


# Impact of Sleep Disorders on Daily Functioning in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Liam J. Foster<sup>1</sup> 



<sup>1</sup> Department of Clinical Psychology, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

\* Corresponding author email address: Fosterjliy9@gmail.com

### E d i t o r

Seyyed Mohsen Asgharinekah   
Associate Professor, Department of  
Counseling and Educational  
Psychology, Faculty of Education  
and Psychology, Ferdowsi  
University of Mashhad, Mashhad,  
Iran  
asghari-n@um.ac.ir

### R e v i e w e r s

**Reviewer 1:** Farideh Dokanehi Fard   
Associate Professor, Counseling Department, Roudehen Branch, Islamic Azad  
University, Roudehen, Iran. Email: f.dokaneifard@riau.ac.ir  
**Reviewer 2:** Mohammad Masoud Dayarian   
Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Khomeinishahr Branch, Islamic  
Azad University. Komeinishar/Isfahan, Iran. dayariyan@iaukhsh.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"Research indicates that up to 80% of children with ASD experience some form of sleep disturbance."

Comment: Provide the source for the 80% statistic or specify the range of studies that this figure is derived from to strengthen the statement.

"Sleep disorders are common among children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and have significant implications for their daily functioning and overall quality of life."

Comment: Define what is meant by "significant implications" in the context of this study. Is it based on qualitative impacts, quantitative measures, or both?

"The sample size was determined based on the principle of theoretical saturation where no new themes emerged from the data."

Comment: Provide more detail on how theoretical saturation was assessed during the data collection process.

"Table 1: The Results of Qualitative Analysis"

Comment: Ensure that each theme and sub-theme is illustrated with representative quotes from the data to enhance the reader's understanding of the findings.

"1.5 Factors Influencing Sleep"

Comment: Explain how these factors were identified and whether they were consistently reported across the sample.

"These findings are consistent with existing literature that highlights the broad impact of poor sleep on the emotional and behavioral regulation in children with ASD."

Comment: Discuss any discrepancies between your findings and the existing literature. How do your results add to or challenge current understandings?

"The qualitative nature of the research means that the findings are not generalizable to all children with ASD."

Comment: Suggest ways in which the study's limitations could be addressed in future research, such as through mixed-methods approaches or larger sample sizes.

Comment: Elaborate on what specific policies or programs could be implemented based on your findings. Include potential barriers to policy implementation and ways to overcome them.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"Participants were recruited through local autism support groups special education schools and pediatric clinics."

Comment: Clarify the selection criteria used to recruit participants from these sources. Were there any inclusion or exclusion criteria beyond those listed?

"Interviews were conducted in a quiet and comfortable setting either in-person or via video call depending on the participant's preference."

Comment: Discuss any potential biases introduced by conducting interviews via different mediums and how these were mitigated.

"Each interview lasted approximately 60-90 minutes and was audio-recorded with the participant's consent."

Comment: Mention if there were any ethical approvals obtained and how participant confidentiality was ensured.

"The majority of the caregivers were mothers (n=18 78%) followed by fathers (n=4 17%) and one grandmother (n=1 4%)."

Comment: Provide additional demographic details such as the socioeconomic status and education level of caregivers, if available.

"Future research should aim to address these limitations by using larger more diverse samples and incorporating objective sleep measures."

Comment: Provide specific examples of objective sleep measures (e.g., actigraphy, polysomnography) and explain how they could complement the qualitative data.

"Practitioners should also advocate for policies and programs that increase access to sleep-related resources and support services."

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.