

“HEALTH CAMP FOR AUTISTIC STUDENTS”



Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person’s social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a “spectrum condition” that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

While there is currently no known single cause of autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive the support and services that they need, which can lead to a quality life filled with opportunity.

The World’s Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), which is observed on April 2 every year, allows us to talk about autism in India – a health issue that is too often overlooked. Unless it is made aware, addressed, and accepted, there won’t be a way out and the sufferings of the patients and their loved ones will never end.

A broad range of interventions, from early childhood and across the life span, can optimize the development, health, well-being and quality of life of autistic people. Timely access to early evidence-based psychosocial interventions can improve the ability of autistic children to communicate effectively and interact socially. The monitoring of child development as part of routine maternal and child health care is recommended.

It is important that, once autism has been diagnosed, children, adolescents and adults with autism and their carer's are offered relevant information, services, referrals, and practical support, in accordance with their individual and evolving needs and preferences.

The health-care needs of people with autism are complex and require a range of integrated services that include health promotion, care and rehabilitation. Collaboration between the health sector and other sectors, particularly education, employment and social care, is important.

Interventions for people with autism and other developmental disabilities need to be designed and delivered with the participation of people living with these conditions. Care needs to be accompanied by actions at community and societal levels for greater accessibility, inclusivity and support.



To Mark World Autism Awareness Day We organised a Health camp including Blood Test and Dental checkup for autistic children in collaboration with @Holy Heart Special School. More than 70 students got benefited from the camp. All the children will be examined by the relevant doctors and given free consultation and orientation regarding diagnosis, prevention and rehabilitation.

Holy Heart Special School is a Centre of excellence for the children with special needs supported by Sneh Social Welfare Foundation. Our school is an independent, special needs, boarding and day school for children and young individuals. At Holy Heart Special School, they are committed to rendering a safe and secure learning atmosphere to facilitate our children to develop skills that will help them be caring, self-sufficient and accountable global citizens. They strive to instil in our children values of compassion, accountability, humility and the passion for believing in their dreams. Holy Heart Special School nourishes talents in the performing arts, visual arts, sports, therapies, vocational training, and academics. They provide a platform for young minds to explore themselves and make choices for the future. Their dedicated team of teachers support children through their challenges and help each one reach their potential.

Autism is reportedly the most severe neuropsychiatric disorder affecting children. Autistic subjects can be characterized by impairments in social interactive behavior along with restricted interests and quite frequently, are seen exhibiting repetitive behavior patterns in stereotyped manner. The inability to perform routine tasks can widely impact the oral health and also, the constant care and sense of helplessness might drastically affect quality of life.

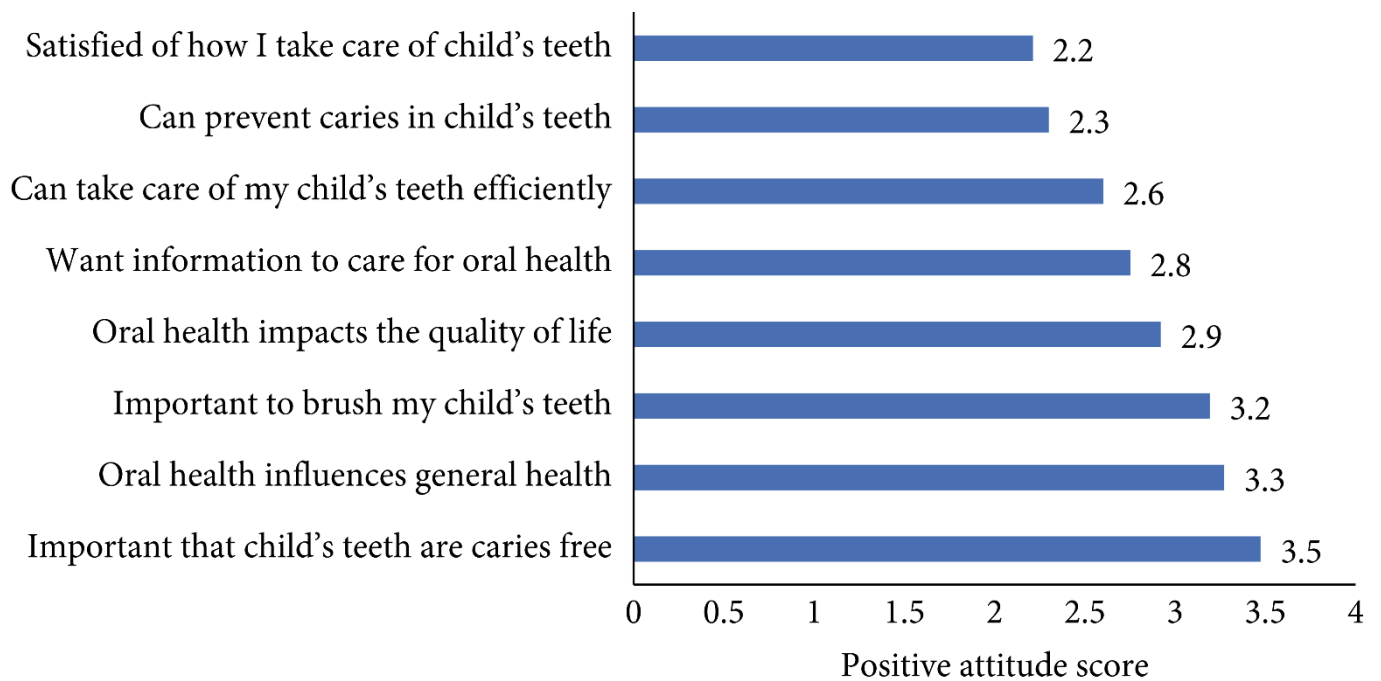
Approximately 18.33% of parents showed were aware that oral health can influence general health; 15% did have exhibit awareness. 15% of parents did not consider that primary teeth were important; 59.1% visited any dentist only when suffering from pain; 5% went for an annual dental examination; 15% and 24.6% parents visited dental practitioners at intervals of 3 and 6 months, respectively. 30%, 25% and 51.66% parents considered obtaining consultation and getting treatment from pediatric dentist; general dentist and general physician. 41.6% parents had taken their children for restorations. 52% reported constant stress whereas 48% reported with constant distressed emotions. No significant difference was determined between the parameters. 75% of autistic children suffered from dental caries whereas oral hygiene scores demonstrated high mean value of 4.

Rural India's much awaited report card on its healthcare sector is out. The National Family Health Survey-5 (2020-21) of the Union ministry of health and family welfare shows a slight improvement in nutrition indicators of under-5 children — stunting, wasting and underweight category kids have reduced.

However, there has been an increase in anaemia among under-5 children in rural India. A child who has anaemia does not have enough red blood cells or haemoglobin. Haemoglobin is a type of protein that allows red blood cells to carry oxygen to other cells in the body.

In rural India, 68.3 per cent of children in the age group of 6-59 months were found to be anaemic in 2020-21. This is an increase of 15 per cent in the past five years. During 2015-16

when the previous NFHS-4 was conducted, 59.5 per cent of children were found to be anaemic.





We are Happy to share that it was a successful camp in which we find out various issues in the health of autistic students as per the tests (Oral Health and Blood Test). Research shows that early intervention leads to positive outcomes later in life for people with autism.

On this World Autism Awareness Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world for persons with autism. Wishing all the best and success for the special students out there!!