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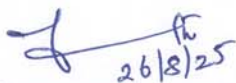
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1.	Name of the Research Scholar	Seema Saikia
2.	Roll No. and Year of Registration	18PHHDF001, 2018
3.	Department	Human Development
4.	Name of the Research Guide	Dr. Ramya Bhaskar
5.	Title of the Thesis / Dissertation	Parent's Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice on Pre-requisite Skills for Children with Autism and its Influence on Parents Mental Health and Self-efficacy - A Sensitization Study
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Chapter 1 Introduction

In India, pregnancy is traditionally celebrated with immense joy, as it symbolises blessings and the continuation of family lineage. Families look forward to the birth of a child with great anticipation, imagining a bright and promising future. Parents and families may encounter feelings of shock, denial, sadness, guilt, and grief when the child grows up with certain challenges, with any physical or mental impairments, disorders, or disabilities like cerebral palsy, ADHD, and autism, being one important disorder, turning the joyous journey quickly into an emotionally complex experience. This is not only due to the diagnosis itself but also due to the loss of expected hopes for the child's future. This grief is often intensified by societal stigma, cultural misconceptions, and a lack of awareness, which in some cases leads to blame being directed at the parents, particularly mothers, or attributing the condition to karma or past wrongdoings (Daley, 2004). According to Hyman et al., (2020), children are the most precious gift, and they build the future of our society. Therefore, it is imperative to support their social-emotional, linguistic, and cognitive growth with the major pre-requisite skills that are necessary for their daily life. Parents should strive to improve their understanding of their child's condition, as this knowledge enables them to offer more effective support with a positive and empathetic attitude. With greater awareness, they can also encourage and guide their child toward developing independence and self-confidence.

According to WHO (2023), Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that can affect how a person interacts with others, communicate, learn, and behave. The term "autism" was first introduced in 1911 by Swiss psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler. However, it wasn't until the 1940s that the condition began to be more thoroughly understood. In 1943, Dr. Leo Kanner, while working at Johns Hopkins University, encountered a boy named Donald who displayed an extraordinary memory but struggled with typical social interaction and communication. This encounter led Kanner to identify a pattern among several children who shared similar traits like intense inward focus and significant challenges in social behaviour, communication, and adaptability. He termed this condition "Early Infantile Autism" (Rehabilitation Council of India, 2022). Since then, the understanding and classification of ASD have evolved significantly. Today, it is recognised as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), reflecting a wide range of manifestations. This evolution has been influenced by a variety of forces, including scientific research, shifting political attitudes, media portrayals, clinical practices, parental advocacy, and commercial interests, and the journey of understanding ASD continues to unfold.

Parent's Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice on Pre-requisite Skills for Children with Autism and its Influence on Parents Mental Health and Self-efficacy - A Sensitization Study

by Central Library Avinashilingam

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Chapter 1 Introduction

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