THE COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES BETWEEN AUTISTIC CHILDREN PARENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT_ The present study aimed at identifying the challenges that affect the process of communication between the families and teachers of autistic from the point of view of teachers in Riyadh City, Saudi Arabia. This study used the descriptive survey. And The study population consisted of all teachers of children with autism spectrum institutes and programs for special education centers in the city of Riyadh, while the study sample consisted of (117) teachers. To achieve the objectives of the study, the researcher built a questionnaire for the detection of challenges of communication between families with autistic children and their teachers, the tool consisted of (42) items which were classified into three areas: the challenges related to Parents (15) items, challenges related to teachers by (14) items, and challenges related to school by (13) items. The results showed variation in the level of challenges of communication between parents of children with autism spectrum disorder and their teachers in the three areas. The sample average grades ranged between medium and high. The challenges related to parents and school were the most influential challenges in the process of communication compared with the challenges related to teachers. The results indicated -also- to a lack of statistically significant differences between the averages of the study sample degrees on the three areas of the questionnaire (challenges related to teachers, and challenges related to the school, and challenges related to Parents due to the variables of sex, educational alternative, training courses, while the results indicated a statistically significant differences in the averages of the challenges related to teachers and challenges due to the academic qualification variable differences, towards master degree holders.

In the light of the findings of the study, the researcher recommended activating the role of parents in the institutes and programs for integration of children with autism, and activating their role in parents’ education of children with autism, and the importance of contact with school and teachers.

Key Word: Communication Challenges, Autistic Children, families and teachers.