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VI.	संज्ञानात्मक घटक			
37.	असंगत ध्यान तथा संकेंद्रन			
38.	विलंबित प्रतिक्रिया समय			
39.	असामान्य स्मृति			
40.	विद्ववान योग्यता			

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA: EXTRAORDINARY

अनुबंध—ग

ऑटिज्म युक्त व्यक्तियों हेतु विकलांग	ता प्रमाण–पत्र	
	रकार	
प्रमाण–पत्र जारी करने वाले राज्य/अधिकृत ऑटिज्म प्रमाणन चिकित्सा बोर्ड	का नाम एवं पता	नवीनतम फोटो यहां चिपकाये
यह प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि श्री/श्रीमति/कुमारीगान/कस्बा/शहर (आवेदक का पूर्ण पता) निम्नलिखित सूचना के साथ :	सुपुत्र / सुपुत्री	निवासी
क) जन्म तिथि		
ख) लिंग पुरूषमहिलामहिला		
ग) अंगूठे के निशान सहित हस्ताक्षर		
राज्य / अधिकृत ऑटिज्म प्रमाणन चिकित्सा बोर्ड द्वारा जांच की गई है तथा श्रेणी में समझा गया है। उसकी विकलांगता का प्रतिशत	उसे मामूली मध्यम / गंभीर है।	ऑटिज्म युक्त व्यक्ति की
	राज्य /अधिकृत ऑटिज्म अध्य	प्रमाणन चिकित्सा बोर्ड के पक्ष के हस्ताक्षर एवं मोहर
तारीख		
स्थान		

## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)

# **NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 25th April, 2016

# Subject: Guidelines for evaluation and assessment of Autism and procedure for certification

No. 16-21/2013-DD-III.—Autism has been recognized as one of the disabilities under Section 2 of the National Trust Act, 1999 read with the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PwD Act). The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 provides for the constitution of National Trust for the welfare of this class of persons with disabilities. Thus the guidelines for evaluation of various disabilities and procedure for certification notified by the Ministry on 1.06.2001 covers only the categories of disabilities identified in the PwD Act and do not cover certification of Autism. The State Governments on this reasonable ground are not issuing Disability Certificate to persons with autism.

[भाग I—खण्ड 1]	भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण	2
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- In order to frame guidelines for evaluation and assessment of Autism and procedure for certification, as given in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's O.M. (F.No. Z-28020/106/2014-CH-RBSK) dated 9th July, 2014 and to recommend appropriate modifications/alternations keeping in view Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India has developed Guidelines for Assessment of Autism for the purposes of issuance of disability certificate in consultation with Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Definition: Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong neurological condition typically appearing in the first three years of life that is marked by pervasive impairments in the areas of social skills and communication; often associated with hyper-or-hypo-reactivity to sensory input; unusual interest of stereotypical rituals, or behaviours; and may or may not be accompanied by intellectual impairment.
- For identification of Autism cases the INCLEN tools shall be used. INCLEN Tools for identification of autism cases is at Annexure A.
- The Indian Scale of Assessment of Autism has been developed which provides the detailed assessment procedure and tools for assessing the extent of disability for persons with autism beyond 6 years of age. The Indian scale for assessment of autism is at Annexure B. Certification of disability for persons with autism may be carried out by a Autism Certification Medical Board, duly constituted by the Central Government or the State Government, comprising of members from the following fields:
  - 1. Clinical Psychologist/Rehabilitation Psychologist
  - 2. A Psychiatrist
  - 3. A Paediatrician or General Physician as the case may be

The State Governments are, therefore, requested to constitute the Autism Certification Medical Board immediately.

- Based on the identification of cases of Autism in terms of INCLEN tools, certification of Autism on the basis of ISAA tools shall be issued. The Proforma for issuance of Certificate of Disability of Persons with Autism shall be as per Annexure C. The certificate would be valid for a period of 5 years for those whose disability is temporary and are below the age 18 years. For those who acquire permanent disability, the validity can be shown as "Permanent" in the certificate.
- The Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare shall be the final authority, should there arise any controversy/doubt regarding the interpretation of the definition/classification/evaluation test etc.

Details of the Annexures appended to the guidelines are as under:

#### List of Annexure

Annexure A	INCLEN diagnostic tools
Annexure B	Indian Scale of Assessment of Autism
Annexure C	Proforma for issuance of Certificate of Disbility of Persons with Autism

		AWANISH K. AWASTHI, Jt. Secy.
		Annexure A
ASD_Tool	UNIQUE ID	
	NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AMON	IG CHILDREN
	IN INDIA: AN INCLEN STUDY	
	INCLEN Diagnostic Tool for Autism Spectrum	Disorder
	(INDT-ASD)	

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State		Date of Interview	D	D	-	M	M	-	Y	Y
District						1				
Tehsil	Co	ommencing Time	AM/PM	1		Hr		N	⁄Iin	
Village (Cluster)	Co	oncluding Time	AM/PM	I		Hr		N	⁄Iin	

# PERSONAL INFORMATION OF THE CHILD

Name of the Child:		
Date of Birth: DD/MM/YYYY	Age:yearsmonths	
Sex:		
Complete Address:		
Phone number:		
Date of Assessment:		
Name of the Assessor:	INSTRUCTIONS EAR EVALUATION	
Name of the Assessor:	INSTRUCTIONS FOR EVALUATION	

- Primary caregiver must be present with the child.
- These behaviours are to be assessed in the context of children of same age.
- Explain to parents that the answers should be based on the child's behaviour most of the time.
- Follow the age directions given along with the question. For questions where no age cut-off is given, they should be asked for all children i.e. all ages (2-9 years)
- Ask the questions verbatim

Question can be repeated if the respondent can not understand

Still, if the respondent cannot understand, give example for the particular behaviour;

No further elaboration is allowed

- The questionnaire should be supplemented by observations for the suggestive behaviour in the child
- Observe the behaviour of child during the entire interview to confirm the presence or absence of a particular behaviour (First ask, then observe if observations is discrepant, then re ask the question and recheck the observation)

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 When there is discrepancy between parental response and your observation, \* indicates whether parent report or observation should take precedence, and marked accordingly.

asterisk (\*)

- When the parent's response is "unsure" your observation of the particular behaviour will be given
  weightage even asterisk (\*) is on parental response. In case you are also unable to observe the behaviour,
  and then only mark the response as "Unsure".
- Some criteria have multiple questions. **While scoring,** consider the criteria fulfilled even if response to **any one** of the questions is abnormal. For example, the criterion **Ala** is considered fulfilled if any one of i, ii, iii or iv is abnormal in the child.

## SECTION A

	Ask	Observe		Encircle the	
	(Tick √ in the box if response is based on answer)	(Tick √ in the box if response is based on observation)	appr	opriate	e response
Ala	<ul> <li>i) * For children aged less than 4 years:</li> <li>Does your child usually enjoy being taken in the lap or hugged?</li> </ul>	In children below 4 years age; Response to being touched and cuddled by parent: enjoys/tolerates/squirms/stiffens/gets upset/Indiffernt	Yes	No	Unsure
	For children aged 4 years or more: When your child was a baby/toddler, did he/she enjoy being taken in the lap or hugged?				
	ii) Does your child usually make eye contact with you or other people?  Eg. While playing, asking for	*Quality of eye contact	Yes	No	Unsure
	things, talking to you				
	iii) * Does your child usually use various gestures appropriately during social interactions?	Use of these gestures in response to your greeting and while departing	Yes	No	Unsure
	Eg. Namaste, Salaam, waving byebye, hello, touching feet etc.				
	(At least sometimes spontaneously)				
	(use appropriate example as required)				
		inappropriate gestures like repeatedly व व्यक्ति को नमस्कार करना बिना वजह बार-बार पैरा			dy without

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	<ul><li>iv) Does your child usually show appropriate facial expressions according to the situation?</li><li>Eg. being happy, sad, afraid etc.</li></ul>	*Appropriateness of facial expressions while interacting with parents, with you (stranger), while playing, when given toy/favorite food or when scolded.	Yes	No	Unsure
Alb	i) * Does your child usually enjoy the company of other children?	Child's interaction with other children	Yes	No	Unsure
	ii) * For children aged 4 years or more: Does your child have friends of his/her age (In school and neighbour-hood) with whom he/she love to chat, share food or play together?	Quality of child's interaction with other children of his/her age	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
	iii) * For children aged 4 years or more: Does your child play mostly with children who are much older or much younger than him/her?	Quality of child's interaction with other children	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
Alc	<ul> <li>i) * For children aged less than 4         years: Does/did your child ever         point with his/her index finger         to bring your attention to show         the things that interest him/her?</li> <li>Eg. kite, plane flying in the sky,</li> </ul>	Observe how the child draws attention toward a toy/object of interest; Look for coordinated pointing	Yes	No	Unsure
	cow/dog on the road etc.				
	For children aged 4 years or more: Does your child usually bring things to show you on his/her own he/she has made printed or new toy/gift?				

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	I P. 1.11	<u> </u>	3.7	N.T.	* *
	ii) For children aged 4 years or more and are able to speak:		Yes	No	Unsure
	Does your child talk to you about things he/she likes or has achieved without being asked about them?				
Ald	i) * Does your child usually prefer to play alone and gets irritated/moves away when his/her sibs or other kids try to play with him/her?	Quality of play activity in a group of children or with siblings	Yes	No	Unsure
	<ul><li>ii) * Does your child play games involving turn taking or rule based with other children properly?</li></ul>	Quality of child's involvement in rule- based games or games involving taking turns	Yes	No	Unsure
	Eg. Cricket, Hide and Seek/I-spy, Ludo, Stapoo, Ring-a-ring roses etc.				
	iii) * Does your child <b>usually</b> share his/her happiness with you or come to you for comfort when hurt or upset?	Sharing happiness or distress with the parents	Yes	No	Unsure
	iv) * For children aged 4 years or more: Does your child <b>usually</b> share your happiness or try to comfort you when you are upset/sad?	Sharing of parent's happiness distress by the child	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
A2a	*Does your child speak normally for his/her age? If the child cannot speak normally: Can he/she communicate with you by using gestures?  Eg. by pointing with index finger, nodding/shaking head for yes/no etc.	Use of age-appropriate language (words-and-phrases). Spontaneous use of gestures for communication; *Quality/maturity of pointing (Mature or immature pointing and 'hand over hand' pointing)	Yes	No	Unsure

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	If the child cannot speak at all AND cannot communicate by appropriate gestures, then only mark as "NO".				
	If the child cannot speak BUT can communicate by appropriate gestures, then mark as "YES"				
	Ask A2b only i	f child is speaking at 2-3 word sentences le	vel		<u> </u>
	Ask A2c onl	y if the child is speaking at few words leve	1		
A2b	i) *Does your child initiate a conversation with you?	Quality of child's conversation with parents or yourself	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
	ii) * For children aged 4 years or more: Can you have conversation with your child during which he/she not only answers your questions, but also adds something new to continue the conversation?	Quality of child's conversation with parents or yourself	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
A2c	i) Does your child usually repeat words or phrases regardless of meaning (in part or whole) that he/she has heard?	*Immediate echolalia (words or phrases)	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
	Eg. If you say, 'toffee' he will also say 'toffee' If you say, 'come' he will also say 'come' and If you ask, 'what is your name' he will also say 'what is your name'				
	ii) Does he/she incessantly repeat things/T.V. serial dialogue regardless of meaning/context, whatever he/she has heard later on?	*Delayed echolalia	Yes	No	Unsure or NA

[भाग I—खण्ड 1] भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण 27

	iii) For children aged 4 years or more: Does your child usually use "I for me" and "me for you" incorrectly?  Eg. when you ask "do you want milk" he/she says "yes you want milk" or "Rohit wants milk" (referring to him self).	*Pronoun reversal	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
	iv) For children aged 4 years or more: During conversation does your child often speak 'out of context' or irrelevantly?	Out-of-content speech and neologisms	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
	v) * For children aged 6 years or more: Does your child understand that somebody is making fun of him/her or can he/she understands jokes?	Child's response to an age-appropriate joke	Yes	No	Unsure or NA
A2d	Does your child participate in games like "Pat-a-cake", "Peek-a-boo", "Ring-a-ring rose", "Akkad bakkad bambe po", "Posam paa", "Chal chameli baag mein" and "Totaa ud-maine ud" etc?	Quality of child's play with toys or other objects  Look for any form of variable pretend play	Yes	No	Unsure
	OR  Does your child play variable imaginative play with toys like  For girls:- kitchen set/dolls/clay or dough  For boys:- telephone/toy/gun/motor car?				
	OR				

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	Has your child played different games like "ghar-ghar", "teacher-student" (school-school), "chorpolic" etc. with other kids interactively					
	(May odd age appropriate regional exam Note for interviewer : If <u>any</u> one is posit		ecessar	y)		
A3a	i) *Does your child have excessive interest in <b>odd</b> things/activities which other children do not have?  E.g. collecting toffee wrappers, polythene bags, piece of string or rope, pulling thread and rubber band etc.	Any <b>unusual</b> interests i.e. unusual for child's age	Yes	No	Unsure	
	ii) * Does your child have excessive interest in typical things but the interest is so all encompassing that it interferes his/her activities?  (Excluding T.V watching)	Excessive and all-encompassing interest in activities that are typical for other child his/her age.	Yes	No	Unsure	
	iii) * Does your child like lining or stacking objects/toys excessively? (Excluding blocks)	Excessive lining of objects or toys	Yes	No	Unsure	

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A3b	Does your child unreasonably <b>insist</b> on doing things in a particular way and/or become <b>upset</b> if there is any change in the daily routine?	Child's insistence on any unusual routines or rituals.	Yes	No	Unsure
	E.g. Taking exactly the same route to the school or market, insisting on food being served in the same pattern or sequence etc.				
A3c	<ul> <li>i) Does your child keep on repeating any of the followings, like</li> <li>• flapping hands,</li> <li>• hand wringing,</li> <li>• toe-walking,</li> <li>• rocking or spinning,</li> <li>• making unusual finger or hand movements near his/her face?</li> </ul>	*Any type of motor stereotypes, unusual finger/hand movements near face.	Yes	No	Unsure
	Note for interviewer: Ask with demon positive	stration and answer yes if any o	ne of a	above	example is

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	ii) *Does your child have inappropriate fascination with movement?  Eg. spinning wheels, opening and closing of doors, electric fan, running water and any other revolving object etc.	Child's <b>Inappropriate</b> fascination with objects in motion.	Yes	No	Unsure
A3d	Does your child perfer to play with a particular <b>part</b> of a toy/object rather than the whole toy/object?  E.g. wheels of a toy rather than the whole toy.	*Quality of child's play with diffrent toys and objects	Yes	No	Unsure

# SECTION B

Complete this section (1-5) based on responses from section A and further history taking (6-12)

1. No of criteria fulfilled in A1 of the section A (Social Interaction)	
0: Less than two	
1. Two or more	
2. No of criteria fulfilled in A2 of the section A (Communication)	
0: Nil	
1. One or more	
3. No of criteria fulfilled in A3 of the section A (Restricted Interests)	
0: Nil	
1. One or more	
4. Interpretation of questionnaire (1 to 3)	
<b>0</b> : No ASD (if responce to 2 or more of 1 to 3 is "0")	
1. ASD present (If response to 1 is "1" and response to	
either or both of 2 and 3 is "1"	
5. Total number of criteria fulfilled in A1, A2 and A3 together	
0: Less than Six	
1. Six or more	

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[भाग I-	-खण्ड 1]     भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण	
6 Does	s/dis your child have any of the following?	
0. Docs	0: No 1: Yes	
	0.110 1. 100	
<b>A.</b>	Significant delay in development of language of the child? (Not spoken single words by communicative phrases by 3 years)	2 years and
В.	Diffculty in using language in daily activities or during intreaction with other people?	
C.	Started participating in varieties of pretend play at a later age/Not started pretend play?	
D.	ANY of the following (mark '1' if any one of the following is 'yes')	
	(Tick (✓) the problems present in the child)	
	To be separate and indifferent from other children-	
	- No/few friends	
	<ul> <li>Difficulty in school (due to behavior or studies)</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Less understanding regarding societal norms</li> </ul>	
7. Did	Your child have these symptoms before three years?	
	<b>0</b> : No	
	1. Yes/Do not know/Not sure	
L		
8. Does	s the child fulfil <u>all</u> the following criteria for diagnosis of Rett's Disorder?	
•	Female Child	
•	Loss of purposeful hand skills between 5-30 months age and development of stereotyped ha wringing, hand washing or hand to mouthing movements	nd
•	Loss of special engagement early in course during 9-29 months (although often social interadevelops later)	ction
•	Severely impaired expressive and receptive language development with severe psychomotor retardation	<del>.</del>
	0: No 1:Yes	
9. Doe	es the child fulfil <u>all</u> the following criteria for diagnosis of Childhood Disintegrative Disor	der?
•	Normal development till 2 years age, by the presence of age appropriate verbal and communication, social relationships, play and adaptive behaviour	nonverbal
•	After 2 years of age, loss of previously acquired milestones (before age 10 years) in 2 or following areas (Tick ( $$ ) the areas in which milestones are lost)	more of the
	< Expressive/receptive language	
	< Social skills/Adaptive behaviour	
	< Bowel or bladder control	
	< Play skills	
	< Motor skills	

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Abnormalities of funct	ioning in at least two of the following areas:-		 1			
<	Qualitative impairment in social interaction					
<	Qualitative impairment in communication					
<	Restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behaviour					
0: No	1:Yes	]				
10. There is no clinically signi	ficant delay in any of the following?					
Language developmen	t (single words used by age 2 years, communicative phrase used by age	3 years)				
Cognitive Development	nt <b>OR</b> Development of age-appropriate self-help skills					
Adaptive behaviour (Other than in social interaction)						
0: No	1:Yes					
11. Summary assessment of A	SD					
0. No ASD (Response to 4 is	"0")					
1. Autism (Response to AL	L of 1 to 7 is "1" and 8,9 is "0")					
2. Asperger's Disorder (Re	esponse to 4 is "1", 6D is "1" and 10 is "1")					
3. <b>PDD-NOS</b> (Response to 4	4 is "1" and either 5 or 7 or both is "0")					
4. Rett's Disorder (Respons	e to 4 us "1" and 8 is "1")					
5. CDD (Response to 4 is "1	" and 9 is "1")					
9. <b>Indeterminate</b> (Criteria condition)	non fulfilled, too many unsure responses, could not be tested in ap	propriate				
12. Can these symptoms be so	lely explained by Intellectual Disability?					
0: No 1:Ye	s if yes, refer to TAG review					
13 Additional note and obser	vation during the interview		1			

Annexure-B

Date of Assessment

## INDIAN SCALE FOR ASSESSMENT OF AUTISM

## **Purpose**

The purpose of developing an Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism (ISAA) was to assess persons with Autism for issuance of disability certificate

## **Description of the Scale**

Name of the Assessor

Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism is a rating scale comprising of 40 test items grouped under 6 domains:

Signature of the Assessor

## I. Social Relationship and Reciprocity

Persons with Autism generally remain aloof, socially withdrawn and do not interact with other people. They have difficulty in understanding another person's feelings, such as pain or sorrow. They have problems in maintain eye contact and do not develop age appropriate peer relationships.

# II. Emotional Responsiveness

Individuals with Autism do not show the expected feelings in a social situation. Emotional reactions are unrelated to the situation and may show anxiety or fear which is excessive in nature without apparent reason. They may show inappropriate emotional response.

## III. Speech - Language and Communication

Individuals with Autism have problems in speech development. They find it difficult to express their needs verbally and non-verbally and may also have difficulty in understanding the non verbal language of others. People with Autism often have echolalia and may repeat a word, phrase or sentence out of context.

## IV. Behaviour Patterns

Persons with Autism may engage in self-stimulatory behavior in the form of flapping hands and using an object for this purpose. They insist on following routines and may resist change. Some Autistic children may be restless and exhibit aggressive behavior.

## V. Sensory Aspects

Persons with Autism are usually sensitive to sensory stimuli. A majority of them are either hypo or hyper sensitive to light, sound, smell and other external stimulation. Some Autistic children explore their environment by smelling, touching or tasting objects.

# VI. Cognitive Component

Individuals with Autism may lack attention and concentration. They do not respond to instructions promptly or respond after a considerable delay. Some of them may have special or unusual ability known as savant ability in some areas like mathematics, music, memory and artistic abilities.

## **Instructions for Test Administration**

USAA must be administered under standard testing conditions and testing methods as given below:

## a) Testing conditions

The examiner should be sensitive to the person's physiological conditions arising out of hunger, sleep and state changes. Testing should be avoided when the person is indisposed or unduly distressed.

## b) Method of assessment

Assessment involves:

- i. Observation
- ii. Informant/parent interview
- iii. Testing

#### c) Test materials

Appropriate material and activities are to be used to elicit responses from individuals with autism during assessment. The Kit should comprise the following items:

#### **ITEMS**

Car
 Ball (different types)
 Hand bell

3. Doll (different types) 15. Paper and crayons/colour Pencils

4. Rattle 16. Blocks

5. Picture book 17. Squeezer – Cat/Dog

6. Peg board with rings 18. Apple/Banana/Orange/Vegetables

7. Sorting board 19. Box

8. Cup 20. Bottle and pellets

Spoon
 Mirror
 Beads with a string
 Shape sorter

11. Colour card/Board 23. Slide with rolling ball

12. Key 24. Musical toys

#### a) Testing time

Time required for testing will vary according to the complexity of test items and subject's alacrity in responding. Assessment of persons with Autism using ISAA may take up to one hour.

#### Scoring system

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ISAA should be scored as per the scoring system given below.

Each of the 40 test items is to be rated on 5 categories, out of which one is to be checked. These are further quantified by providing percentages to indicate the frequency, degree and intensity of behavioral characteristics that are observed. The categories along with the percentage are assigned as follows:

**Rarely** (Up to 20%) indicates that the person exhibits this behavior pattern for up to 20% of the time. This score is normal for their age and socio-educational background – **Score 1** 

**Sometimes** (21% - 40%) indicates that the person exhibits this behavior pattern for 21% - 40% of the time. Some of these behaviours may be a cause for attention and concern, but by and large they may be considered within normal limits for their age and socio-educational background.

Person is completely independent in activities in daily life – Score 2

**Frequently** (41 - 60%) indicates that the person exhibits this behavior pattern for 41 - 60% of the time. These behaviours occur with such frequency and regularity that they interfere with the persons' functioning in daily life. Behavior at this level will be definitely disabling.

Person may be able to perform activities of daily life with minimum assistance – Score 3

**Mostly** (61-80%) indicates that the person exhibits this behavior pattern for 61-80% of the time. The given behavior may occur without any discernible stimulus. The behavior under consideration occurs so regularly that it significantly hampers the person in performing daily activities.

Person needs assistance in activities of daily life - Score 4

**Always** (81-100%) indicates that the person exhibits this behavior pattern almost all the time, so much so that it would be considered a major handicap. The behavior is seldom appropriate to the given situation.

Person is completely dependent on activities of daily life – Score 5

The minimum score that can be obtained is 40.

The maximum score that can be obtained is 200.

## **Operational Definition of ISAA items**

#### 1. SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP AND RECIPROCITY

## 1. Poor eye contact

Individuals with Autism avoid looking people in the eye. They are unable to maintain eye contact as expected for a given age or required social norms. Eye contact may be unusual such as gazing for too long on one spot or looking sideways.

## 2. Lack social smile

Individuals with Autism do not smile when meeting people or in reciprocation. A smile that reflects social response and recognition cannot be elicited from such persons

When a child enters see how he/she reacts to strangers. Whether smiles or not. How he responds to friendly overtures such as a smile or handshake.

#### 3. Remain aloof

Individuals with Autism may remain aloof, self-absorbed, withdrawn and not responsive to people or environment. They seem to be preoccupied with their self and be away from the social world around. They hardly respond to or initiate contact with others. There is lack of age-appropriate pretend play.

## 4. Do not reach out to other persons

Individuals with Autism do not interact with other people and remain socially unresponsive. They do not initiate, seek or respond to social interactions. They may not respond to their name, and even if they do, it may not be appropriate.

Check if the child/individual takes any initiative to elicit a response or reaction from others. Does he respond to his name or not and how he reacts when to try to engage him in a social interaction.

#### 5. Inability to relate to people

Individuals with Autism do not initiate contact with others and may not relate to people as expected of their age. Reminders are required to attune the individuals with autism to the presence of people and social situations.

## 6. Inability to respond to social/environmental cues

Individuals with Autism are not responsive to social and environmental demands or expectations. They show behavior which is not synchronous with the demands/requirements of the social environment.

Ask if the child behaves appropriately or not in keeping with what is expected in a given situation and also find out whether the child behaves appropriately when parents take him/her to visit friends or relatives, or behaves properly in a market.

#### 7. Engage in solitary and repetitive play activities

Individuals with Autism play alone most of the item or prefer solitary activities. They avoid playing with others and may not engage in group oriented activities or tasks at all.

Ask if the child plays in a group with other children or he plays alone with some object or material repetitively.

## 8. Inability to take turns in social interaction

Individuals with Autism do not comprehend the significance of taking turns in reciprocal interactions with others. They do not wait until their turn comes or other's turn ends.

Check if the child can play with a ball by taking turns with someone or can he play bat and ball with someone, which requires turn taking and whether he waits for his turns when talking to others.

# 9. Do not maintain peer relationships

Individuals with Autism do not develop age appropriate friendships. They may not engage in age appropriate peer interactions or maintain peer relationships as it is socially expected. Autistic persons appear to find it difficult to understand social rules and conform to social boundaries.

Ask if the child plays with children of his age, what he plays with them and how well he mixes with them or bonds with them.

# II. EMOTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS

## 10. Inappropriate emotional response

Persons with Autism do not show the expected feeling in a social situation. They express inappropriate emotional responses like laughing when scolded or spanked and inappropriate degree of responses like excessive crying or laughing that is unwarranted. Emotional reactions are unrelated to the event or situation around the individual. They may show unpredictable shift in emotions, that is, they may become excited, agitated or distressed for no apparent reason.

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#### 11. Show exaggerated emotions

Persons with Autism may show anxiety or fear which is excessive in nature and which may be triggered off without an apparent reason. At times, it may be exaggerated or atypical. The Autistic individual may show extreme fear of innocuous objects or events leading to uncontrolled behavior.

## 12. Engage in self-stimulating emotions

Individuals with Autism may engage in self talk that is inappropriate for their age. The Autistic individual may smile to self without any apparent reason. Check if the child talks to self or laughs or smiles or whines for no apparent reason.

## 13. Lack of fear of danger

Persons with Autism may not show fear of hazards or dangers which others of the same age would show or know.

## 14. Excited or agitated for no apparent reason

Persons with Autism may show excitement, over activity or agitation that is both excessive and unwarranted. The Autistic child moves around with brisk energy and may be difficult to control.

## III. SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

## 15. Acquired speech and lost it

Speech development is not age-appropriate. The Autistic individual may have developed speech, but lost is subsequently. 50% of autistic may be mute.

## 16. Difficulty in using non-verbal language or gesture to communicate

Persons with Autism find it difficult to express their needs non-verbally and may also have difficulty in understanding the non-verbal language of others, instead of gesturing or pointing, they may lead others to the desired object by dragging or pulling the latter's hand.

Arrange Cup, Doll, Car, Spoon and Key in a row and ask the child to point to one of the objects. Keep two or three objects at a time to check if the child can point to objects.

## 17. Engage in stereotyped and repetitive use of language

Persons with Autism may repeat a word, phrase or sentence out of context. They repeat the same statement many times.

## 18. Engage in echolalic speech

Persons with Autism may repeat or echo questions or statements made by other people. They may not understand that they have to answer the questions.

Observe if the child is repeating what you said either the whole or a part of what you said.

## 19. Produce infantile squeals or unusual noises

Persons with Autism may squeal, make bizarre, noises and produce unintelligible speech-like sounds. They may produce speech-like sounds that lack meaning.

## 20. Unable to initiate or sustain conversation with others

Persons with Autism may not be able to initiate or sustain conversation with others.

Check if the child can meaningfully respond to a series of questions or maintain a dialogue for adequate time.

## 21. Use jargon or meaningless words

Persons with Autism may use strange or meaningless words which convey no meaning.

#### 22. Use pronoun reversals

Persons with Autism may show difficulty in the use of pronouns. They frequently reverse pronouns such as "I" for "You".

#### 23. Unable to grasp pragmatics of communication (real meaning)

Persons with Autism have difficulty in understanding the true intent of speech of others. They may not understand the pragmatics of speech communication. For example, When somebody asks them "Can you tell the time?", they may say "Yes" and stop. Check if the person understands humour and sarcasm.

#### IV. BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS

## 24. Engage in stereotyped and repetitive motor manners

Persons with Autism may engage in self-stimulatory behavior in the form of flapping of hands or fingers, body rocking or using an object for this purpose.

#### 25. Show attachment to inanimate objects

Individuals with Autism may be staunchly attached to certain inanimate objects which they insist on keeping with themselves such as string, rock, pen, stick, toy, bottle and the like.

Keep all the objects and check if the child shows attachment to inanimate objects. This can be seen if he likes to play with one object consistently and seems very much attached to it and shows resistance and temper tantrums when that object is taken away.

#### 26. Show hyperactivity/restlessness

Individuals with Autism may be restless with boundless energy which makes it difficult for others to control them. The hyperactivity interferes with their learning and performance tasks.

## 27. Exhibit aggressive behavior

Persons with Autism may show unprovoked aggression and socially inappropriate behavior such as hitting, kicking and pinching.

## 28. Throw temper tantrums

Individuals with Autism may indulge in self-injurious behaviours like biting, hitting or mutilating self. Such individuals have to be constantly supervised to prevent injuring themselves.

## 29. Engage in self-injurious behavior

Persons with Autism may indulge in self-injurious behaviours like biting, hitting or mutilating self. Such individuals have to be constantly supervised to prevent them injuring themselves.

#### 30. Insist on sameness

Persons with Autism may resist change in their routine and insist that things be the same as they were. Such individuals may insist on continuing the same activity and it would be very difficult to distract them from such repetitive activities. Any change in the schedule leads to frustration and temper tantrums. Thus, persons with autism show a degree of rigidity in their adherence to routine and accustomed ways.

Check if the child wants to sit at the same place, reads the same stories, prefers the same route, wants things to be kept in the same place and wants the same schedule of activities in a prescribed sequence always.

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## [PART I—SEC. 1]

#### V. SENSORY ASPECTS

#### 31. Unusually sensitive to sensory stimuli

Persons with Autism may react strongly to certain sounds, lights, touch or tastes by closing their ears, eyes or refusing to eat food of certain consistency. They may actively avoid certain sensory stimuli.

Ring the bell or any sound making object to see how the child reacts. Check if he is finding the sound aversive or distressing or if he closes his ears. This is for auditory stimuli. Check how the child reacts to your touch. Observe how the child reacts to bright illumination or darkness.

# 32. Stare into space for long periods of time

Persons with Autism may stare at some distant spot or space for long periods of time. They seem to be unaware of surroundings when thus occupied.

#### 33. Difficulty in tracking objects

Persons with Autism may have difficulty in tracking objects or persons in motion. They are unable to follow or fix their gaze on moving objects or persons for the required period of time.

Throw the ball or rattle and see if the child tracks it or not. Veer a car and move it around or spin the top and check if the child is looking at it if it twirls and moves away or not.

#### 34. Has unusual vision

Persons with Autism may be able to observe tiny details which may not be apparent to others. Such individuals focus their attention on some insignificant part of an object that is generally ignored by others.

Check if the child is looking at some miniscule part of the object or toy or watching from the corners of his eyes or brings objects very close to his eyes and stares.

#### 35. Insensitive to pain

Persons with Autism may hardly react to pain. They seem not to be distressed or cry when hurt. They seem to have high thresholds for pain.

## 36. Respond to objects unusually by smelling, touching or tasting

Individuals with Autism may go around exploring their environment by smelling, touching or tasting objects. Some of them may not show appropriate use of objects or toys.

Keep all the objects and observe if the child is smelling, touching or tasting the objects or if he is using the objects appropriately.

#### IV. COGNITIVE COMPONENT

# 37. Inconsistent attention and concentration

It is difficult to arouse the attention of individuals with autism. They do not concentrate, and if they do, then it may not be on relevant aspects of the object or event. As a result of this, they may be inconsistent in their response.

Ask the child to put the pegs on the board and sort the pieces and put them in their right places on the sorting board or fill the bottle with the beads or string the beads in a twine. Check if the child can attend and concentrate on the task.

#### 38. Delayed response time

Persons with Autism do not respond to instructions promptly or respond after considerable delay. Quick response to instructions is hardly even to be expected.

Show picture books/blocks and ask the child to show some object in a picture book. Observe if the child is responding after a delay or with repeated instructions. Ask for the name of things or objects or its uses or differences between objects depending on the age of the child.

## 39. Unusual memory

Persons with Autism may show memory for things which most of the individuals would have long forgotten. Some of them have exceptional ability to remember things from the distant past. Check if the child recognized people he met long time back or remembers the routines taken or places visited or dates or time or locations or names of things to an extraordinary extent.

## 40. Savant ability

Persons with Autism may have special or unusual ability in some areas like reading early, mathematical feats or artistic talent. Some of them may show superior ability, but in a restricted field of interest.

# **Proforma**

	Name of the child				
	Gender Date				
An ISO9001:2000 Institution Manovikas Nagar Secunderabad -	D. O. BAgeExaminer				
500009	Direction:  Below are given 40 statements which are divided under six domains, Please tick ( ) mark the appropriate rating for each item of the scale b observing the child and by interviewing the parents in order to assess Autism.				

Items		Rarely Upto 20% Score 1	Sometimes 21 -40% Score 2	Frequently 41-60% Score 3	Mostly 61-80% Score 4	Always 81-100 % Score 5	
I. SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP AND RECIPROCITY							
1.	Has poor eye contact						
2.	Lacks social smile						
3.	Remains aloof						
4.	Does not reach out of others						
5.	Unable to relate to people						
6.	Unable to respond to social/environmental cues						
7.	Engages in solitary and repetitive play activities						
8.	Unable to take turns in social interaction						
9.	Does not maintain peer relationships						

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA: EXTRAORDINARY

[PART I—SEC. 1]

II. EMOTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS							
10.	Shows inappropriate emotional response						
11.	Shows exaggerated emotions						
12.	Engages in self-stimulating emotions						
13.	Lacks fear of danger						
14.	Exited or agitated for no apparent reason						
III. SP	EECH - LANGUAGE AND CON	MUNICAT	ION	•			
15.	Acquired speech and lost it						
16.	Has difficulty in using non- verbal language or gestures to communicate						
17.	Engages in stereotyped and repetitive use of language						
18.	Engages in echolalic speech						
19.	Products infantile squeals/unusual noises						
20.	Unable to initiate or sustain conversation with others						
21.	Uses jargon or meaningless						
22.	Uses pronoun reversals						
23.	Unable to grasp the pragmatics or communication						
IV. BE	HAVIOURS PATTERNS						
24.	Engages in stereotyped and repetitive motor mechanisms						
25.	Shows attachment to inanimate objects						
26.	Show hyperactivity/restlessness						
27.	Exhibits aggressive behaviour						
28.	Throws temper tantrums						
29.	Engages in self-injurious behaviour						
30.	Insists on sameness						
V. SENSORY ASPECTS							
31.	Unusually sensitive to sensory stimuli						
32.	Stares into space for long periods of time						
33.	Has difficulty in tracking objects						
34.	Has unusual vision						
35.	Insensitive to pain						

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36.	Responds to objects/people unusually by smelling, touching or tasting						
VI. CO	OGNITIVE COMPONENT						
37.	Inconsistent attention and concentration						
38.	Shows delay in responding						
39.	Has unusual memory of some kind						
40.	Has savant ability						
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