But his progress is very slow. Doctors and PSW teacher always said to admit him in normal school but infrastructure of normal school is too poor for such students. We couldn't teach him properly and so a special educator badly needed. But it's really difficult to find special school or special educator in our locality. At last we admit him in special school that is about 25 km from our resident.

It's no doubt to say psychiatrist and PSW teacher of the hospital help us knowing about autism and guide us what to do. But I think, it's not sufficient to meet our needs. There should be an autism clinic. Infrastructure and manpower of PSW unit should be more developed so that it can more helpful. Besides this, in the society awareness should be improved so that not a single child be neglected by society.

EDITOR'S NOTES*

This is a first hand account of a father who has a child with Autism. Both parent are school teacher and like any other parent ready to take each and every effort which will help their child to develop like others child.

This small pice of writeup has precisely elucidate various issues and pain experienced by parents who has a child with Autism: Delay in identification of the problem, lake of proffesional supports in terms of educating caregivers, unusefull/misguiding information/suggestions by unawared/inadequately awared people, hard sharing/cracking the fact, knowing the slow and poor prognosis, mountain of bereavement, running post to pillar for treatment, lack of resources to met the needs and ralization of the fact that no one has complete answer.

Sharing or spaking out might be hlpfull in starting a dialogue or advocacy which is much needed to fight with such prblm and to achieve better outcome desired by caregivers and proffessionals.

Name and idendification details are withheld in ethical ground.

Corresponding editor:
Email: pubs@iscience.in

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