



Autism and its Social Impact



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Abstract

The objective that is intended to be achieved with this article is to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder linked to the various areas where the individual with ASD is presented as the main actor. One of the main characteristics that a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder has is difficulty in communicating with other people, it affects the neurodevelopment of the person, and its first symptoms begin in the first years of life, therefore the communication relationship and emotions that begin with the family is one of the main ones, here the confidence to relate to the outside world, such as school, is strengthened; The child begins to bond with people of the same age, which can be a viable strategy for the development of interpersonal intelligence. Then there is the social area, which aims to achieve good communication relationships with others, and finally, there is the world. work, where the subject is in the adult stage achieving self-sufficiency and empowerment to break barriers in their professional life.

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1 Introduction

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder, generally, those who suffer from it do not present symptoms until approximately 5 years of chronological age. It should be noted that people with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) usually lead a daily life, however, they are It makes interpersonal and communication relationships difficult, the causes of autism are unknown but are associated with gene mutations, ASD generally refers to a neurobiological condition of brain development, in addition It is considered that there are various levels of affectation among people, these levels can range from mild to severe. (Sevilla et al., 2013) (As cited in Kogan, 2009; Yearging-Allsopp, 2003) state:

According to the definition of the international autism association. Europe (2000), in the world five out of every 10,000 people have "classic autism", and the figures rise to one in every 700-1000 people if the "autism spectrum" is taken into account. In the studies carried out, no differences are found depending on social class or culture, and a sex ratio of 4:1 is established, with the male population being more affected, as other studies reveal.

ASD is considered an affection where the infant is directly involved, probably the diagnosis in most cases is more frequent in boys than in girls regardless of socioeconomic factors and conditions.

The statistical figures are undoubtedly an alert for society, understanding that ASD is a permanent disorder in the person, it has no cure, but thanks to the work and formation of a multidisciplinary team and early detection it will facilitate a better lifestyle. for those who suffer from it, according to Ibero-America (Comín, 2011) states:

However, according to the data that exists today, the prevalence of autism in Mexico is one in three thousand (1/3000) compared to practically 1/100 in the US (According to this data, Mexico would have about 105,000 children with autism). However, we will have to wait for the publication of the epidemiological study that is being carried out in Mexico to have updated data.

Specifically, in Ecuadorian territory, autism is present; However, the approach model used to diagnose these cases still has margins of error, highly trained professionals are required to certify a correct diagnosis, considering: risk factors, family history, clinical history, socioeconomic situation and the criteria Of the elements linked in the case, there is no doubt that the Autism Spectrum has been deepened and understood more every day, in addition, an increase and interest in investigating this topic has been perceived and demonstrated, which is of great contribution to providing information to specialists and the circle where the subject develops.

Ecuador does not escape this reality. This pioneering study in the field of autism at the national level carried out with 160 boys and girls from the coast and the mountains, 80 diagnosed with autism along with another 80 neurotypicals, highlights the need to address these topics. It was concluded through surveys and confirmation of cases, which innovatively included the analysis of social insertion, that the diagnostic processes demand enormous economic expenses, and vary according to social insertion and socio-spatial location; 26% of the children in the study group received between 1 to 5 different previous diagnoses, 13.75% were misdiagnosed, 46.2% in Guayaquil and 23.7% in Quito, spent more than 1000 dollars on search for that longed-for diagnosis. The present case-control type investigation with children between 2 and 12 years old, from Quito and Guayaquil, allowed us to know the real situation of autism in Ecuador, an objective that revealed great problems regarding the way to obtain the diagnosis, and the therapeutic processes; data that are intertwined with the socioeconomic situation of the parents studied (López-Chávez & Larrea-Castelo, 2017).

It is very necessary for pediatric professionals to decipher the alarm symptoms, considering the initial stage as one of the main ones, parents are one of the main managers for the detection and help of correct information for intervention, which is why need to have the support of hospitals, foundations and centers specialized in autism spectrum disorder in the City of Portoviejo. "At the moment, at the Specialty Hospital they are working with 50 children diagnosed with this disorder." (El Diario, 2019).

Society has one of the most important roles in the holistic development of human beings, for

Therefore, it has the responsibility to provide adequate treatment linked to awareness and respect for life.

Society is defined as a group of people who share a territory, a culture with customs and a language, and a group of norms that were created years ago and are generally met, so when there is something, unusual there are various types of Controversy among them is people with ASD with their unique traits. Mentions (Alvarez, 2018) "People with autism appear rampaging, breaking norms almost from birth. With his logical reasoning, without reservations, without double

meanings, without modesty, without allowing himself to be manipulated by those norms assumed by the rest of the people.” In general, people who have autism cannot be ashamed of what they do, that is, they manage all their activities naturally, whether they are appropriate or not for society. Undoubtedly, autism statistics worldwide are high and certainly, They have a lot of impact on the lives of those who suffer from it and those they live with.

2 Materials and Methods

The methodology that was applied to prepare the article belongs to the type of analytical research, this includes the separation of a whole, dividing it into portions to observe causes and effects, this methodology will help establish a direct relationship with the problem based on experience, the method used is inductive, which allows drawing general conclusions that start from a particular fact, conceptualizing the relationships that exist between autism and the areas: educational, social, family and work. The bibliographic references that support it ([Hernandez et al., 2010](#)).

3 Results and Discussions

Autism

Autism directly affects the proper development of brain functions, specifically in areas that are linked to interpersonal relationships and communication skills. "The terms *Autism Spectrum Disorders and Pervasive Developmental Disorders* "Have been used equivalently to refer to a wide spectrum of neurodevelopmental disorders, which can present alterations in socialization, communication and imagination." ([Aguiar et al., 2016](#))

Most people in the dating stage take a big step towards formalizing their commitment to their partner, they want to have a family and procreate children, fruits of love and respect, which are the essential foundations of every marriage. Sometimes these plans do not have the results expected, one of the children is different, some situations alert parents to resort to the help of a medical professional, and parents tend to get frustrated and may not find accurate answers regarding the complexity of their child's development son ([Sharma et al., 2018](#); [Woolfenden et al., 2012](#)).

“In pervasive developmental disorders, such as ASD, there is usually a wide alteration of various functions. In a very summary way, the following symptoms could be highlighted: ([Velazaman, 2019](#)).

Currently, one of the biggest interferences or complications that doctors face is a notorious delay in diagnosis. It is global knowledge that today health professionals and society impart more awareness and empathy towards This Disorder, undoubtedly the existence of internal and external factors hinder the speed of a timely diagnosis, for example: the fear of doctors being wrong to issue a certificate according to the tests or reagents used, the instability, variability of the child's behavior These can be complications in making a diagnosis and in the worst case, the lack of specialized information on the part of doctors.

Until hearing this diagnosis, on many occasions, parents have gone through a true ordeal, going back and forth from consultation to consultation, from specialist to specialist, even moving from city to city, and why not say it sometimes also from country to country. The suspicion that something is happening is confirmed by various professionals, but there is no agreement regarding what is happening. ([Martínez & Bilbao, 2008](#)).

Emotional support at the family level is one of the strategies that should be used by fathers and mothers; achieving this process undoubtedly takes time, which is why the family will also need professional help to assimilate and accept this Disorder. Autism Spectrum Disorder is not associated with a difference or physical trait that can differentiate it from one child to another, ASD manifests itself in the cognitive areas (knowledge, intelligence and abilities) and the person's behavior ([Videon & Manning, 2003](#); [Maria, 2013](#)).

The following symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are detailed below in Figure 1.

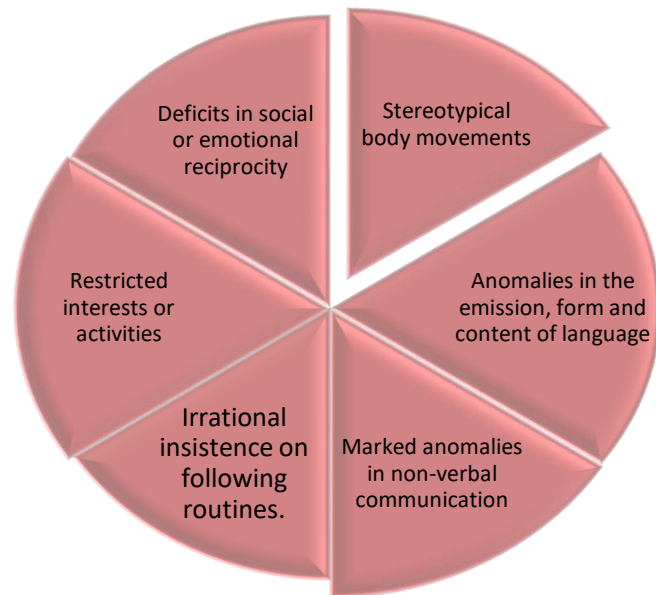


Figure 1. Symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Figure number 1 shows the symptoms presented by people who suffer from Autism Spectrum Disorder, allowing early detection to address the case and obtain positive results for the subject and the environment.

Prevalence of Autism in Society

Autism is a disorder that affects many people in the world in different ways, sometimes the behavior is usually strange to others, preventing social connection or bond, it is important to consider empathy so as not to make them feel strange or strange, the family is the one who suffers these effects, they deal at every moment with judging and sanctioning society. The link that people have with autism spectrum disorder in different social groups is detailed below in Figure 2.



Figure 2. List of ASD social groups

Figure 2 details the social groups in which a person suffering from Autism Spectrum Disorder operates. There are several ways to be linked to Autism Spectrum Disorder in different social groups, however, to achieve this it is necessary to generate a culture of inclusion and awareness for acceptance, always considering the limitations and the great efforts they make to cope. interpersonal way.

In Figure number 2, 4 areas are mentioned that are related to Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is considered that ASD, depending on its level of severity, will allow the development and link with the aforementioned spaces of action. In the area of education, the person who suffers from Autism Spectrum Disorder begins to generate informational and communicative links that are completely different from those they have in the family, which is why it is important that the educational community understands how they act, think and may feel with this new environment for them.

Children with autism have very specific needs and this means providing a specialized and intensive educational response, a response that during the childhood stage is of great relevance because it will determine the prognosis of the disorder and its evolution. What seems most reasonable is to evaluate the needs of each child before deciding which school is the most convenient for each specific case and subsequently monitor their progress and emotional adjustment in school, being able to make the necessary changes, since, although Frequent changes must be avoided; the solution chosen for a specific child at a specific moment in their development does not have to be permanent. (Crespo, 2018)

For this reason, it is necessary to know with certainty what the characteristics of this disorder are. First, have the diagnosis certificate from health professionals on hand to begin including the student with special educational needs in the educational system and make the adaptations. corresponding curricular programs to achieve the goals and objectives planned during the school year, to provide an inclusive and equitable education (Wray et al., 2022; Lamb et al., 2012).

As mentioned at the beginning and collaborating with what the following author says, ASD is diagnosed more in the first years of life, specifically when the child begins the education stage. (Aragunde et al., 2018) "Recent studies tell us that approximately 1 in every 68 children has been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), its presence being more common every day in Early Childhood Education classes". Once a student has been diagnosed with SEN, the laws of our country regarding education require that these students be present in regular education, making the corresponding adjustments for their integration.

Observing Figure 2 referring to the community area, this is one of the most important aspects of the child with ASD because it is where the person relates directly, society plays a very important role in the formation of personality and people's values.

Knowing that society is an entity where all people find emotional ties, it must be prepared for any problem that may arise in it specifically relating it to some disorder that makes certain people different, but therefore it cannot be rejected but rather included. However, understanding and awareness an important contributions in the work area, as can be seen in Figure 2, working is one of the breaking points that a person can have in adulthood, sometimes the rejection exclusion may be present.

ASD can significantly limit a person's ability to carry out daily activities and participate in society. They often negatively influence educational and social achievements and employment opportunities. Although some people with ASD can live independently, others with severe disabilities need constant care and support throughout their lives. (World Health Organization, 2019).

It is considered of utmost importance that parents from an early age of the child who has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder work on the autonomy of the minor, considering the stage and skills of empowerment and independence according to the chronological age, to face the real world, where you can not only socialize but also feel like a human being capable of carrying out the other corresponding activities, such as the work field.

Since the end of the 20th century, different international organizations, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), have supported the implementation of various programs, proposals or specific initiatives to promote the incorporation of people with disabilities into the labor market and have promoted methodological models aimed at promoting the labor inclusion of these groups. (Vidriales et al., 2018).

Therefore, today the inclusion of people with ASD in the various areas where human beings develop is a demonstration of a more equitable global society, more responsible for what happens to citizens, starting by understanding the problem now. It is a great step towards acceptance and help towards others. Another of the areas framed in graph number 2 is the Family area, this is the first social and emotional bond, in which the person with Autism Spectrum Disorder develops, they begin to form bonds of trust and security, autism is a disorder that will directly affect the person who suffers from it but is also attached to the parents since some become frustrated by this situation. According to (Oliver, 2017)

Parents are exposed to multiple challenges, which have a strong impact on the family through **emotional, economic and cultural levels**. Professional support can **help deal with a child** with autism. Experts can help parents manage the behaviors. Caring for a child with autism can be exhausting and **frustrating**. Unfortunately, not all families of autistic children have access to these professional services, either due to a lack of knowledge or financial resources.

According to what the author states, it can be stated that within some families there is no accurate knowledge regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder, for this it is necessary to try to manage ASD from a global perspective where the first support center is that of the family (Shamshirsaz et al., 2017; Kirchherr & Charles, 2016). In this way, there would be prior knowledge about the existing problem and an attempt would be made to better achieve the acceptance of all those who make up the blood link with ASD. According to the author, the level of the family is affected in the emotional and economic areas. and cultural, but there will also be other areas where the family will be directly affected, such as in education, and how it will develop within this circle, they will generate fear of knowing what the social development will be like with students and teachers, in turn also It is a concern in social groups about how this adaptation will be, remember that one of its shortcomings is communication, which is why there must be prior knowledge of ASD to better adapt the family member to these instances. One of the main causes that the family suffers is the stress of not understanding the situation that the person with ASD is going through. (Baña Castro, 2015)

The family becomes the main and most permanent support for the individual; many of the person's expectations, possibilities and well-being will depend on his actions. For some time now, work with families has been highlighted to recognize the importance of the educational and socializing role of fathers, mothers, sisters, and grandparents. Knowing the family context is of utmost importance to analyze the development of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and stimulate their learning potential.

The arrival of an autistic child into the family can mean failure and frustration for the parents. In the first instance, they experience grief because they expect their child to grow up in a “normal” way, but in the course of their development they move to the stage of the acceptance. Sometimes, as the author states, it will depend on the resilience capacity of the family nucleus to cope with and overcome this event. The economic area of the parents will be involved and sometimes affected, which is why it is necessary to acquire relevant information in organizations, and educational centers. support and hospitals that have highly trained professionals to generate information.

Education professionals must generate a personal commitment to provide a teaching-learning process based on the principle of ethics, allowing the comprehensive and holistic development of the abilities, skills and competencies of those who suffer from Autism Spectrum Disorder, with the sole purpose of generating independence, autonomy for development and effective performance in regular school (Vanclay, 2002).

Society must feel the need to impart and generate knowledge for a more accurate awareness, in this way eliminating myths that harm the development of those who suffer from Autism Spectrum Disorder, allowing learning from them the importance of not judging and generating opinions with sanctioning or punishing criteria, in addition to learning honesty from them, one of the values that are innately part of their personality.

The family is the main entity for the social development of the child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Once socialized and accepted the diagnosis by the doctor, parents must acquire relevant information and be self-taught regarding the disorder. of the autism spectrum to prepare the subject and achieve their independence in adulthood, the motivation and support of specialized centers or other instances that collaborate in the development of the individual are of utmost importance to include them in a lifestyle according to their needs.

Employment is an important and strategic means to put social inclusion and awareness into practice, and it also allows performance and transition to the adult stage of the human being, strengthening the autonomy and empowerment that is essential for coexistence with others. , employment is one of the rights that every citizen must enjoy, therefore, people with Autism Spectrum Disorder must enjoy complete freedom to participate in the world of work.

4 Conclusion

People who suffer from autism spectrum disorder manifest the symptoms of ASD generally in their first years of chronological life, children generally present complications in the development of communication, emotional, social and behavioral skills due to the difficulty of generating interpersonal connections with others. There are many negative factors, both internal and external, that prevent the proper diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder by health professionals, limiting early detection and adequate intervention to provide a better quality of life to those who suffer from it and those who live with it him (family, school, social groups, others).

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declared that they have no competing interests.

Statement of authorship

The authors have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The authors have approved the final article.

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