

FORWARD MARCH
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Autism

Autism is actually group of disorders which is called autism spectrum disorder. It is pervasive childhood development disorder characterized by qualitative impairment in social interaction and communication, restricted stereotyped interests and activities and delay or abnormal functioning in major area before the age of three. It ranges from the most severe form, called autistic disorders, to milder form called Asperger syndrome. Autism is an unidentified physiological disorder of the brain. Twenty years back autism was a rare phenomenon. Out of 10,000 children only one was victim of it. Now- a -days ratio is remarkably increased especially in developed countries. In America out of 150 children one child is autistic. Recent studies have revealed that total number of autistics children is 20 lacs and 17 lacs in U. S and India.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF AUTISM.

When a human infant is born, during first few weeks of life the infant is not capable of distinguishing between himself and his mother. There is absence of self-referred feelings. Conscious attachment is developed by the age of five or six months. With formation of symbolic relationship with the mother and the gradual maturation and development of perceptual cognitive (Psychological result of learning, perception and reasoning) and motor function makes it possible for the infant to organize external reality. These functions are primarily adaptive in character. Autistic children remain permanently incapable of forming effective object relationship and of constructing external reality. They have, in fact never gone through the symbiotic relationship with mother figure preparing them for such an essential personality development in life. These children are absorbed in their own world of fantasy and thoughts, afraid of facing the outer world, want to remain in their world of dreams. Two way communication and eye contact is utterly difficult for them. They ignore their parents. Many are mute and those who do not verbalize simply parrot whatever sounds are in ear shot.

PRECIPITATING FACTORS

- I. Vaccination – It has been found that after vaccination certain normal children have developed autistic trait.
- II. Family Environment – Children born out of highly intellectual working couples in nuclear family are more prone to be autistic, as parents do not have enough time to communicate with them. These couples are themselves loner and unidirectional.
- III. Trauma- Both emotional and physical trauma experienced by the child during prenatal and postnatal period.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) - ASD is a wide spectrum disorder. It means that no two people with autism will have exactly the same symptom. The symptom varies from mild to moderate to severe from and varies from person to person.

- a) Social Skill - The autistic individual behaves differently with people. If the symptoms are mild to moderate then the autistics are socially clumsy, offensive in his comment. Out of sync with everyone. There may be complete disinterest in severe form. Lack of eye contact or no eye contact.
- b) Lack of emotions- They neither express their feelings nor understand other feelings and emotions. There is a one way communication without exchange of ideas and thoughts without knowing the interests of others.
- c) Aversion to physical contact like cuddling or being touched.
- d) Oversensitive to external impression like light, hearing, touch, smell or taste.
- e) Speech – Many children with autism do not speak at all. Few of them often repeat the words or phrases they hear (echolalia)
- f) Perform repeated body movements.
- g) Shows unusually attachments to the objects. They often develop obsessive behavior.
- h) Routinists- resist changes, develops unusual distress when routines are changed.
- i) Asperger Syndrome – This is mild and high functioning form of autism where there is motor and cognitive development is not delayed. Individual suffering with this disorder may have above average intelligence. They may excel in a field such as computer programming and science. But they are over focused on single object, reserved avoid eye contact unable to recognize the other person interests in the topic and appear weird and strange.

HOMOEOPATHY

Homeopathic treatment is based on individualization. It goes deep to psyche of individual, so a change comes from within is most authentic and sustainable. Homeopathic medicines are the energy medicine having their own wave length and frequency. These medicines are proved healthy human beings and symptoms produced by these healthy individual are being collected, and when matched with the same frequency wavelength of the diseased picture of the sufferer a kind of resonance occurs which brings cure. According to the philosophy of homeopathy almost all the disease occurs due to derangement of self-acting spirit like vital force (which animates the life), so only dynamic alternative power of homeopathic medicines can bring back the harmony. Thus all the psychological disorders including autism can be efficiently helped by homeopathy.