

INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMS – A CONCRETE POSSIBILITY OF THE INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS IN CLASSROOMS WITH NORMAL CHILDREN

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Abstract

The inclusion of children with ASD-s is a complex problem related to the difficulties children display as much as to the deficiency of their psycho-pedagogical treatment. The alarming growth of cases with disorders, especially with symptoms mainly in the cognitive, social, and emotional area, must indicate necessary changes in the Educational System. This research is focused in the analysis of factors that influence the exclusion of children with ASD-s in the elementary educational system, oriented by research questions - “Compared to other countries, what does our school system offer to children with ASD-s?”, “What are the factors influencing inclusion of these children in the natural educational environment?”, “In which way must teachers schedule their work in order to achieve their inclusion in a classroom with normal children?”. The methodology applied is: study of the literature about education of children with ASD-s, focus groups with parents, statistical data analysis of “Regional Educational Directorate Tirana”. It seems like there is no place for cooperation between the teacher (unawareness of the problematic and lack of orientation manuals) and the pupil (with behavioral disorders and learning difficulty) when they face each other. In fact, the real psycho-pedagogical treatment for children with ASD-s, is the unique characteristic that each of them displays. We lack the psycho-pedagogical experience upon which to compile programs for our institutions, as we lack the established practice for this. As a result, the number of children attending educational environment is extremely limited, and a higher number wander different institutions, or stay indoors by completely losing the possibility of inclusion and education together with their peers.

Key words: *autism spectrum disorders, individualized program, work team, psycho-pedagogical treatment, inclusion*