

An Battle against Autism and Dyslexia

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An eleven-year-old autistic child who could only cry and bawl nine months ago now has the ability to talk in order to communicate. Research and structured treatment that is based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) has helped treat several children with developmental disorders. The ABA is a conglomerate comprising of certified behaviour analysts and parents whose children have developmental disabilities.

This is a new concept, where behavior analysis which was mainly used for behavior analysis, is now being used in a very systematic way to treat developmental disorder problems like autism and dyslexia. In India, ABA is being used in special schools and mental health professionals in the city are using the structured way of treatment to help patients. According to the president of ABA-India, Ms. Smita Awasthi, "There has been an increase in cases of developmental disorders like autism; in 1988 the autism prevalence rate was one in 10, 000 and the same is now one in 150. This only proves that there is a need for structured way of treating such cases.

Ms.Awasthi explained that the ABA is a systematic treatment procedure that is based on observing the behavioral pattern of an individual and based on this, an action plan is charted out so that behavior modification can be achieved to the desired extent. This helps in holistic management of developmental disorders.

"We are trying to reach out to the 50 special and inclusive schools in the city and to the mental health professionals as well so that they can understand this concept" said Ms. Awasthi