

blue lights in honor of autistic individuals and their families; Figure 1 [10].

Celebration of World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) by Ain Shams University Children's Hospital-Child Psychiatry Team (AUCH-CPT), April 2016

After organization of Meet the Professionals' day (MPD) for autistic caregivers whose children are under follow up in Ain Shams University Children's Hospital-Child Psychiatry Clinic [11], the author of this editorial as the Head of the Clinic decided to share the globe in celebrating the WAAD with an educational workshop for professionals and an open day with the participation of autistic children and their caregivers. MPD has broken the ice between our team and the autistic caregivers and shown the importance of knowing each other in a comfortable setting outside the clinic and its restricted time and routine limitations [11].

"Do not do it; it is a waste of time"

"It is very hot nowadays in Cairo; going outdoors with autistic children in such a weather is insane"

"Alazhar Park in the weekend; Ohhhhhh no, it will be awfully crowded and very difficult to take care of the autistic children"

These were some comments that I heard once I declared my intention to celebrate the WAAD by an open day in Alazhar Park, Cairo, Egypt with the team members and the autistic children and their caregivers. Only because I believe that making a difference is the only thing that it really matters in life and gives an extraordinary and remarkable meaning to our existence, I decided to go on with my plan no matter what. Although not all the team members joined us that day, the participation of those who believed in making a difference was wonderful. They have taken a good care of the autistic children and joined them in enjoying the event.

"We are not sick or odd but we are just different" was the slogan we used for the event and the T shirts that were made especially to be worn by the team members and the autistic children during the day (Figures 2, 3a and 3b). That slogan has attracted the attention of many people who were in Alazhar Park that day enjoying their weekend in spite of the very hot weather. They were very keen to come and ask us about it and about the meaning of autism; hence the awareness process has started.



Figure 1: Light It Up Blue (LIUB) initiative posed by "Autism Speaks" with many landmarks all over the globe sharing in it [7].



Figure 2: AUCH-CPT Arabic slogan for celebrating WAAD, April 2016 stating that autistic persons are not sick or odd but they are just different.



Figure 3a: AUCH-CPT celebrating WAAD at Alazhar Park, Cairo, Egypt, April 2016.



Figure 3b: AUCH-CPT celebrating WAAD at Alazhar Park, Cairo, Egypt, April 2016.

Summary

To summarize, in the point of view of many professionals and organizations that are concerned with autistic persons and their families, AUTISM is just a 6 letters' word that is preferably refers to "Always Unique, Totally Intelligent, Sometimes Mysterious". In spite of

that autism continues to represent a challenge to all of us because of its complex etiology and the lack of curative treatment until now but as we do believe in making a difference, we will continue our efforts in research as well as supporting individuals with autism and their families by all means. Hopefully, one day we will achieve our goals in changing the world to be a better place for all of us to live in.

Acknowledgment

The author as the Head of Ain Shams University Children's Hospital-Child Psychiatry Team (AUCH-CPT) is grateful for the team members; Mona Rashad, Walaa Yousef, and Nada Hammad who made our WAAD celebration a day to remember by their enthusiastic participation. I am thankful for all the house officers and under and postgraduate students who joined us in this event. My thanks also go to the Management of the Department of Community affairs of Faculty of Medicine, Ain Sham University for securing the means of our transportation to and from Alazhar Park, Cairo, Egypt and to Reham Elhossiny who shared in the fund raising for the event. Lastly but by no means least, we are all indebted to the autistic children and their caregivers; without their participation, this event would have been meaningless.

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