EuroSciCon

Abstract Template

Abstract Title: Stigmatisation among Parents of Autism Spectrum Disorder Children in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

First A. Author, Second B. Author, Jr., Third C. Author

[1] Author of correspondence, Pediatric Senior Register, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSH & RC), email: Dr.kalshaigi@gmail.com

Kahlid Alshaigi[1], Reema Albraheem[2], Khalid Alsaleem[2], Moneer Zakaria[2], Aman Jobeir[2], Hesham Aldhalaan[2]

[1] Author of correspondence, Pediatric Senior Register, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSH & RC) Riyadh, KSA

Author names	
1st Kahlid Alshaigi	Pediatric Senior Register, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSH&RC)
2nd Reema Albraheem	Mental Health specialist, (KFSH&RC)
2nd Khalid Alsaleem	Consultant, Pediatric Gastroenterology, (KFSH&RC)
2nd Moneer Zakaria	Senior occupational therapist, Centre for Autism Research, (KFSH&RC)
2nd Aman Jobeir	Programmer Analyst, (KFSH&RC)
(PI) Hesham Aldhalaan	Primary investigator, Consultant, Pediatric Neurology, (KFSH&RC)

(Published) International Journal of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine (2019), doi: 10.1016/j.ijpam.2019.0.003

EuroSciCon

Abstract (not more than 300 words)

Background: The autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosed children have social and cognitive disabilities. For parents, these behaviors can lead to humiliation, social exclusion and isolation. Stigma is a problem that not only may affect the individual with high functioning autism, but has the potential to extend to their family as well. Indeed, research indicates that the parents of children with disabilities (including ASD) commonly experience stigmatising reactions from others.

Aim of work: To determine the prevalence of self and enacted stigma among parents of ASD children from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and to recognize possible risk factors and causes of stigmatisation.

Material and methods: An observational cross sectional study involving the parents of ASD children from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The 163 participants were collected from the Center for Autism Research (CFAR) at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSH & RC) in Riyadh. The primary material used for data collection was a five point scale questionnaire developed by the investigator. The questionnaire was comprised of closed ended questions concerning the participants' demographic data, autistic child, family life, resources, and social experiences as a parent. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and appropriate statistical analysis, using Statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS), version 22. The level of significance was *P* value < .05.

Results: The findings of this work indicated that 55 (33.7%) of the parents scored more than 3 in answering questions related to felt stigma, 82 (50.3%) were fathers; while 108 (66.3%) did not felt stigmatized being a parent of autistic child. Forty-two (25.8%) of the parents scored more than 3 in answering questions related to enacted stigma, while 121 (74.2%) did not face enacted stigmatisation being a parent of autistic child. There was a strong tendency for mothers (41, 75%) to feel more self and enacted stigmatized than fathers (*P*<.05). Moreover, the gender of the autistic child, consanguinity, severity of the ASD, and the monthly income of the family showed no significant difference in the parents scored more than 3 for felt or enacted stigmatisation (*P*>.05).

Conclusion: Parents of children with ASD in Riyadh, KSA experienced stigmatisation in 33.7% of the participants and there was a more tendency for mothers to feel self and enacted stigmatized than fathers. The Saudi public awareness might have been increased and thus negative stigmatisation has decreased among Saudi parents. A high level of felt stigma suggest the need of psychological intervention for the family to help the cope with this new situation. A higher level of enacted stigma suggests the need for their rights (Individual with ASD) & raising awareness in the society. It is recommended that further research is needed to be done in the different centers in Riyadh and other regions of Saudi Arabia to investigate the prevalence of stigma in parents of autistic children nationally.
Keywords: Stigma – Autism - Parents of ASD

Professional Biography (100-150 words)

Khalid Alshaigi, MD, SBP, ABP

2014-2018 Saudi Board of General Pediatric under Saudi Commission For Health Specialties (SCFHS) (SBP) & Arab Board of General Pediatric under The Arab Board of Health Specialization at King Faisal specialist hospital & research center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (ABP)

2007-2013 Bachelor of Medicine and General surgery, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences (KSAU-HS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (MBBS)



Riyadh -Saudi Arabia

Nationality: Saudi

Marital Status: Married

Riyadh 2753 PO BOX 12394

Cell phone: +966-55-750-9999

E-mail: Dr.kalshaigi@gmail.com

Any Comments:

Thank you,