



Comprehensive guide to autism

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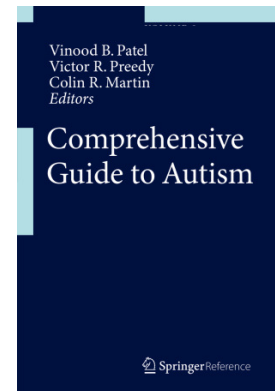
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The word Autism referring to the range of disorders on the autism spectrum or to the various pervasive developmental disorders in contemporary professional literatures.¹ Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the name for a group of developmental disorders. ASD includes a wide range, “a spectrum,” of symptoms, skills, and levels of disability. People with ASD often have these characteristics: Ongoing social problems that include difficulty communicating and interacting with others. It is a lifelong, developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people, and how they experience the world around them.² Public opinion about Autism is in disagreement on disability vs. disorder but country like India Autism is considered as disability under the National Trust Act.³

From understanding the causative factors to early identification, making diagnosis, treatment and finally inclusion or mainstreaming, it is complex and multifaceted. A number of books is required if we want to know about all these but this book is a good compilation which was much required.

"Comprehensive Guide to Autism" is truly comprehensive offers a “one-stop shop” (as authors named) of content related to autism. It is a set of five edited volumes (not available separately) divided in twenty sections which includes 178 chapters including a introductory chapter in each section. I think it's a unique collection, I have never seen such volume at least for Autism. Nothing goes left as it covers each and every thing related to the field. It is the excellent source of an accessible, evidence-based, and clinically thorough account of the ASD field and contemporary issues from the worldwide professional.

Volume one includes 39 chapters in three sections. Section 1: Setting the Scene: has 14 chapters. Section 2: Diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders has ten chapters. Section 3: Behavioral Issues in Autism Spectrum Disorders has 15 chapters. Volume two includes 32 chapters in four sections. Section 4: Neurophysiology and Neuropathology in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Section 5: Neuroimaging and Structure in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Section 6: Learning Issues in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Section 7: Social and Community Issues in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Volume three includes 35 chapters in five sections. Section 8: Biochemical Aspects in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Section 9: Principal Factors and Contributing Mechanisms in the Pathophysiology of Autism, Section 10: Immunology and Autism Spectrum Disorders, Section 11: Genetics and Molecular Aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorders, Section 12: Models for Studying Autism Spectrum Disorders. Volume four includes 35 chapters in four sections. Section 13: Asperger's Syndrome, Section 14: Diet and Nutrition in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Section 15: Treatments in Autism Spectrum Disorders: Non-pharmacological, Section 16: Treatments in Autism: Pharmacological and Active Agents. Volume five includes 30 chapters in four sections. Section 17: International Aspects and Ethnicity of Autism Spectrum Disorders, Section 18: Rett Syndrome, Section 19: Fragile X, Section 20: Methods, Approaches, Procedures, and Techniques in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

This volume is an indispensable reading for a range of professionals: psychiatric social workers, psychologists, clinicians scientists and of course for parents and caregivers.

REFERENCE

¹ H. Meekosha. Gender and disability. Draft entry for the forthcoming Sage Encyclopaedia of Disability Edited by Gary L. Albrecht. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. 2004. Retrieved on May15, 2015 from: disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk/files/library/meekosha-meekosha.pdf.

² NIMH. *Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 2015. Nih.gov. Accessed April 3, 2016 from: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/autism-spectrum-disorders-asd/index.shtml>.

³ National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities - About Disability.

2016.TheNationalTrust.Co.In. Accessed April 3 2016 from: http://www.thenationaltrust.co.in/nt/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=57

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