TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF

COMPREHENSIVE THERAPY ON CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE

OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM (CWA)

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Abstract

Aims: To explore the perceptions of teachers about the effects of comprehensive therapy on classroom performance of Children with Autism (CWA).

Objectives: To find out teachers understanding about the classroom performance of children with autism, to know the improvement of children with autism in classroom performance and to identify the factors that influences the classroom performance of CWA in positively or negatively.

Study design and Method: The study was conducted through the qualitative design. A purposive sample of eight teachers of Children With Autism of special needs school (Alokito Shishu & ACWFB) who are experienced at least one year in the school. The researcher herself collected the data through the semi-structured, face to face interview. The interviews were recorded by the audio tape recorder and the field notes were documented in written. Then the themes and the categories made from the answers.

Result: The comprehensive therapy including group therapy, play therapy, social skills training, ADL's training, sensory therapy, behavior therapy has effect on the classroom performance of Children With Autism. The schools have some strength and weakness. The strengths are 1:1 teaching style, Qualified Occupational Therapist etc. The weaknesses are lack of enough space, outing program etc.

Conclusion and Recommendation: In Bangladesh there are many autism schools developed and they involved the children in different types of activities. Through these activities the improvement of Children With Autism come. Most of the teachers thought that they need training in different topics which they can apply when they work with CWA.

Key words: Classroom performance, Comprehensive therapy and Children with autism.