

Communications Pattern In Virtual Community To Support Parents Who Have Asd (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Children

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Abstract. The complex problems of children with autism make parents need a communication channel to seek information about autism. Patients with autism require special handling and treatment to minimize the symptoms that often accompany patients such as tantrums, mood swings or mood swings quickly also stimming. Based on the research, parents of ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) children have higher levels of stress compared to parents of other disabilities. They need a place to share and ask questions about many things about autism. The presence of a virtual community brings quite positive implications for parents of children with autism. Through virtual communities, especially in social media, they can communicate with each other and get information about handling children with autism and gaining online social support. One virtual community that is considered worthy of research is the LRD Member SuarAutisme community on Facebook, where the number of members above 7 thousand numbers and has a high traffic among its members in exchanging information about the handling of autism.

Based on the above description, this study aims to 1) identify patterns of communication and exchange of information regarding the treatment of autism among parents who have children with ASD that occurs in virtual communities and 2) Describe the most needed information for parents who have children with ASD in virtual communities

The research approach used is qualitative, with the method of virtual ethnography. Source of data obtained from the informant with snow ball sampling technique, the parents who have children with ASD and actively interact in the virtual community LRD Member SuarAutisme on Facebook. Data collection procedure will be done through participant observation in virtual community and in-depth interview to informant. The data will be analyzed qualitatively which is then interpreted and presented in the form of a description or narrative to conduct theoretical interpretation and give meaning to the result of the research.