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Experiences of mothers parenting children with autism spectrum disorder - a qualitative grounded theory approach

Introduction: Autism is one of the complex neuro developmental disability that commonly manifests symptoms during early child hood years of life and affects various aspects of development in child such as social, communication and behaviour. Numerous studies reported that the prevalence of diagnosed autism spectrum disorder is drastically increasing over these decades. This qualitative study provides evidence for Indian mother's parenting experiences of children with ASD and findings would provide identification of problems, need based care and guidance for professionals.

Objective: The main objective of this study was to explore the experiences of mothers parenting children with autism spectrum disorder with a view to formulate a conceptual model based on the constructs identified.

Methods: The participants were mothers between the age group of 24-50 years undergoing parent child training from New Delhi, India. The study used qualitative grounded theory methodology in order to derive a conceptual model for 'parenting a child with ASD'. The study is based on depth interviews with seven mothers who were meeting the eligibility criteria. The interviews were digitally recorded and anonymity and confidentiality of the participants were assured. The translated data were coded and categorized using open code software.

Results: The qualitative data analysis revealed 13 major categories and 46 sub categories and a core category was derived out of the concepts and formulated a conceptual model of "coping with autism, unique and differential parenting; mother's journey towards adaptation". This model could be used as a basis to test the hypothesis in various aspects of the concepts discussed in relation to mother's experiences of a child with ASD and thus a substantive theory of parenting a child with ASD can be developed.

Biography

Nisha Laila has completed her BSN and MSN in Pediatric Nursing. She completed her MPhil from Manipal University, India in the year 2018. She had 10 years of experience in Teaching and Clinical areas especially in the field of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery. She is currently working as Nursing Officer in Heart Failure and Transplant unit, Department of Cardiology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India. She has published research papers as part of student projects.

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