

**AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD); A THREAT TO SOCIAL COMMUNICATION**

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**ABSTRACT**

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a condition that affects communication, social interaction, interests and performance. Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by impaired social dealings, in which verbal and non verbal communication is affected. Now a day's autism is very rapidly spread in children below 3 years old. The main purpose of this short communication is to create awareness among different individuals and clinical practitioners of our society.

**KEYWORDS:** ASD, Neurodevelopmental Disorder, Verbal communication, Non-verbal communication, Children below 3 years, clinical practitioners.

**INTRODUCTION**

Autism is a developmental disorder which presents before three years of age.<sup>[1]</sup> it is usually characterized by statement difficulties, social impairments, and controlled, recurring typecast patterns of manners. Autism was first depicted by Leo Kanner in 1943, in a classic article that included case studies of 11 children. Since that time, the diagnostic criteria have evolved based on continued observations and research, resulting in the current criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.<sup>[2]</sup> Autism and related conditions in the autism spectrum have become the focus of intense interest fueled by concerns about the apparent increase in the number of children with these developmental disorders.<sup>[3,4]</sup> after the definition every individual should know receiving a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder

(ASD) has a major impact on an individual and his or her family (Howlin and Moore, 1997). This is often the key stage at which parents can access support for both themselves and their child (Mansell and Morris, 2004; Midence and O'Neill, 1999), positive investigative practice is associated with greater levels of receiving, inferior height of stress and extra effective coping strategies (Woolley et al., 1989). Delays in receiving a diagnosis can lead to low levels of parental satisfaction (Howlin and Moore, 1997) and can hinder the implementation of effective support or intervention strategies (Webb et al., 2014). Furthermore, parents who experience a long diagnostic delay may lose confidence in the healthcare professionals involved and are more likely to seek alternative treatments for their child which have poor empirical support (Harrington et al., 2006). Traditional medicine does not offer a cure for autism. while consequence, untested complementary and alternative treatments are often provided to children with autism by parents who are seeking effective biomedical interventions.<sup>[5]</sup> Patients with chronic conditions with unclear pathophysiologic features, unproved explanations of causation and highly case in autism, are most vulnerable to the placebo effect.<sup>[6]</sup> Such is clearly the case in autism, and unproved explanations of causation and unproved therapies abound. Inadequate availability and/or inequity in distribution of mental health and child health specialists and their insufficient knowledge and skills to manage ASDs and developmental ailment in common, are renowned among the chief obstacle to improving access to care in high-income as well as low- and middle-income countries.<sup>[7]</sup>

Pakistan, a developing country in Southeast Asia, with the population of more than 181 million, is the sixth most populous nation in the world (Population Reference Bureau 2009). More than 38 % of this population is under the age of 15. Although significant improvements have been noticed in the last few decades in provision of pediatric health services, unluckily the vicinity of child intellectual health and learning disability remain largely neglected.<sup>[8]</sup>

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in our nation. Owing deficient in ample awareness and lack of professionals made autism untreatable. Every country needs to train the health care professionals regarding this prevalence syndrome. As this is the high time to generate the buzz.

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