

Health Communication At the Family with Special Needs Children (Epilepsy)

Purwanti Hadisiwi

Abstract

This is a qualitative research on how a family with special needs children (epilepsy) cope their communication problem concerning medical and non medical treatment, the people around the family such as their grand parents, neighbors and school, and the obstacles were faced by the family. Parent with special need child try all possible medical and non medical alternatives such as psychologist, neurologist, therapist in the forms as sport activities, massages and concentration increasing ability , energy transfer and recently bring the child to Singapore to get information and medication from the doctor specialized on epilepsy genetic. Meanwhile, the communication problem were faced by the family is communication with the extended family whom is considered to be much harder than communication with neighbor and school. The obstacles of treating the child come from the grandparents who always give permission for some activities which are prohibited by the parent.

Key words : Health communication, Epilepsy, communication problems

I. Introduction

Special need children are the kid whom signify to be recognized as having physical, mental-intellectual, social and emotional disorder in their growing process compared to normal children in the same age, so that they need special treatment including their education (Direktorat Pendidikan Luar Biasa, 2006). Special need children are the kid with disorder such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), Cerebral Palsy, etc (Info Terapi, 2007). The children with disorder usually having trouble to concentrate their thinking and behavior so that they need special educational system.

Parents are the main factor in supporting and helping the children facing their various problems. It was said that "parents were listed as the primary source of affection, reassurance of the child's worth, physical and material assistance, intimacy, and as someone who would always be there when needed by the child" (Furman and Buhmester in Vangelisti, 2004). Since the child usually can not communicate very well, parents are also one