



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**  
**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES**  
**SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**



## **WORKSHOP ON**

# **DIAGNOSIS AND IDENTIFICATION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS AND LEARNING DISABILITIES**

**DATE: 10<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**TIME: 08:00 HRS – 16:30 HRS GMT**

**VENUE: SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AUDITORIUM, UCC**

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The School of Medical Sciences, University of Cape Coast organized a four-day Continuing Professional Development workshop on “Diagnosis and Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Learning Disabilities”. The workshop took place in the School’s Auditorium from Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. The main speaker was Dr. Elizabeth R. Drame. The target group included Doctors, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Researchers, Laboratory Technicians, Students, Teachers and the general public with special interest.

The workshop started at 9:00 am each day from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. The Dean, School of Medical Sciences, welcome all participants to the workshop on the first day. He briefed participants on the significance of the workshop and how it is going to impact positively on children with autism.

Topics treated include:

- Diagnostic Criteria – (Cultural considerations reflection activity)
- Etiology, neurological Basis, Misconception (Conceptions of ASD Reflection)
- Etiology, neurological Basis, Misconception (simulation reflection activity)
- Analysis of Evidence-Based Interventions (practice activity)
- Assessment (Role play activity practicals)

The workshop attracted participants from all the regions of Ghana who were Doctors, Physician Assistants Nurses, Medical Students, Teachers and the General Public. The workshop had three hundred and eighteen (**318**) participants.

## 2.0 ANALYSIS OF EVALUATION FORM

Seven-one (71) participants responded filled the analysis of evaluation form

After the programme these were the responds from 71 respondents.

When participants were asked how useful they saw the event to them, 72.9% of the respondents indicated that the event was extremely useful, 25.7% respondents indicated that the event was

useful, 1.4% respondent indicated that the event was fairly useful. Majority of the respondents therefore said the event was extremely useful.

Participants were also asked about the overall impression of the event in term of the programming, 32.9% of the respondents indicated that the programme was excellent, 57.1% respondents indicated that the programme was good, 1.4% respondents said the programme was fairly good. Majority of the respondents therefore said the programming of the event was good.

The overall impression of the organization was also asked and 20.0% of the respondents indicated that the organization was Excellent, 61.4% respondents indicated that the organization was good, 10.0% respondents indicated that the organization was fairly good. The Statistics therefore show that the overall impression of the participants about the organization the workshop was good.

The overall impression of the participant about the catering service was also good, 20.0% of the respondents indicated that the catering service was excellent, 61.4% respondents indicated that the catering service was good, 10.0% respondents indicated that the service was fairly good. 8.6% respondents made no response.

Participants were also asked how useful the topic of each session was to them personally, 57.1% of the respondents indicated that the topic “Diagnostic Criteria (Cultural considerations reflection activity)” was extremely useful, 38.6% respondents indicated that the topic was fairly useful, 4.3% respondents made no response. 57.1% of the participant saw Dr. Elizabeth R. Drame’s lecture was extremely useful, 38.6% saw the lecture as fairly useful, 4.3% made no response.

Participants were also asked how useful the topic of each session was to them. 71.48% of the respondents indicated that the topic “Etiology, Neurological Basis, Misconception (Conceptions of ASD Reflection) was extremely useful, 24.3% respondents indicated that it was fairly useful, 4.3% made no response. Majority of the respondents therefore saw Dr. Elizabeth R. Dram’s lecture and topic as extremely useful.

Participants were also asked how useful the topic of each session was to them. 70.0% of the respondents indicated that the topic “Etiology, Neurological Basis, Misconception (Simulation reflection activity) was extremely useful, 27.1%) respondents indicated that it was fairly useful, 2.9% made no response. Majority of the respondents therefore saw Dr. Elizabeth R. Dram’s lecture and topic as extremely useful.

Participants were also asked how useful the topic of each session was to them. 62.9% respondents indicated that the topic “Analysis of Evidence-Based Interventions (practice activity) was extremely useful, 31.4% respondents indicated that it was fairly useful, 1.4% made no response. Majority of the respondents therefore saw Dr. Elizabeth R. Dram’s lecture and topic as extremely useful.

Participants were also asked how useful the topic of each session was to them. 58.6% respondents indicated that the topic “Assessment (Role play activity practicals) was extremely useful, 32.9% respondent indicated that it was fairly useful, 8.6% made no response. Majority of the respondents therefore saw Dr. Elizabeth R. Drame’s lecture and topic as extremely useful.

About 30% of participants recommended the lecturers or what was taught being the best aspect of the event and 25.7% enjoyed the video and picture illustrations exercise. With the worst aspect of the event, about 47.1% indicated that there was none while 42.9% of them did not respond to the question, with 5.7% complaining about inadequate time.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

Participants recommended that:

- ✓ The resource materials and teaching aids should be provided after the workshop.
- ✓ Follow-up centres to be set up not to make passive but partners (family) to deal with autism in our communities/institutions.
- ✓ Workshop of such kind should be organised again and also participants should spread the "news" about autism to the general public.

- ✓ More survey should be conducted among Ghanaian child to unwrap autistic issues in Ghana.
- ✓ Awareness should be created early as far as this programme is concerned.
- ✓ Widening of scope, it should not be in only the university community but they should be extend to other communities.
- ✓ Ghana Education Service must take keen interest in this area and must take it up to organize workshops to educate and enlighten teachers about autism.
- ✓ All participants must be given the material/lecture notes.
- ✓ All videos were screened with whites without any black, culturally some of the videos could have been African or Ghanaian setting for better appreciation relating to our environment.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the success of the workshop cannot be overemphasized, participants expressed their joy of being part of the four-day workshop. Participants indicated that the workshop was a useful one and the overall impression of participants about the workshop was good and useful and has improved their knowledge about Autism.