



Short Communication

Ethical consideration for neurodevelopmental disorder pathway service evaluation and research

Turna Tribenee Mithila ¹, Tolchard Barry ², Shamima Lasker ³

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Abstract: The Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 of United States in act to prevent social exclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) and to cut back on unneeded expenditures to society. However, despite the protective legislation, the rights of adults with neurodevelopmental disorders have not yet been fully realised. There are several obstacles to overcome the neurological development related health care services, including health care usage, educational and career pathways, family and social lives, self-fulfilment, and quality of life. There are significant gaps in the transition process that affect the health care systems. Lack of transition and transfer planning, neurodevelopmental disorder health care pathway services have lack of experience, education, and expertise which result the inadequate growth of the health care quality and create communication gap in between service providers and service users. The aim of this short communication is to mention and clarify the ethical concerns of neurodevelopmental service evaluation.

Key Words: Ethical consideration, neurodevelopmental service, evaluation

Introduction: Numerous medical and social-behavioural therapies and services have arisen to meet the requirements of special need population as the recognition and diagnosis of neurodevelopmental disorders ¹. However, there has not been much focus on whether neurodevelopmental disorder related services help the persons or not ². When it

comes to developing or implementing or evaluating the programmes for persons with neurodevelopmental disorders, the affected people are rarely involved, which raises concerns about whose decision-making process are used. As for example autism, autistic has a lot of stigmas culturally ³. People's entire lives are impacted by autism,

1. Post graduate student, Teesside University, UK. Email: T.mithila@tees.ac.uk ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7640-9967>
2. Head of the Department, Nursing & Midwifery, Teesside University, UK Email: B.Tolchard@tees.ac.uk ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4137-9013>
3. Professor & Head of the Department, Department of Anatomy, Shahabuddin Medical College Email:-Splasker101@gmail.com ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3484-9526>



including how they process their thoughts, perceptions, movement, and communication. Much of the "data" in autism intervention studies is centred on the purpose of the intervention subject becoming lesser autistic, therefore, opposed to focusing on assessing factors like successful communication, daily living skills, identity, and consciousness⁴. Being "distinct from their surroundings"², For this reason, ethical concern is now a mandatory part for research in autism⁵. It is also a concern that how "research" for therapeutic interventions is understood? Since the actual autistic people engage with the world differently than non-autistic people do, society puts pressure on them to fit into neurotypical norms. This pressure affects the therapies and services that are offered to neurodevelopmental disorder individuals⁵. This article discusses about the ethics of why people experience pressure to accept the services and why neurotypical people are not being pushed to be more accepting in research.

Methodology: This article was written primary thinking based on secondary data. PubMed, Google search, Embase, Cochran were the possible search engine for literature review which was used to justify the evidence for ethical concern in neurodevelopmental disorder service evaluation.

Discussion: Neurodevelopmental disorder is defined as a fixation with a minor or imperceptible flaw in appearance that is accompanied by obsessive thoughts and conduct disorder that causes disruptions in normal tasks¹. There are several forms of neurodevelopmental disorders like autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, learning disability, conduct disorders¹. Understanding of following the ethical considerations can help in better outcome in service evaluation and research with neurotypical people.

1. Ethical consideration in delivering services to neurodevelopmental difficulties people: Community people's basic requirements have been met by the service system primarily through charity organisations and treatment centres². Nevertheless, currently, community health

services are specified periods of time striving to assist individuals in meeting fundamental needs within the community³. The major drawback for ethical consideration of neurodevelopmental disorder service is connected to the nature of neurotypical disorders and the experience of the disorders because most of the bioethicists is concerned about what consent should include in such research⁴. For several reasons, consent in neurotypical people is extremely difficult. One is the neurodevelopmental condition autism, which frequently manifests as deficits in social cognition and language use⁵. A growing number of people argue because while mental health services can improve the lives of those with disabilities, they must not take the place of the broader community research⁵. Community health treatment providers are now more aware of how dangerous it is for people to have not adequate access to housing, clothing, employment, relationship, and civic engagement⁶. Successful treatment outcomes and addressing necessities for protection and health are clearly correlated with research⁶.

2. Ethical considerations in communication with neurodevelopmental disordered people:

The regard for a neurotypical participant's "no" or denial of a request is a defining characteristic of unethical practices⁹. Clear communication and direct, efficient language are important for ethical consideration in neurodevelopmental disorder related services. It should be recommended for people to wait to sign a consent form until they fully comprehend the conditions¹³. While promising to establish and uphold secrecy, researchers should notify potential participants about circumstances in which it might not be able to do so or about the drawbacks of taking part in a study¹⁴. For instance, certain research has been known to inquire about genetic screening participation; those who answer "yes" or do not respond at all¹⁵. Nowadays, researchers are giving enthusiasm to those participants feel difficulty to give consent. Researchers should mention the cost of interpreters and assistive communication devices in their application when using neurotypical people¹⁵. When writing their

funding proposals, researchers should take into account a variety of techniques for getting informed consent ¹⁶.

3. Ethical consideration among stakeholder meetings: The working group, one of the stakeholders who are committed to share information by their specific knowledge and personal experiences, they might consider various ethical issues. The assessment team, findings from a variety of fields, including clinical trials, sociological research, and ideology to develop the current recommendations ¹⁷. To provide solutions that represent the big picture and enrich the sustainability of service evaluation. The team's members consider about their individual experiences with data, as well as their own perspectives ¹⁸. Considering the myriad types of ethical conflicts, the stakeholder who are included in service monitoring or improvement plan, they might face difficulties to format and speak clearly and to provide specific descriptions of the service users information, including maps (for example, personal history, family history, disease history) ¹⁹. Stakeholders are also not well organized to collect and distribute portraits and bios of staff and workshop for participants that will be distributed before and during the workshop, training, seminar. to outline and explain the ethical expectations for neurodevelopmental disorder related research ²⁰.

4. Ethical consideration in research with service evaluation with intellectual disability people: Research on intellectual disability must follow the fundamental ethical guidelines as research on other diseases like infectious diseases, comorbid type diseases (for example, pneumonia, diarrhoea, diabetes) ⁷. This research will help researchers to find out the primary factors for ethical dimensions in case of neurodevelopmental disease services. Furthermore, it will improve the neurodevelopmental disorder related service plan for a country⁸.

Questionnaire: In the service evaluation questionnaire, public participation entails more than merely "engaging" people rather than

actual or mass neurotypical people. The neurodevelopmental disordered people have limited social engagement, difficulty starting or maintaining a conversation, lack of social play, repetitive language, intense, focused concentration, and having trouble maintaining attention in fixation on routines or rituals. Therefore, it is difficult to follow the questionnaire for evaluation of service from them individually ²¹. To yield jointly positive outcomes, it depends on establishing enduring, meaningful relationships between the community services and organisations working with neurotypical people. It is a cooperative process between groups that get together because they live nearby or because they have similar interests or concerns ²². Engagement of the Community services for social inclusions (who are participating in service evaluation) focus on the process of assisting early design and development phase of questionnaire which needs to be pragmatic and assure that these services have the capacity and necessary resources (pre-grant) ²³. Most evaluator questionnaire might face challenges in finance and human resource systems which do not easily accommodate the informal style of working.

However, there are some important practical ramifications for helping adults with neurotypical problems who are more capable. Examples include giving people more time to decide, minimising irrelevant information, presenting closed-ended questions, encouraging, and assuring people, and addressing fear in general ²⁴. For family members and professionals involved in providing support to help these people achieve greater self-understanding, self-advocacy, and improved decision-making in lifespan activities like employment and interpersonal relationships, understanding how adults with ASD (autism spectrum disorder) experience decision-making is especially important ²⁵.

Quantitative data collection: Ethical issues in researcher with quantitative data collection might include definitions and metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of studies and more sophisticated analytical methods including probabilistic data analysis. In health service evaluation analysis, a greater

appreciation of the value of validity evidence and steps toward greater accountability depend on demonstrating valid data exchange and equipment which might provide empirical proof for service that is referred to as the "research methodology essence" ²⁶. This movement places a strong emphasis on considering research ethics and raising awareness of them.

Research ethics: There are many various perspectives for interpreting research ethics. Perhaps the most well-known and significant concern in research ethics is the protection of human subjects, which includes obtaining participant consent and maintaining the confidentiality of research data ²⁷. For this reason, research institutions are typically required to provide training and oversight in quantitative data research. The safety of human subjects is just one aspect of research ethics; instead, the researchers are interested in ethics as a set of "expectations surrounding honesty in data collecting and reporting"²⁸.

5. Ethical consideration in organisations: Health care evaluation systems throughout the world have experienced numerous structural adjustments, including realignment, decrease in health care capacity, technological innovations, improvements to care practises and interventions, budgetary restrictions, and economic reform to boost productivity in healthcare ²⁹. Simultaneously to this, there is a rise in patient important outcomes and a reinforcement of legislative framework, institutional arrangements, and health-related policies. Notwithstanding these advancements, effective organizational ethics should always be preserved. Professional behaviour, which generally relates to administrative, and management ethical issues as opposed to clinical ethical issues, case consultations, or the conduct of clinical research, is an increasing topic of importance in health care administration and delivery ³⁰.

Overall, organizational ethics is focused on the moral questions that administrators and board members confront, as well as the moral ramifications of institutional decisions and processes on the community, personnel, and sufferers of neurodevelopmental people. The definition of organisational ethics is the

formulation, execution, and judgment of the consistent moral and ethical perspectives by which an organisation is constituted, both internally and externally. To establish and keep a positive ethical culture, they added, organisation ethical actions encompass all aspects of the operation of the healthcare organisation. Therefore, an organization's culture and the ethical position give employees a sense of how they are valued, how to collaborate, and how to behave themselves professionally. The ethical duty of the organisation to conduct its business and clinical care protocols is a topic of organisational ethics.

Conclusion and further recommendations:

The main point of view is, many persons with neurodevelopmental disorders who normally need support, they struggle greatly in routine social situations for delivering and using health services. Although lack of social interaction and difficulties in communication may result not only from the perceptions, judgments, and social decisions, but also, research in this area has also primarily focused on identifying the cognitive and neurological differences that might contribute to ethical concerns for neurodevelopmental service improvement plan. Here, across the study, we have found that how communication approaches of neurodevelopmental disordered people play an important role for ethical considerations in organisational research and service improvement plan. Moreover, this study has also explored the stakeholder's involvement for strengthening the research ethics which will contribute furthermore for neurodevelopmental service evaluation process.

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