NOTE PREVIEW ARTICLE

DESIGN AND KNOWLEDGE OF NURSE THE STRATEGIES FOR FAMILY HEALTH ABOUT CHILDHOOD AUTISM

CONCEPÇÕES E CONHECIMENTOS DOS ENFERMEIROS DA ESTRATÉGIA DE SAÚDE DA FAMÍLIA SOBRE AUTISMO INFANTIL

CONCEPTOS Y CONOCIMIENTOS DE LAS ENFERMERAS DE LA ESTRATÉGIA DE SALUD DE LA FAMILIA Y AUTISMO INFANTIL

Romeika Carla Ferreira de Sena¹, Maura Vanessa Silva Sobreira²

ABSTRACT

Objectives: to examine the comprehension of nursing professionals of the Basic Health Units (BHU), the city of Caicó, RN about childhood autism. To identify nurses' knowledge of UBSS's, the city of Caicó, RN, about childhood autism, list the actions taken by them from caring for children with autism and the difficulties in verifying the assistance. Methodology: exploratory research qualitative approach, carried out with the nurses of the Basic Health Units in the city of Caicó, RN, interviewed 26 professionals. The collection of data will be carried out for three months, with the application of a questionnaire with open and closed. Respecting ethical principles of Resolution 196/96 of the National Health Council, including signing the Free and Clarified Consent. Expected results: expected to contribute significantly in professional activity in nursing, giving them the opportunity of closer about the subject, to awaken the desire for knowledge and theoretical frameworks in order to give support for the provision of assistance adequate and efficient. Descriptors: childhood autism; mental disorders; pediatric nursing.

RESUMO

Objetivos: analisar a compreensão dos profissionais enfermeiros das Unidades Básicas de Saúde (UBS), do município de Caicó-RN acerca do autismo infantil; identificar o conhecimento dos enfermeiros das UBSS’s, do município de Caicó-RN, acerca do autismo infantil; enumerar as ações realizadas pelos mesmos a partir do atendimento às crianças com autismo e verificar as dificuldades encontradas para a prestação da assistência. Metodologia: pesquisa exploratória com abordagem qualitativa, realizada com os profissionais enfermeiros das Unidades Básicas de Saúde do município de Caicó-RN, sendo entrevistados 26 profissionais. A coleta dos dados será realizada durante três meses, com a aplicação de um questionário com perguntas abertas e fechadas. Respeitando os princípios éticos da Resolução 196/96 do Conselho Nacional de Saúde, incluindo a assinatura do Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido. Resultados esperados: espera-se contribuir de forma significativa na atuação profissional em enfermagem, dando-lhes a oportunidade de uma maior aproximação acerca do tema, para que desperte o desejo de conhecimento e embasamento teórico, a fim de dar-lhe suporte para uma prestação de assistência adequada e eficiente. Descritores: autismo infantil; transtornos mentais; enfermagem pediátrica.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: analizar la comprensión de las enfermeras de las Unidades Básicas de Salud (UBS), la ciudad de Caicó, RN sobre el autismo infantil. Por lo tanto, se tratará de identificar los conocimientos de las enfermeras de UBS, la ciudad de Caicó-RN, sobre el autismo infantil, la lista de las acciones tomadas por ellos desde el cuidado de los niños con autismo y las dificultades en la verificación de la asistencia. Metodología: enfoque cualitativo exploratorio, realizado con el personal de enfermería de las Unidades Básicas de Salud de la ciudad de Caicó, RN, entrevistó a 26 profesionales. La recolección de datos se llevará a cabo durante tres meses, con la aplicación de un cuestionario con apertura y cierre. Respetando los principios éticos de la Resolución 196/96 del Consejo Nacional de Salud, incluyendo la firma del formulario de consentimiento. Resultados esperados: se espera que contribuyan de manera significativa en la práctica profesional de enfermería, dándoles la oportunidad de una mayor sobre el tema, para despertar el deseo de conocimiento y los marcos teóricos con el fin de dar apoyo a indisposición de una adecuada y eficiente. Descritores: autismo infantil; trastornos mentales; enfermería pediátrica.

¹Nursing Degree Student at the Universidade do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte/UERN, Campus Caicó, Brazil. Email: romekacarladelas@hotmail.com. ²Nursing Master-Degree by the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (2009). Specialist in Politics and Management of Health Care by the Universidade Federal da Paraíba (2008). Assistant Professor II at the Nursing Department of the Universidade Estadual do Rio Grande do Norte. Manager of the 9º Regional of Health - Cajazeiras-PB of the Secretary of Health of Paraíba. Professor at Faculdade Santa Maria- FSM. Cajazeiras (PB), Brazil. Email: maursobreira@yahoo.com.br.
INTRODUCTION

In the last decades, Brazil has been committed to improving the its society, it has elaborated, discussed and even approved several laws that allow more autonomy and regulate the rights for this population, mainly for the ones who are marginalized by the society. Nowadays, social inclusion is a highly visible topic, as well as the rights of the disabled, of the mentally disturbed ones, among other themes considered important for the growth and the country’s maturity.

Likewise it is discussed about the attendance to these people, aiming the development of their abilities and their social inclusion, taking into consideration the prejudice faced by the society. In this perspective, it is necessary to approach the concept of disability, which according to the International Classification of Diseases (CID-10) disability can be defined as an injury, or abnormal structural or functional alteration that can affect the psychological, physiological or anatomical functions temporarily or permanently.¹

Enumo supports the standardization principle, as it expresses that every disabled person has the full right to enjoy life conditions the same or the possibly closest to the other people so-called “normal ones” who live in society.²

From the moment the term “normality” be used by the society without prejudice, we will be placing new perspectives, giving opportunities for the disabled, mainly the ones with mental disturbances and autism, develop their abilities and enhance their self-esteem, providing the individual with adaptations to the social conditions.³

The autistic people and their family suffer a lot from the prejudice of the society, because it is a syndrome which affects the areas of the psycho neurological development of the child, undermining their cognitive, social and behavioral development, it interferes directly in the coexistence and in the establishment of social relations with other people, making it difficult to adapt to the environment where they live. Schmidt focuses that the behavior characteristics which are specific of autistic people together with the level of this disorder severity, can contribute towards the increase of stressors in potential for the family.⁴

The social bonds and even the family ones, for an autistic child, can be weakened, reduced and even present ruptures in their social relations, due to the existent prejudice, which reaches the society in a shameful way.⁵

So, having an autistic child in the family can be considered as an event that can cause trauma. According to Azevedo and Miranda the participation and inclusion of the family in the treatment and the attendance of the mentally disturbed person, mainly including the autism, represent a new context of practices and knowledge [...] that ease the treatment process and the development of abilities of the people with mental disturbances, improving and interfering positively in their relations.⁶

Because of this, it is necessary to see the autistic person as an individual, who is in need of family and community support, being supported by a multi professional team, with physicians, speech therapists, psychopedagogues, physical educators, among other professionals who can design a diagnosis according to the level of commitment, and afterwards plan actions that contribute towards the cognitive, emotional and social evolution.⁷

Although the nurse professional is not totally present in the care delivered to autistic children, they can collaborate in a positive way to their diagnosis, through behavioral observations that can be realized under a consultation to analyze the growth and development of the child (assistance C and D), as they can also help the parents giving support and informing them about the challenges that they will face due to the existent social prejudice.

For that, it is necessary that the nurse holds some knowledge to give support in case of an investigation, suspicion or confirmation of the medical diagnosis of autism, as in its educational training process they study a little about it, besides the few publications and deeper studies about the theme.⁸

This theme was chosen due to the present and real problem that people, family and society have been come up with and because the Nursing is a profession related to the care and that establishes strong affective bonds, as these professionals in relation to all the health team, spend most of their time in contact with their patients.

This way the following questionings emerged: Does the educational training process of the nurse contemplate the necessary knowledge about the autism for a proper assistance? What are difficulties faced by the nurse for the assistance delivery to autistic children?
Sena RCF de, Sobreira MVS.

So, this paper will contribute towards the dissemination of the theme childhood autism, which will support these professionals, concerning this pathology, helping them in the care and the assistance delivered to these children and their family, as well as showing the importance of their performance about this problem, considering the few scientific papers produced by them upon the autistic child.

**OBJECTIVES**

To identify the knowledge of the nurse professionals of the Basic Health Units, in Caiacó-RN, upon childhood autism.

To number the actions performed by the nurses of the Basic Health Units, in Caiacó-RN, from the assistance to autistic children.

To verify the difficulties found by the nurses for the delivery of assistance to autistic children.

**METHODOLOGY**

- **Characteristic of the study**

  This is an exploratory research with qualitative approach, as the performed reality can not, or should not be quantified, because the qualitative research deals with the subjectivity of the studied subject, emphasizing the conceptions, the aspirations, the beliefs, the culture, the life experiences, the experiences and everything that involves the group of phenomena that form the social reality of each human being.⁹

- **Population**

  The research will include the 16 health units that belong to the city, in which 13 are locally situated distributed between the suburbs and 3 are placed in the villages that make part of the city. Caiacó-RN was chosen for this project, because the researcher lives and studies there, besides the fact that this city has a considerable quantity of Strategies of Family Health.

  The research will include all the nurse professionals of the Strategies of Family Health of Caiacó-RN, due to the great possibility of linking these professionals to the autistic community, once they spend more time in direct contact with their patients than the other professionals of the health care area, besides the fact that this category does not present a special preoccupation about the care and the assistance to autistic children.⁷

Design and knowledge of nurse the Strategies...

This way, there is a total of 16 people in this professionals' category, and it will be excluded from the research the ones who are not in accord with what is exposed in the Free and Informed Consent Term, as well as the ones who refuse to sign it.

- **Instrument of data collection**

  The social understanding of the phenomenon to be dealt with becomes fundamentally important and for this to happen it is needed a research instrument that can deals with the necessary questions for obtaining a good data collection, which the interviewer has freedom to establish modalities of questions, developing them in a way it can be suitable for the several situations, for example, the non structured interview of the clinical type, which studies the causes, the feelings and the conduct of each individual.¹⁰

  From the non structured interview it will be carried out a questionnaire with open questions, which will provide the necessary and pertinent information to the process of data comprehension. This will happen under the signature of the Free and Informed Consent Term, making it clear for the involved people in the process of the research the seriousness of it, focusing the proposal, the relevance, the reasons of choice, the possible risks, as well as the secrecy of the professionals.

  The interviews will happen in the visits which will occur in the units of Health Family Strategies (ESF), and the data will be collected in days and times previously booked in accord with the availability of the subjects of study.

- **Treatment and Analyzis of data**

  The data will be analyzed through evaluation analysis or also called representational analysis, which proposes an evaluation of the ways of opinions or behaviors from the exposed reality, considering the directions and the intensity of the answers and the given judgments.⁹

  The analysis is intended to be carried out in three moments: pre-analysis (initial reading of the data transcribed in the records); exploration of the material (selection of the speeches of the subjects and organization of the categories) and treatment of the results (interpretation). This way, the data will be organized systematically in categories, which will be subdivided according to the opinions that converge on the same direction.
Sena RCF de, Sobreira MVS.

• Ethical Characteristics

The research will be submitted to the Committee of Ethic in Research and all the nursing professionals of the Strategies of Health Family (ESF) of Caicó-RN, the interviewees will have to sign the Free and Informed Consent Term - TCLE respecting, among others, the anonymity of the subjects of the research, which is established in the institutional authorization for the performance of the investigation obeying the Resolution 196/96.

• Expected Results

This paper will contribute towards the dissemination of the childhood autism, as well as it proposes to the nurses a new view upon the theme, showing the importance of being theoretically based on the autism, considering the type of performance this professional will be able to carry in this area, and if they are prepared, they will help to improve the assistance to autistic people, besides collaborating with their advance diagnosis, helping mainly the family, once they are the ones who suffer the most because of the lack of information and support.

REFERENCES


Sources of funding: No
Conflict of interest: No
Date of first submission: 2011/09/27
Last received: 2011/07/24
Accepted: 2011/07/25
Publishing: 2012/04/01

Corresponding Address
Romeika Carla Ferreira de Sena
Universidade do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte/Campus Caicó
Rua André Sales, 667 – Paulo XI
CEP: 59300-000 – Caicó (RN), Brazil