De La Salle University-Dasmariñas

PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE OF PEOPLE WITH MOEBIUS SYNDROME

An Undergraduate Thesis

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ABSTRACT

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Objectives

   A. General

1. To provide knowledge and understanding about the Moebius Syndrome   and the persons suffering from it.

B. Specific

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:

    1.1 Age

    1.2 Sex

    1.3 Educational Background

    1.4 Date of Diagnosis of the Syndrome

2. What is the psychological profile of the respondents in terms of:

    2.1 Level of Self-Esteem

    2.2 Peer Relation

    2.3 Social Interaction

    2.4 Level of Acceptance among Caregivers

Scope and Limitation

The participants involved were willing members of Moebius Syndrome Philippine Support Group ages twelve to nineteen (12 - 19) years old and their caregivers. The study focused on the level of self-esteem, peer relation and social interaction of the participants with Moebius Syndrome and the level of acceptance of the caregivers.

The level of self-esteem of the participants with Moebius Syndrome was determined by the test made and conducted by the researchers. On the other hand, the peer relation was measured through standardized test, Peer Relation Questionnaire made by Ken Rigby and Phillip Slee while the social interaction

was observed by the researchers. The level of acceptance of the caregivers was determined through interview with guided questions.

Research Methodology

The research method used in this study is qualitative case study. The demographic profile was given by the caregivers during the interview. A self-made test was used to measure the level of self-esteem, a standardized test was used to measure the peer relation and the social interaction of the participants with Moebius Syndrome was observed by the researchers. The level of acceptance among caregivers was gathered through interview also, the caregivers interviewed by the researchers were the mothers of the participants.

Conclusions

Based on the results, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The demographic profile of the respondents showed influence in their level of self-esteem in terms of their age. Erik Erikson's Eight Developmental Stages says that the identity vs. role confusion occurs at the age of 12 to 19 years, where in adolescents develop a strong sense of self, (Rice, 1997). This would be the stage wherein they become aware of the growth that is occurring in their body that is why they become more conscious of their physical appearance.

2. The psychological issue of the respondents in terms of peer relation says that the respondents never engage in a group that bullies other students because they themselves knows how or what it feels like to be bullied by other people. The respondents also have group of friends and are capable of having new

ones. Although they are not one of the students who bully people but according to the questionnaires and the interview with the caretakers, the respondents would sometimes act as if they are the boss inside the house or around their family. The researchers have concluded that the reason why their family let them be that way is that the respondents would not feel that they are left out. In terms of social interaction the respondents has their own way of how they gain friends, According to Reeves, people with Moebius Syndrome may develop poor social skills due to environmental shaping or lose of confidence in their interaction abilities. Josette may have poor social skills due to her condition, but this do not apply to Paolo because he seemed to be very confident while socializing and he was very active Social skill is a predictor of success in nearly all aspects of social life: psychosocial well-being, health, quality of social networks, better marriages and enhanced job opportunities (Noller and Feldman, 1992).

3. The psychological profile of the respondents in terms of the acceptance among caregivers, it shows that the respondents accepted the syndrome of their children. . The primary caregivers have strong faith in God, that they entrust the life of their child to him. Both of the families did everything that is necessary for the treatment, they don't have time to feel depressed and to express their feelings emotionally because they're both busy accompanying their child's needs and they don't have any regrets.

Recommendation

1. Community

This study will help them to understand the people with Moebius Syndrome and also, this will make the community to be aware, to accept and to understand that the people with Moebius Syndrome are also like a normal person.

2. Family and Friends

As family, they should continue their love and support for their family member with Moebius Syndrome. As friends, they should help the people with Moebius Syndrome to improve their self-esteem by treating them as if they don't have that kind of syndrome.

3. People Suffering from Moebius Syndrome

They should help their selves to improve their self-esteem and focus more on their social and motor skills. They should also trust their selves for them to feel that they are just like ordinary people.

4. Future Researchers

If they plan to replicate this study, it is recommended for them to have a larger population that can strengthen up or can go up against the findings of their research. They can also use different research instrument to gather more psychological issues.

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