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The impact of inconsistent therapeutic approaches on child rights and development: A case of children with speech and language disorders in some Asian countries

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Statement of the Problem: Children manifesting speech and language disorders need early identification and intervention hoping to get them back to the normal level in the early stages of child development. It is their right to be taken care by the government and society around them. These rights of equal education and equal life to that of the ordinary children cannot be achieved when there is an absence of consistent therapeutic methods that can effectively decrease the level of exclusion and segregation in school and university educations. Lack of research of this issue in most of the Asian countries (i.e. China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Yemen: The context of this study) contributes also to the intractability of this matter.

Objective: The purpose of this study is to describe the experience of the researcher in international settings (China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Yemen) in dealing with children who manifest speech and language disorders and the gap between fulfilling their rights as children with special educational needs.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: Non-participant observation method, ethnographic approach based on a positivism and objectivism framework was followed in this study.

Findings: There seems to be no consistent and clear model for dealing with children manifesting speech and language disorders in terms of therapeutic approaches. These models seem to vary among the traditional model, medical model, social model, interface model, rehabilitation model and biopsychosocial model.

Conclusion & Significance: Child rights seem to be ignored especially when it comes to those manifesting speech and language disorders.

Recommendations: Recommendations are made to establish consistent therapeutic methods for children with speech and language disorders to fulfill their rights in equal education and life.

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