



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE ATTITUDE REGARDING CARE OF CHILD WITH AUTISM AMONG THEIR PARENTS IN A SELECTED HEALTH CARE SETTING AT BANGALORE

Name(s) of the author:

Mangayarkarasi D*

Address(es):

¹Senior Nursing Officer, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar

ABSTRACT

Autism is a developmental and behavioural pattern, the triad of impairments of social interaction, social communication and imagination. The objective of the study was to assess the attitude regarding care of child with autism among the parents in a selected health care setting at Bangalore. The study was conducted to impart favourable attitude among parents of autistic child on care of child with autism. A quantitative approach with Non experimental descriptive survey design was used for the study. Hundred samples were selected by non-probability convenience sampling technique. The study instrument used was as follows: demographic data and Likert scale to measure the attitude. The tools were administered after obtaining the administrative and informed consent. The collected data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of SPSS version 20.0. It was inferred that regarding attitude maximum number of the parents 48 (48%) had neutral attitude, 31 (31%) of parents had favourable attitude and 21 (21%) of parents had unfavourable attitude.

Key words:

Assess, Attitude, Child, Autism, Parents

MAIN TEXT

1. INTRODUCTION

Autism is a developmental and behavioural pattern, the triad of impairments of social interaction, social communication and imagination. Autism is first being introduced in scientific discourse almost 100 years ago. Autism is one example for the influence of the psychoanalytic school of Sigmund Freud on scientific psychiatry at the beginning of the 20th century. Autism a lifelong disability which is a spectrum disorder that is identified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSM-IV) as a pervasive developmental disorder characterized by perceptual, cognitive and social differences.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

About a third to a half of individuals with autism does not develop enough natural speech to meet their daily communication needs. Differences in communication may be present from the first year of life which includes delayed onset of babbling, unusual gestures, diminished responsiveness and the resynchronization of vocal patterns with the caregiver. Emit noises in a stereotyped fashion. Their speech contains echolalia both immediate and delayed or stereotyped. About 40% of the children with autism have intelligence quotient (IQ) scores <50-55 (severe or profound mental retardation), 30% have scores of 50 to approximately 70 (mild mental retardation) and 30% have scores of 70 and more. Epidemiological and clinical study shows that the risk of autistic children increases as the IQ decreases.

1.1.STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents in a selected health care setting at Bangalore

1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents.
2. To associate the attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with the selected demographic variables.

1.3.HYPOTHESES

- **H₁:** There will be significant association on attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with the selected demographic variables

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research approach	Quantitative approach
Research design	Non experimental descriptive survey design
Research setting	Academy for severely handicapped and autism (ASHA), Bangalore
Population	Parents of autistic children in ASHA (Bangalore)
Sample and sample size	Hundred parents of autistic children in ASHA
Sampling technique	Non Probability Convenience sampling technique
Study Instruments used	Tool-1: Demographic data Tool-2: Likert scale to assess the attitude
Procedure for data collection	After obtaining the permission from concerned authorities and informed consent from the samples, the investigator collected the baseline demographic data.
Plan for data analysis	Descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of SPSS version 20.0 was used for analysis of data

3. RESULTS

3.1. Demographic data among parents of autistic children

- ✚ Regarding age, the majority of the parents 32 (32%) belong to 26-30 years and above 40 years, 22 (22%) of them belong to 36-40 years, 8 (8%) of them belong to 21-25 years and 6 (6%) of them belong to 31-35 years.
- ✚ With regard to gender, most of the respondents 88 (88%) were females and 12 (12%) of them were males.
- ✚ In relation to religion, majority of the parents 67 (67%) belong to Hindu, 20 (20%) of them belong to Christian, 13 (13%) of them belong to Muslim and none of them belong to other religion.
- ✚ With regard to education, majority of the parents 46 (46%) had graduate education, 35 (35%) of them had higher secondary, 13 (13%) of them had secondary schooling, 6 (6%) of them had primary schooling and none of them were illiterate.
- ✚ Regarding occupation, majority of the parents 63 (63%) were private employee, 18 (18%) of them were unemployed, 12 (12%) of them were government employee and 7 (7%) of them were daily wages.
- ✚ With regard to the family income, majority of the parents 59 (59%) had income above 5000 Rs/month, 28 (28%) of them had income between 3001-5000 Rs/month, 13 (13%) of them had income between 1501-3000 Rs/month and none of them had income below 1500 Rs/month.
- ✚ In relation to type of marriage, majority of the parents 64 (64%) belong to non consanguineous marriage and 36 (36%) of them belong to consanguineous marriage.
- ✚ Regarding type of family, majority of the parents 75 (75%) belong to nuclear family and 25% of them belong to joint family.
- ✚ With regard to residence, all parents 100 (100%) belong to urban area and none of them belong to rural area.
- ✚ With regard to awareness of autism, all parents 100 (100%) were aware about autism.
- ✚ Regarding source of information, majority of the parents 73 (73%) got information through health professionals, 27 (27%) of them got information through mass media and none of them got information thorough family members and neighbours.

- ✚ With regard to age of autistic child, majority of the autistic children 40 (40%) belong to above 7 years, 39 (39%) of them belong to 6-7 years, 21 (21%) of them belong to 4-5 years and none of them belong to 2-3 years.
- ✚ In relation to birth order of autistic child, majority of the autistic children 53 (53%) belong to birth order 1, 31 (31%) of them belong to birth order 2, 16 (16%) of them belong to birth order 3 and none of them belong to birth order above 3.
- ✚ With regard to siblings of the autistic child, majority 56 (56%) of the autistic children had no siblings, 44 (44%) of them had 1-2 siblings and none of them had 3-4 and above 4 siblings.

3.2. Assessment of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents

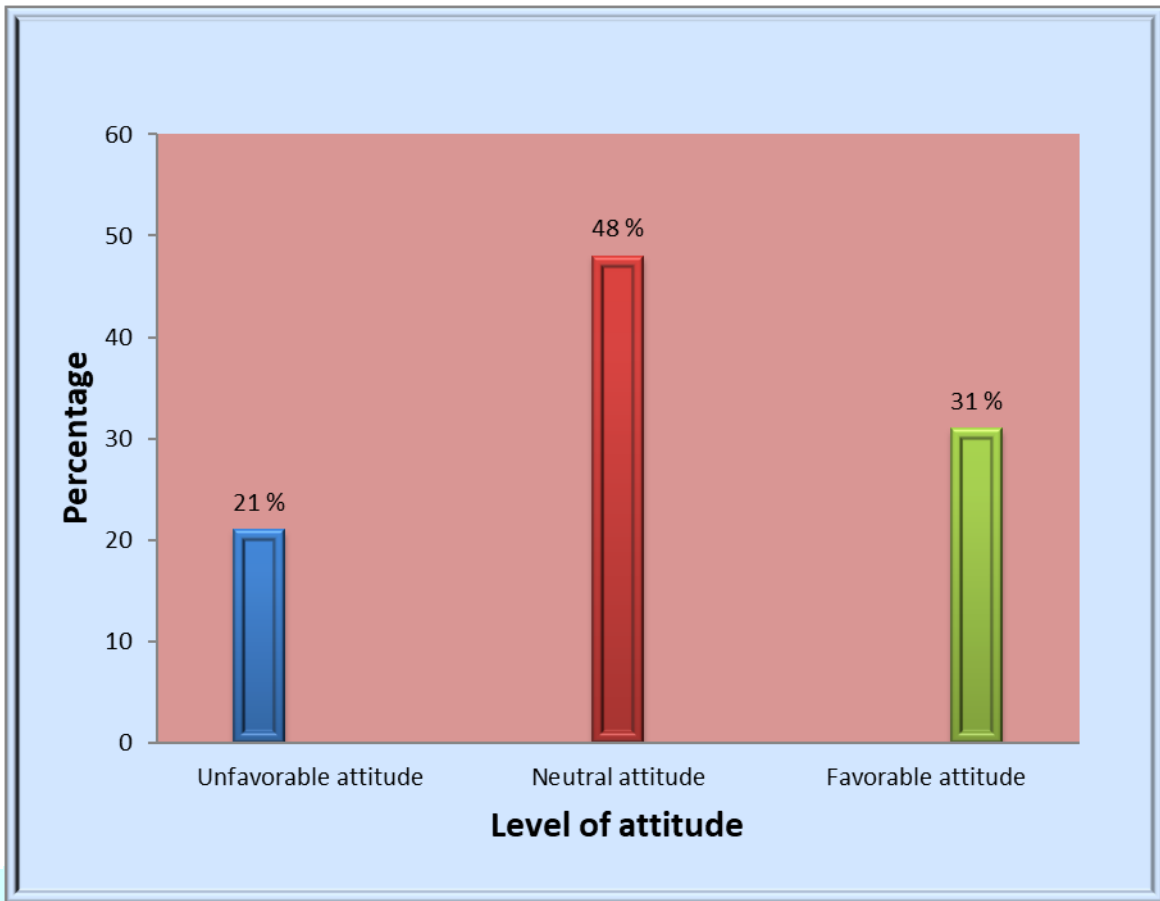
Frequency and percentage distribution of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents

N=100

Domain	Unfavourable attitude		Neutral attitude		Favourable attitude	
	<50		50-75%		>75	
	No	%	N	%	N	%
Level of attitude	21	21	48	48	31	31

Table 1 depicting attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents

Regarding attitude maximum number of the parents 48 (48%) had neutral attitude, 31 (31%) of parents had favourable attitude and 21 (21%) of parents had unfavourable attitude.



3.3. Association of attitude regarding care of child with autism among the parents with the selected demographic variables

Association of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with their selected demographic variables

n = 100

Sl. No	Demographic variables	Sample (n)	Knowledge level of parents				Chi - square (χ^2) value
			≤ Median		> Median		
			No. (100) %	No. (75)	%	No. (25)	
1.	Age (in years)						$\chi^2=0.97$ df = 4 NS
	a. 21-25	8	7	9.3	1	4	
	b. 26-30	32	24	32.0	8	32	
	c. 31-35	6	3	4.0	3	12	
	d. 36-40	22	17	22.7	5	20	
e. Above 40	32	24	32.0	8	32		
2.	Gender						$\chi^2 =0.56$ df = 1 NS
	a. Male	12	11	14.6	1	4	
	b. Female	88	64	85.4	24	96	
3.	Religion						$\chi^2 = 0.933$ df = 2 NS
	a. Hindu	67	48	64.2	19	76	
	b. Muslim	13	11	14.6	2	8	
	c. Christian	20	16	8.2	4	16	
	d. Others	0	0	0	0	0	
4.	Education						$\chi^2 =8.42$ df = 3 S*
	a. Illiterate	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. Primary	6	0	0	6	24	
	c. Secondary	13	7	9.4	6	24	
	d. Higher secondary	35	34	45.3	1	4	
e. Graduate	46	34	45.3	12	48		
5.	Occupation						$\chi^2 =7.92$ df = 3 S*
	a. Unemployed	18	13	17.3	5	20	
	b. Daily wages	7	5	6.7	2	8	
	c. Private employee	63	49	65.4	14	56	
	d. Government employee	12	8	10.6	4	16	

S = Significant *P<0.05, **P < 0.01 and ***P< 0.001, NS = Non Significant.

Table 2.1 shows the association of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with their selected demographic variables. In relation to demographic variables such as age, gender and religion were found to be non-significant in association with level of attitude among parents of autistic children. In relation to demographic variables such as education and occupation was found to be statistically significant in association with level of attitude among parents of autistic children at 5% P level i.e. P< 0.05.

Table 2.2: Association of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with their selected demographic variables

n = 100

Sl. No	Demographic variables	Sample (n) No. (100) %	Knowledge level of parents				Chi - square (χ^2) value
			≤ Median		> Median		
			No.(75)	%	No.(25)	%	
6.	Family income (Rs /Month)	0	0	0	0	0	$\chi^2 = 0.11$ df = 2 NS
	a. Below 1500	13	11	14.6	2	8	
	b. 1501-3000	28	26	34.7	2	8	
	c. 3001-5000	59	38	50.7	21	84	
7.	Type of marriage	36	25	33.3	11	44	$\chi^2 = 0.81$ df = 1 NS
	a. Consanguineous marriage	64	50	66.7	14	56	
8.	Type of family	75	58	77.3	17	68	$\chi^2 = 0.83$ df = 1 NS
	a. Nuclear family	25	17	22.7	8	32	
9.	Residence	0	0	0	0	0	χ^2 test invalid
	a. Rural	100	75	100	25	100	
10.	Awareness of autism	100	75	100	25	100	χ^2 test invalid
	a. Yes	0	0	0	0	0	
11.	Source of information	0	0	0	0	0	$\chi^2 = 0.98$ df = 1 NS
	a. Family members	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. Neighbors	73	54	72.0	19	76	
	c. Health professionals	27	21	28.0	6	24	

S = Significant *P<0.05, **P < 0.01 and ***P< 0.001, NS = Non-Significant.

Table 2.2 shows the association of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with their selected demographic variables. In relation to demographic variables such as family income, type of marriage, type of family and source of information were found to be non-significant in association with level of attitude among parents of autistic children.

Table 2.3: Association of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with their selected demographic variables

n = 100

Sl. No	Demographic variables	Sample (n)	Knowledge level of parents				Chi - square (χ^2) value
		No. (100) %	≤ Median		> Median		
			No. (75)	%	No. (25)	%	
12.	Age of the autistic child (in years)	0	0	0	0	0	$\chi^2 = 0.76$ df = 2 NS
	a. 2-3						
	b. 4-5	21	18	24.0	3	12	
	c. 6-7	39	30	40.0	9	36	
	d. Above 7	40	27	36.0	13	52	
13.	Birth order of autistic child	53	39	52.0	14	56	$\chi^2 = 0.96$ df = 2 NS
	a. 1						
	b. 2	31	25	33.4	6	24	
	c. 3	16	11	14.6	5	20	
	d. Above 3	0	0	0	0	0	
14.	Siblings of autistic child	56	39	52.0	17	68	$\chi^2 = 0.58$ df = 1 NS
	a. Nil						
	b. 1-2	44	36	48.0	8	32	
	c. 3-4	0	0	0	0	0	
	d. Above 4	0	0	0	0	0	

S = Significant *P<0.05, **P < 0.01 and ***P< 0.001, NS = Non-Significant.

Table 4.6 shows the association of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with their selected demographic variables. In relation to demographic variables such as age of autistic child, birth order of autistic child and siblings of autistic child were found to be non-significant in association with level of attitude among parents of autistic children.

4. CONCLUSION

The study assessed the attitude regarding care of child with autism among the parents. The results revealed regarding attitude maximum number of the parents 48 (48%) had neutral attitude, 31 (31%) of parents had favourable attitude and 21 (21%) of parents had unfavourable attitude. There was statistically significant association of attitude regarding care of child with autism among their parents with education.

4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. An exploratory study may be conducted to establish the degree of awareness regarding care of child with autism among general population.
2. A similar study may be conducted to identify the health care options chosen by the population regarding care of child with autism

5. REFERENCES

1. Stanton, Smiley I. *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders*. 4th edition. Washington: American psychiatric association 2007. p. 10-16.
2. Montes G, Halter man JS. Child care problems and employment among families with autistic children available from URL: / <http://www.pubmed.com>.
3. Lin CR, Tsai YF, Chang HL. Coping mechanisms of parents of children recently diagnosed with autism available from URL: / <http://www.pubmed.com>.
4. Jone S, Cooper SA, Smiley I, Allan L, Williamson A, Morrison J. prevalence of, and factors associated with, problem behavior in adults with intellectual disability available from URL: / <http://www.pubmed.com>.
5. Klieg man, Behrman, Jenson, Stanton. Nelson text book of Pediatrics. Autism. Volume I; 18th edition. New Delhi: sounders publication; 2008. p. 133-136.
6. Harrington JW, Rosen L, Garnecho A, Patrick PA. Parental perceptions and use of complementary and alternative medicine practices for children with autistic spectrum disorders in private practice available from URL: / <http://www.pubmed.com>.
7. Caryl N. Morgan. Advances in psychiatric treatment; prevalence rate of autistic disorder in adults with learning disability. British journal of psychiatry 2002/12/23: (26). p. 127-30. Available from URL: / <http://www.pb.rcpsych.org>.