

Current Situation of Services Related to Autism in China and Reflections on Its Future Development

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Based on data collected in some major surveys in China, this article explores development history of services related to autism in China and analyses its current situation. It will also show progresses and problems in relevant fields, including that of medical diagnosis and early intervention, intervention concepts and techniques, educational allocation, needs of families with autistic children, service institutions and centers for children with autism and their families, employment, relevant laws and regulation, etc..Combining 10 years' practices of the first autism school in China, and experiences learnt from developed counties and regions, the author concludes some suggestions and advices for the future development of relevant fields based on her observation and reflection.

In the recent 10 years, the author has witnessed a huge progress in fields related to autism. Nevertheless, great demand from increasing numbers of autistic individuals and their families is far beyond the development of service capability. Most regions in China are crying for doctors who are able to give accurate diagnosis, teachers who are able to provide appropriate education and support, and other relevant professionals who can assist in helping people with autism. In addition, service institutions and centers need to be more professional and systematic, and public awareness need to improve. Most of all, there is an imperative need to constitute and enforce relevant laws and regulations that protect rights and interests of individuals with autism. Until then, could all fields related to autism undergo a rapid yet solid development, thus the living quality of individuals with autism and their family can be significantly improved.