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Triad of socialization, communication and imagination disruptions as a base for autism researches

Child autism is quite widespread phenomena, that can be seen as often as blindness or deafness. But, unfortunately, this specific psychic development disruption is not familiar enough even to professionals in our country. Families with autistic children can't get qualified help for years. Child autism comes in a large variety of forms, on different levels of intellectual and speech development, that is why an autistic child can be found both in special and usual kindergartens, ordinary school and private lyceum. And every where these children experience significant difficulties interacting with other people, communication and social adaptation, and require special support. Yet instead of it, they often face incomprehension, ill will, even repulsion and they suffer from hard emotional wounds [3].

Autism in broad sense defined as obvious unsociability, tendency to avoid contacts, living in one's own world. However, unsociability may come in different forms and by different reasons. In most cases communication disruptions are direct and clear consequences of main dysfunction: little demand for communication, difficulties in perceiving information and understanding the situation, painful neurotic experience, chronic lack of communication in childhood, inability to use speech.

We can not surely certify how primitive their personality structure is. But unlike imbecile children, whose reactions are not formed enough for their age as well, an autistic child's personality can reach colossal level of perfection. And if this happens as a result of treatment, it usually happens in older age so that these children can either tell us about what is happening with them, or give numerous clues to help us learn particularities of their development and factors that influence that development.

In the mean time, this psychic disruption is little known both to specialists and families with autistic children. For a long time, nobody diagnosed early child autism in Russia and Ukraine, using "schizophrenia" and "oligophrenia" diagnosis instead. We hold the opinion, that early child autism is a distinct illness, which has a better prognosis for curing and following adaptation unlike impossibility of curing oligophrenia and limited possibility of curing schizophrenia.

The triad of socialization, communication and imagination disruptions forms a basis for autism researches because it outlines problems and questions needing explanation and solution. There for, a psychological theory of autism should at least explain combination of these three kinds of disruptions. At the moment, the basis of autism diagnostics is made up by three key symptoms known as Lora Wing's triad [1]:

- Qualitative aggravation in social interaction sphere;
- Qualitative aggravations in verbal and nonverbal communication and imagination spheres;
- Extremely limited activity and interests repertoire



However, there is a specific communication disruption when all these difficulties are tied into one knot and it is hard to distinguish the reasons and consequences and understand, whether a child can't communicate or doesn't want to and why.

Every step distancing a child from the world usually weakens natural tendency to observe and manipulate the environment. But without that tendency the development of human personality is simply impossible. This exhausts still weak Ego that just left undifferentiatedness phase and aggravates psychic disbalance [2].

The depth and severity of that disbalance will depend on the nature and extent of problems with communicating with outer world. Elements of reality considered most deceitful and soulless will be affected by protective mechanisms and replaced by imaginary analog that seem more satisfying; too intensive inner reactions will be displaced. In other words, all of the child's efforts will be aimed at preserving certain contact with the world and making at least a part of it safe. But when the situation is out of control and the whole world starts seeming destructive, the child gives up any effort. Attempts of coping with separate aspects of reality and completing a "peace treaty" with the other cease. All resources are thrown at building defensive constructions so the personality forming process happens in "energy blockade" conditions. The base of all, that is happening is a belief that any attempt to be or do will come out in most destructive consequences.

Communication disruption can be caused by different reasons and may come in variety of forms. Reaction inadequacy can be explained by misinterpreting received signals, which is a result of a human being blinded by anxiety or hostility.

On the contrary, when improving of conditions or therapeutic interference gives him a possibility to get others acquainted with his thought and emotions, to learn perceive process and contents of communication adequately, his condition makes visible progress.

That is exactly how emotional disruptions look like from other outsider's point of view and that is how it shows itself in communication between people.

However, if we look at the problem from the inside (i.e. interpersonally) then the cause of communication problems is irresistible anxiety. An anxious man in his strive for safety first of all limits his contacts with outer world, which generates that painful anxiety.

As long as that man sees the reason of his anxiety outside his contact with the outer world remains distorted.

When panicking, a man stops feeling hostility at all. Having to live in such a senseless unpredictable world, we turn to the only way of defense at hand – inaction.

Living with autistic children, attempt to learn and cure them – all of this can be considered as an experiment. But the complexity of problem, the range of difference between individuals (none of them is in static condition, they change constantly), the distance between observer and observant and many other details tells us that such an experiment should be most carefully planned. It is impossible to see static "scientific" experiment in this case, because we have to follow all vicissitudes of life, unpredictability of which is its main feature.



Literature

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