

VERBAL SKILL - AN ESSENTIAL NEED FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT: : *The capability to communicate effectively is an important skill. Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders have various ranges of difficulty in promoting verbal skills. 1.7% prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) of total population in the world. 25% - 30% of children with ASD are having deficit in functional verbal and poor language. The parents of ASD children suffer more stress than parents of normally developed children. Parents should be able to avail an additional amount of time, adjustment phase and parental anxiety.*

In this study a practical method to investigate the efficacy of Parently approach Pedagogy on improving the verbal skill. The data was gathered using the modified Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism Questionnaire and formulation of brief training for Primary caregivers on improving the verbal skill and it proves the efficacy with statistically significant level.

Key Words: *Autism Spectrum Disorder, verbal skill, Parently Approach Pedagogy, Primary caregiver*

INTRODUCTION:

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) represents a complex, developmental and neurological disorders featured by delay in social communication and behavioural interactions. The knowledge of parents on improving the verbal skill has to be enhanced with the help of special training programmes, workshops and group discussion conducted by the health professionals.¹ Children with ASD may have difficulty developing language skills and understanding what others say to them. Some children may not be able to communicate, others may have rich vocabularies and not able to talk about. Experts believe that parent-mediated intervention during the early years can enhance life skills of children with autism, improving their life chances. Areas where the child could benefit might include parent-child interaction, social communication, symbolic play and social imitation.² The intervention could lead to better adaptive functioning, such as the ability to cope with daily tasks, less restricted behavior, fewer repetitive behaviors, and reduced anxiety in the child and would also benefit the parents.¹ According to **WHO** in April 2017, 1/130 children has Autism Spectrum Disorders (7.6:1000) all over the world and approximately is 0.15% of Autism spectrum disorders and is increased by 0.20% every year in India. A selected study showed group of intellectually differentially abled children, the prevalence of autistic children were 23.7% and among them majority were males.³

Significance of enhancing verbal skills in Autistic children

Communication is transferring the ideas and views, information in various means to others. Communication skills develop from infancy. A child with Autism Spectrum Disorders have poor verbal communication and have varying degrees of delay on getting speech and language, but social interaction are the main feature of diagnosing autism and tries to communicate to others only in times of their needs.⁴ When receiving back the communication from the child it is important to provide adequate time to receive, process the information and frame their responses. Verbal speech or the language can be expressed and understood phonologically by means of speech, orthographically by writing, and gestural through sign language. The main aim of the training is for gathering information which is challenging language, speech and communication challenges in association with ASD.⁴

Planned Parently Approach Pedagogy interaction outcomes

Primary care givers of autistic children are under excessive stress. While caring the child with autism more time more attention, lot of patience have to be shown. Many parents experiment with various therapies and treatment modalities.⁴ The parents feel embarrassed when they have to take the children outside the home or to any family occasion due to their poor verbal communication and social interaction and their aggressive behavior. Studies infer that parent - mediated education or intervention during their early years of learning will enhance their life chances.⁵ The parent - child relationship will improve the language skills, behavior skills, cognitive skills. The Pedagogy might equip the parents to improve the

capability of them to manage their challenges in their child's daily routines, less repetitive behaviors and reduced temper tantrums in the child and it will be also benefited by the parents. There is a need to emphasize the congenial environment for one to one interaction. A parent based management enable for the social interaction, such as friendship skills, empathy and the desire to share.⁶

As a researcher I have incorporated the Parently Approach Pedagogy on improving the verbal skill of autistic children for the Primary caregivers. A Quantitative approach with true experimental design was used and 94 subjects were selected through Convenient sampling technique by placing 47 subjects in each experimental and control group. The data was collected using the modified Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism questionnaire (Smita Neelkanth Deshpande, 2008). The PAP was given to the experimental group, the session was given for 30 minutes and at the end of the session the subjects were given a Booklet for their further practice. At the end of the study period there was a considerable change in verbal skill improvement from mild level to good skill level in experimental group which revealed its significance statistically ($p < 0.001$). At the end of the study the control group was exposed to similar Pedagogy.

CONCLUSION

Parental education and training plays a major role on improving the verbal skill of the Autistic children. The Parental pedagogy can also be implemented in other skill like Connotative, Cognitive and affective skills.

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