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Universal practice model for early detection and early intervention in children with special needs –The Kolkata Model

Introduction: Primary Care Physicians were found to be only less than 20% efficient in identifying EBD [Emotional, Behavioural and Developmental problems1 in children. Subsyndromal and sub-threshold (sub-clinical) cases of Neuro-developmental Disorders like, Autism, ADHD (Attention Deficit & Hyperactivity Disorder), Learning Disorders and Difficulties and Neuro-disabilities like CP (Cerebral Palsy), Spina bifida occulta etc. are mostly detected after their neural-plasticity are compromised.

Objectives: Refining a model of combination of (1) effective Early Interventional tools for children with special needs and (2) a Universal Practice Mode for them, which works wonders in Kolkata Developmental Model.

Methods: Combining (1) (a) Prechtle's2 Methods for General Movements Assessments (GMA) for accurate (98%) Early Detection (ED) for Cerebral Palsy (CP) in At-Risk Population, (b) LEAP-CP Study3 looking at parent delivered Early Intervention (EI) delivered to infants screened positive for CP using GMA (c) use of Measurable Eye Tracking4 in Infancy, (d) Infant Start5, a Parent-Implemented Intervention for Symptomatic Infants for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and (e) PACT Study, UK archiving evidence of success for ASD treatment6 through parent training, we can identify risks of most neuro-developmental disorders in early infancy, thereby instituting a novel method of interventions based on available science, which is emerging as a clinically highly effective intervention.

This enabled us to propose a Universal Care Pathway for such children, as Kolkata Development Model. This model has already presented at the Glasgow Annual Conference of RCPCH [Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health], UK on 13th March, 2018; the EACD [European Academy of Childhood Disability] Annual Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia on 26th May, 2018 and Keynote Address at Paris International Pediatric Conference (Allied Health) on 16th August, 2018. At the London Conference, 2019 this Keynote address is presented with members from Child Development Centre, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital, Kolkata presenting some of its key scientific components. This model is adoptable equally, with local adjustments, both in resource-crunched as well as resourced countries, equally!

Speaker Biography

Anjan Bhattacharya has worked in Newham University Hospital and Newham Primary Care Trust, London as a Developmental Paediatrician. He worked for 12 years in the UK in Paediatrics. He has skills in assessing children's mental development using Griffiths tool and Bayley III Scale for Infants and Toddlers. He uses the Gold Standard diagnostic evaluation of children with Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule [ADOS] and Autism Diagnostic Interview - Revised [ADI - R] technique. He is an RCPCH, UK examiner for MRCPCH UK and DCH, UK examinations. He is also an honorary affiliate tutor and course coordinator of DCH/IPPC of Sydney University Australia. He is ex-head DNB program of AGH, Kolkata and DNB center appraiser of NBE, New Delhi. He worked as an international medical expert in a medicolegal case involving childhood disability in Singapore. He is an office bearer of two chapters of Indian Academy of Pediatrics, nationally.

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