

Investigation on Family Situation of Autistic Children and the Impact of Family on Autism—*Behind Children of Stars*

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ABSTRACT

Autistic children is known as the “children of stars” because they hardly communicate with other people, they more likely lost in his own world. The medical researches now post that most of their pains are caused by chromosomal abnormality. However, due to the ignorant of the society, researches about the effect of environment around and family situation still uncertain. Thus, the primary goal of this paper is to investigate the relationship between family situation and the incidence rate of autism by using the questionnaire. According to the investigation of Guangzhou Medical College Children psychological Quality Training Center, they show that almost 60% of autistic children’s families are made up of high intellectuals because such parents neglect to take care of their children.[1]

Keywords: autism, family, medicine, therapies

1. INTRODUCTION

Autism is a “spectrum disorder”, which means a child’s symptoms can present in a wide variety of combinations, from mild to severe. Autism can make it difficult for a child to communicate and interact with others. It can also cause a child to perform repetitive activities and movements, become upset at changes in daily routine, and have unusual responses to certain situations [2]. As the development of medical field, it is found the the mental health also relates to autism.

This paper mainly discusses the role parents play in the development of their children. Then, the cause of autistic and the relationship between family situation and the the incidence of autism. This research could lead to more targeted treatments for children with autism and give parents who have busy jobs effective ways. It will also lead to the wider attention from the society and gives rehabilitation facilities more therapies which point to the relationship between parents and their autistic children.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research methods

During the research, using the questionnaire can be the most effective way, we come up with some questions

about autistic children’s parents’ jobs, income per year, and the time they spend on their children before they found that their children had autism. Thus, we sketching the graph about the age of getting autism.

2.2. Data collection

We made the questionnaire about the type of autistic children’s family and their parents’ careers to evaluate which kind of family always has autistic children. As the investigation object, 200 questionnaires were randomly distributed, and 188 valid questionnaires were collected. Among them, 142 were from parents and 46 were from teachers. The recovery rate was 94%.

2.3. Results

After discussion, it can be found that the rural family, single-parent family and high-intellectual family’s children have the higher opportunity of getting autism. 25.6% children comes from rural family, 22.1% children only a live with their mother or father, even the incidence rate of autism is much higher to young children and it is incurable. Thus, efficient therapy like ABA treatment should be used in time. Parents should also pay more attention to their children.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1. The role parents play in children's education

The father in a family is a very important factor, concerning the organization of a nice and appropriately functional development of a house hold, with a specific accent on the children. A good father must be a good parent and a good husband. This person is extremely important factor in the organization of the family life as a whole, which are the basic ground towards a happily and joyful family for all the members of a respective family.

The role of the woman or the mother as an educator represents a crucial resource to the development of the individual identity, which from researchers is seen even as more important as the very marital status of the parents and the occupation of the parents themselves. Mother's protection as a function embeds several types of actions or types of functions. The first type is connected to the physical protection of the child, which means that the child must be provided health care and hygienic conditions, so that he/she could have a healthy life in a

worm home environment in every sense of the word, including here the ambiance where the child lives, which must be well enlighten, a healthy place which offers the child to be showered, feed up and taken care in general [3].

3.2. The mental cause of autism

In China, most autistic families are from rural people, single-parent family, and some of these children even come from high intellectual family.

As for rural family, the lack of awareness of autism is the main cause of autistic children. Normally, both parents in these families come to cities to get jobs. Their children are usually cared by grandparents. Because of the lack of caring from parents, children in that situation are more likely in autism. More importantly, since autistic children's grandparents do not have enough experience about autism, they could not have a clear definition of autism, which keeps those children's illness from being detected. The research of autistic children's ill ages are represent below.

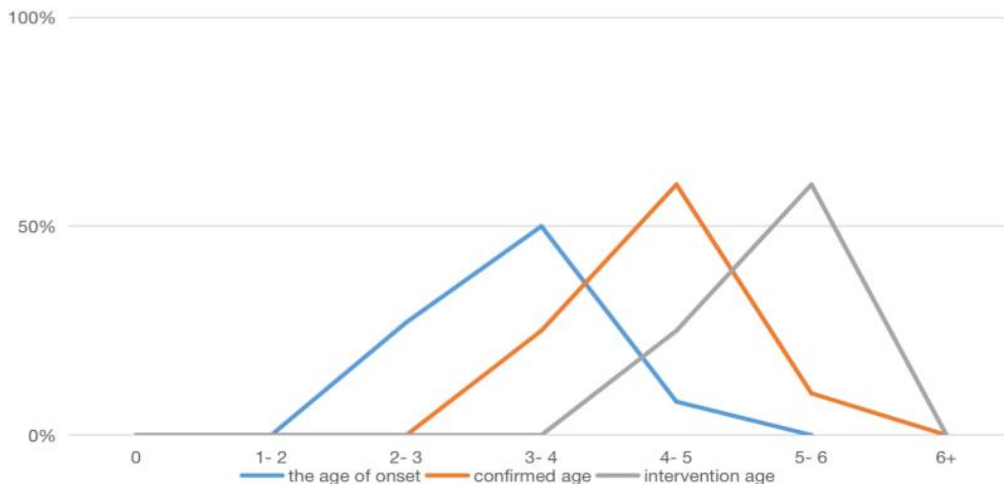


Figure 1. Age of initial diagnosis, diagnosis and intervention[1]

Meanwhile, the single-parents families are always short of the sense of reunion. About 70% of children with autism live in single-parent families [4]. In this case, children from those families are not used to have a communication with others. Instead, they are inclined to block themselves to a limit space. Studies have shown that there is a huge gap between the psychological status and problem behaviors of children from divorced families and those from intact families: 24.92% of children from divorced families have problems in moral character. Only 6.8% of children from intact families; in terms of personality problems, 21.22% of children from divorced families have problems, much higher than the average 5.81% of children from intact families. In terms of learning problems, 28.18% of children from divorced

families have problems, much higher than the average 8.06% of children from intact families. 19.32% of children from divorced families had emotional problems, while children from intact families had emotional problems [5]. Therefore, children in these situation are more likely get autism. The parent in such families are supposed to pay more attention to their kids' mental health.

The last possible family seems impossible. Due to high-intellectual people have more confidence and busy work. In this case, their children are lack of accompany. Children in those families usually have a poor relationship with their parents who often ignore their children, especially compared to parents' s work. When they represent autism tendency, their parents usually

doubt the situation and always think that their children do not have any mental health, which lead to the deterioration of the condition. Although their parents take them to have a treatment, they missed the best treating time.

3.3. The cause of autistic

In fact, the most clear cause of autism is not discovered yet. Neurotoxic substances, nutrients, metabolites and neuroactive substances may be the cause of autism. Some people with autism have chromosomal abnormalities and genetic variations [6].

However, this paper mainly talks about the cause of environment around. Early researchers such as Kanner suggested that parents of autistic children were "refrigerator parents" (who do not care about their children, always be too serious to their children), which caused children to withdraw emotionally from their parents and retreat into their own inner world [7].

3.4. The onset age

Autism is belong to the developmental disorders. Mostly, autistic children are found before 3 years old. This is because they always deficient the ability of speaking smoothly and communication, which is easy to find out.

4. TREATING THERAPIES

Unfortunately, as those autistic children's ages increase, the illness will not recover completely. Normal treatment could only reduce the impact of the disease. A good news is that if children accept proper treatment, they could act like a normal person at most time.

There is no denying that most autistic children are fond of painting and playing music. There are two ways which are advantageous for autistic children to recover.

With the development of information technology, mobile terminal app based on ABA theory has gradually emerged as a new form of medical treatment. Compared with traditional intervention methods, they have the advantages of convenient use and strong pertinence.

Some effective apps for autistic children in China can help autistic children with language disorders communicate with their parents by using pictures. Such apps could provide a new form of social skills training and cognitive training for children with autism [8].

Besides, applied behavior analysis method refers to the process of trying to understand, explain, describe and predict behaviors based on the basic principle of stimulus-one-two reaction-reinforcement, and using behavior change method to intervene behaviors and make them have certain social significance. Generally speaking, behavioral therapy for autistic children can include

environmental modification, effect regulation and skill training based on functional analysis.

ABA uses classical behaviorist therapy, which is mainly based on step-by-step behavior modification, combined with stimulation and reinforcement. Generalization and so on ultimately achieve behavior change. ABA is a one-to-one training method, usually with a trainer (or a parent under the guidance of the trainer) to an autistic child, every week 30 to 40 hours of intensive training, so this method is also known as intensive training, or discrete unit teaching method. The method is characterized by trainers breaking down a movement into small movements, giving children with autism one concise and precise instruction at a time. Children with autism are asked to perform a single action according to a command.

Psychotherapy is a program called "Nago" organized by Professor Fumio Marunio of Nagoya University. The treatment methods developed by the Autism Research Group of University of Hong Kong after 20 years' research focus on helping autistic children receive education in a group. The specific content of the treatment is mainly limited to the interpersonal relationship between autistic children and adults in their early life Tied on. The incidence of childhood autism is increasing in modern society.

The onset of childhood autism is early, the symptoms are special, and there is no effective treatment. And so far, there has not been a complete cure. At present, there is a unified view that the parent bond lies in early detection and early prediction, through behavior prediction and special education training. To improve their abilities of self-care, cognition, social interaction and social adaptation in daily life.

Medical interventions including risperidone and aripiprazole show benefit for reducing challenging behaviors in some children with autism, but side effects are significant. Some behavioral and educational interventions that vary widely in terms of scope, target, and intensity have demonstrated effects, but the lack of consistent data limits our understanding of whether these interventions are linked to specific clinically meaningful changes in functioning. [9]

At present, the treatment of infant autism mainly focuses on comprehensive intervention and drug therapy. Drug therapy has failed to fundamentally change the condition of people with autism. The instrument is limited to the control of one aspect of behavioral symptoms, the overall efficacy is not satisfactory; the purpose of comprehensive pre-treatment is to improve children's skills in all aspects. To promote their environmental resilience and self-care. At present, the treatment towel in autism is most widely used [10].

5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, it can be found that the main family groups which children have higher risks to get autism. (rural family, single-parent family, high-intellectual family) Meanwhile, the mantle cause of the autism is predicted. Aimed to relief symptom, we also provided some effective therapieslike “ABA”and Psychotherapy to help those kids. In the future, more attention should be paid to the specific cause of the autism and more target treatment should be given.

AUTHORS’ CONTRIBUTIONS

This paper is independently completed by Yijia Ma.

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