

Reflection on The Impact of Culture on Autism Diagnosis and Treatment: Considerations for Counselors and Other Professionals

Molly Desque

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Reflection: I think it is important to recognize that child development has very many components, and within each component there are many variables that will overall influence a child. However, through this article I have learned that it is important to be aware of all possibilities. As a future educator, it is not only my job to learn about how to educate my students academically but respond to their needs and help further giving them the best tools and resources to function. Autism can be a very large obstacle or a very small obstacle depending on the individual. But no matter the kind or size of the obstacle it is important to respect the needs of both the individual and the family. I did feel like a lot of the generalization were very assuming when it came to how each culture handled having a member of the family with autism, but that is not the point of the article. It is important to be able to adapt to the needs and practices of a family and formulate options for the best course of communication and socialization improvement for the individual. My favorite part of the article was reading about the different technology resources for autistic children. My first thought would be to get children to be comfortable with who they are and how they can improve using the technology. The stronger their communication and motor skills develop less they can rely on the technology. Even though they have struggles that make them different does not mean that there are not a number of solutions to get them help, so they can better understand their condition and work with it to have a quality life.

- How does culture influence how autism is diagnosed and decisions for treatment?

Culture plays a huge role in how families view autism and their decision on how to handle the condition. Although not everyone in a culture falls with in the same belief as the generalization made by the majority of the culture, the article had a purpose to making generalizations.

Commonly, the different ethnicities turn towards a technique to help their child. For example, the article talks about how Hispanic mother take in upon themselves to nurture the child and teach them as best they can, where as white parents may seek attention immediately from professionals. These assumptions may not always be true, however they show that everyone handles the situation differently. In addition in expands on the idea that not all ethnicities are treated equally when seeking care. The article had many statistics that evaluated that the number of African American children who were found to have autism was way less than white children.

- What is the etiological controversy on autism?

The controversy with autism is that nobody has been able to find a root cause and autism could be caused by many different things. Due to the versatility among people, the way to

recognize and go about treatments for people with autism, tactics have to be individualized to be the most effective. As a result, most people have turned to treatment options instead of focusing on prevention. The article is trying to emphasize that the focus on respect and awareness for parents, doctors, and the community is more beneficial than pointing fingers and not understanding the different cases with different attributes or characteristics.

- What are the technologies for individuals diagnosed with ASD? How does culture impact the choices?

People with autism can benefit from a plethora of technologies that are continuing to be developed. For example, virtual reality allows people to practice social interaction. Due to a struggle with communication, there has also been developments where communication devices ease the stress and frustrations for those who can not communicate with the same ability as people who do not have autism. Culture and community can help bring autism awareness. By a community working together to engage with people with ASD instead of discriminate can benefit everyone. In addition, programs and technologies that help children struggling with ASD can be advocated for. Just because someone is not directly affected by autism, it doesn't mean they can't support those who are looking to overcome their obstacles with ASD.