

Advancing Inclusion: Autism Perspectives in Lebanon and Jordan

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ABSTRACT

The inclusion of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) remains a pivotal yet challenging endeavor in global communities at all ages. This abstract shed light on the specific contexts of Lebanon and Jordan, two Middle Eastern nations striving to foster inclusive environments for individuals with ASD. Despite varying socio-cultural landscapes, both countries encounter similar barriers and exhibit promising initiatives towards inclusivity. In Lebanon, the journey towards autism inclusion intersects with multifaceted challenges stemming from socio-economic disparities, limited access to specialized services, and societal stigma. Nonetheless, grassroots efforts, bolstered by the commitment of advocacy groups, behavior analysts and educators, are reshaping perceptions and paving the way for inclusive practices in educational settings and societal integration. Conversely, Jordan grapples with comparable hurdles in its pursuit of autism inclusion. While governmental support and policy frameworks lay foundations for progress, gaps in implementation and resource allocation persist. Collaborative ventures between governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector underscore a burgeoning movement towards inclusive education and employment opportunities, signaling a shift towards a more inclusive society.