

15**Impact of Maternal Condition on Autism Spectrum Disorder**

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Abstract

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a kind of brain disorder which affect a child. Some of the studies done in relation to diagnosis of ASD indicates deficiencies in communication, social skills, a variety of interests and activities. Further, factors which affect ASD are still controversial. The aim of the study is to identify the maternal condition factors which affect ASD. To achieve the purpose of the research, 100 questionnaires were distributed to mothers who have ASD children. The sample was selected purposively from Reach beyond autism and child development centre which has a good reputation for the treatment of ASD children in Sri Lanka. Additionally, Descriptive statistical tools have been employed to analyze the quantitative data. Besides, this study used the Diagnostic and Statical Manual of mental disorder, 4th edition (DSM-iv) classification of ASD to diagnose the symptoms of Autistic Disorder. Furthermore, maternal condition has been identified based on the literature review. According to data, mothers who live in urban areas, whose monthly income is

above 80 000 and mothers who had an experience of uncomfortable sleep during their pregnancy indicate high percentage of total sample and it is more than 80%. Further, more than 45% mothers who have ASD child had a degree rather than other educational qualification. Thus, mothers who experienced mental disorder (stress) and severe frustration during their pregnancy period consists of more than 18% of the total sample and the minimum percentage indicates physical diseases, unmanageable stress, getting trauma experience during their pregnancy period is less than 13% of the total sample. Based on the analyzed data, it could be concluded that a few of maternal conditions positively affect their child to grow up with ASD in the future.

Keywords: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Maternal condition,
Pregnancy period