

**TRADITIONAL BELIEFS ABOUT AUTISM AMONG PARENT'S OF  
CHILDREN WITH AUTISM IN A RELIGIOUS CITY OF (SYLHET)  
BANGLADESH**

By

**Jumera Rahman**

4<sup>th</sup> Year B.Sc. in Speech and Language Therapy

Session: 2015-2016

**Supervised by**

**Nahid Parvez**

Assistant Professor

Department of Speech & Language Therapy

BHPI, CRP, Chapain, Savar, Dhaka-1343



# **Title: TRADITIONAL BELIEFS ABOUT AUTISM AMONG PARENT'S OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM IN A RELIGIOUS CITY OF (SYLHET) BANGLADESH**

**Aim of the Study:** To explore the traditional belief and awareness of parents of children with Autism daily life.

**Methodology:** The study used a concurrent type of mixed research design including purposive and stratified random sampling. The study was used open-ended, close ended, multiple choice, structured, semi-structured interview and audio recorded observation. In the study total numbers of samples (parents) were 100. For data analysis researcher used a concurrent data triangulation technique. Descriptive statistics and content analysis both were used for data analysis.

**Result:** This study presented the religious beliefs and religion of participant and it is found that parents have different beliefs according to their religious values. Among the total number of participants highest number (37%) took two or more treatments, (35%) homeopathy, and 17%. Among 100 participants, lowest number of participants (28) thinks yes for their child result of sins or fault.

**Conclusion:** Special children's families keep their children isolated from society as they are less cooperative. In this study parents had positive attitude for their child condition. But maximum parents had negative attitude for their beliefs, child rearing goals and also on proper treatments. Positive, supportive environment, social acceptance and motivation can help children with Autism and their mother to cope with society without any kind of hesitation.

## **Limitation**

There are some limitations to conducting the research study, which are given below:

- In this study only the parents of children with Autism was included.
- In this study participants were only taken from Sylhet city special school.
- There were some parents do not knowledge about their child condition. Some parents did not understand the questions.
- Some parents did not agree for conducting data.
- In this study, it was not possible to select same age range child parents.

- Lack of literature was a barrier while conducting this study.
- There was not available research conducted in Bangladesh. So appropriate information about their traditional beliefs was limited.

## **Recommendation**

For further research, if anyone wants to do study in further the following recommendation may helpful for the investigators:

- This study was done in a specific area. Further research study should be conducted on large number of participants in different areas in Bangladesh.
- This study was done with children with Autism. Further study should be conducted on Cerebral Palsy, Stroke, Down syndrome, Hearing Impairment and other conditions.
- Further study needs to be conducted on different age groups.
- Further studies find out the effectiveness of traditional treatments and outcomes of traditional treatments.
- In this study there was not age limitation. For further study should be different age groups are selected.
- In this study was done in school setting. So it is recommended to do further study in different setting such as clinical setting, home setting.

## References

- Alqahtani, M. M. (2012). Understanding autism in Saudi Arabia: A qualitative analysis of the community and cultural context. *Journal of Pediatric Neurology*, *10*, 15–22. DOI 10.3233/JPN-2012-0527
- Bailey, D. M. (1997). *Research for the Health Professional*. U.S.A: F.A. Davis Company.
- Bangabandh Sheikh Mujib Medical University. (2016). *Study on Prevalence of Autism in Bangladesh*. Bangladesh: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Bangabandh Sheikh Mujib Medical University. (2017). *Study on Prevalence of Autism in Urban Areas*. Bangladesh: Bangabandh Sheikh Mujib Medical University.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.(2015). *Disability in Bangladesh: Prevalence and Pattern* . Bangladesh: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
- Brinda, J., Fowler, S., & Miller, P. J. (2010). From symptom recognition to services: How South Asian Muslim Immigrant Families Navigate Autism. *Disability & Society*, *25*(7), 797-811.DOI: 10.1080/09687599.2010.520894
- Cohen, S. B. (2002). *Autism the facts*. New york: University of cambridge.
- Cohen, S. R., & Miguel, J. (2018). Amor and Social Stigma: ASD Beliefs Among Immigrant Mexican Parents. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, *48*(6), 1995–2009. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-018-1180-7>
- Demetria, E.-C., Durodoye, B. A., & Harris, H. L. (2013). The Impact of Culture on Autism Diagnosis and Treatment: Considerations for Counselors and Other Professionals. *The Family Journal*, *21*(3), 279–287. DOI: 10.1177/1066480713476834
- Faciane, K. (2015). The Effect of Religiosity on Parenting a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Relogiosity and Autism* , 1-40. Retrieved from <https://repository.tcu.edu/handle/116099117/10320>
- Gona, J. K., Newton, C. R., Rimba, K., Mapenzi, R., Kihara, M., Vijver, F. J., et al. (2015). Parents and Professionals Perceptionson Causes and Treatment Options forAutism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)in a Multicultural Context on the Kenyan Coast. *PLoS ONE*, *10*(8), 1-13.<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0132729>
- Hicks, C. M. (2000). *Research Methods for Clinical Therapist*. New York: Churchill Livingstone.

- Hwan, S. K., & Charnley, H. (2010). Making the familiar strange and making the strange familiar: understanding Korean children's experiences of living with an autistic sibling. *Disability and Society*, 25(5), 579–592. DOI:10.1080/09687599.2010.48930
- Jegatheesan, B. (2011). Multilingual Development in Children with Autism: Perspectives of South Asian Muslim Immigrant Parents on Raising a Child with a Communicative Disorder in Multilingual Contexts. *Bilingual Research Journal*, 34(2), 185-200. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15235882.2011.597824>
- Jegatheesan, B., Miller, P. J., & Fowler, S. A. (2010). Autism From a Religious Perspective: A Study of Parental Beliefs in South Asian Muslim Immigrant Families. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, 25(2), 98 –109. DOI: 10.1177/1088357610361344
- Kavaliotis, P. (2017). Religion and Resilience of Parents with a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *International Journal of Psychological Studies*, 9(2), 16-25. doi:10.5539/ijps.v9n2p16
- Khan, M. U. (2015). The role of the family in socializing the Autistic Children a Study in Bangladesh. *Social and Humanistic Sciences*, 55, 70-85. doi:10.18052/www.scipress.com/ILSHS.55.70
- Majumder, N. M., Kamal, M. M., & Ahmed, G. (2018). Socio-Spiritual and Economic Practices of Mazar (Holy Shrine) Culture in Sylhet City, Bangladesh. *International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies*, 4(4), 82-91. <http://www.ijhsss.com>
- Minhas, A., Vajaratkar, V., Divan, G., Hamdani, S. U., Leadbitter, K., Taylor, C., et al. (2015). Parents' perspectives on care of children with autistic spectrum disorder in South Asia – Views from Pakistan and India. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 27(3), 247-256. doi: 10.3109/09540261.2015.1049128
- Mavropoulou, S., & Sideridis, G. D. (2014). Knowledge of Autism and Attitudes of Children Towards Their Partially Integrated Peers with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 44(8), 1867–1885. doi: 10.1007/s10803-014-2059-0.
- Onaolapo, A. Y., & Onaolapo, O. J. (2017). Global Data on Autism Spectrum Disorders Prevalence: A Review of Facts, Fallacies and Limitation. *Universal Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 5(2), 14-23. DOI: 10.13189/ujcm.2017.050202

- Qi, X., Zaroff, C. M., & Bernardo, A. B. (2015). Autism spectrum disorder etiology: Lay beliefs and the role of cultural values and social axioms. *Autism: The International Journal of Research & Practice*, 20(6), 673-86. DOI: 10.1177/1362361315602372
- Ravindran, N., & Myers, B. J. (2011). Cultural Influences on Perceptions of Health, Illness, and Disability: A Review and Focus on Autism. *Journal of Child Family Study*, 21, 311–319. DOI 10.1007/s10826-011-9477-9
- Shrestha, R., Dissanayake, C., & Barbaro, J. (2019). Age of Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Nepal. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 49(6), 2258-2267. DOI 10.1007/s10803-019-03884-7
- Suroso, H. (2012). *How Religious Beliefs Influence Understanding on Disability: A Study of Muslim Family's Perception on Autism*. Jakarta: Mass Communication Department.
- Wang, H. T., & Casillas, N. (2012). 'Asian American Parents' Experiences of Raising Children with Autism: Multicultural Family Perspective. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 48(5), 594 –606. DOI: 10.1177/0021909612467421
- World Health Organization. (2019). *Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Retrieved November 20, 2019, from World Health Organization: Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/autism-spectrum-disorders>