



Autism

[Source:TH](#)

Autism (also referred to as [autism spectrum disorder \(ASD\)](#)) is a complex condition **influenced by genetic and environmental factors**, with rising cases driving research and calls for early diagnosis and support.

- **Autism:** It is a diverse group of **brain development conditions** characterized by difficulties in **social interaction, communication, and atypical behaviors**.
 - About 1 in 100 children worldwide has autism, though prevalence varies and is often underreported in low- and middle-income countries.
 - People with autism often have co-occurring conditions like epilepsy, depression, anxiety, and may exhibit behaviors such as sleep issues and self-injury. Intellectual abilities range from **severe impairment to above-average levels**.
- **Causes:** Autism likely results from a combination of genetic factors (like family history, older parents, or genetic conditions like **Down syndromes**) and environmental influences during pregnancy or birth (such as pollution exposure or prematurity). These factors may increase risk but don't directly cause autism.
 - Childhood **vaccines do not** increase the **risk of autism**.
- **Assessment and care:** Early, evidence-based interventions can significantly enhance quality of life for autistic individuals.
- **India's Initiatives for Autism:** The [National Trust \(1999 Act\)](#) provides legal guardianship and welfare services for individuals with autism.
 - The [DISHA scheme](#) provides early intervention and school readiness for children (0-10 years) with disabilities.
 - The **Sahyogi scheme** trains Care Associates through Caregiver Cells (CACs) to provide skilled care for Persons with Disabilities.

Signs of Autism



Hyperactivity



Inattention



Rejects physical contact
(e.g., hugs)



Tiptoeing



Sensitivity to sounds
and loud noises



Hysteria



Depression
and isolation

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/autism-3>

