

**“GROSS MOTOR DIFFICULTIES OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM  
AT PROYASH INSTITUTE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, DHAKA,  
BANGLADESH”**

By

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The Gross Motor Difficulties among children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Proyash Institute of Special Education, Dhaka, Bangladesh were studied by using “*Checklist of Gross Motor Screening for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*”.

**Method:** This cross-sectional quantitative study was conducted among 50 children, purposively collected from two sections of Proyash Institute of Special Education, Dhaka, Bangladesh in between June 2016 to May 2017. The children were aged between 3 years to 11 years.

**Results:** This study observed 7 different domains of Gross Motor Functions among children with diagnosed ASD and found out that 100% of the children with ASD have difficulties with their Gross Motor Functions. The study revealed that among 50 children with ASD, significant difficulties were found in milestones in 48 children (96%), attention and restlessness in 50 children (100%), clumsiness and coordination in 49 children (98%) and bilateral integration in 45 children (90%). Fifty-two percent of children (26 children) weak or floppy arms or legs and 28% (14 children) have shown problems in posture. No difficulties in walking pattern in 80% children were found. Some other symptoms were found such as history of Delayed Milestone of Development in 5 children (10%) and Foot Deformity or Foot Flat in 9 children (18%).

**Conclusion:** There are significant difficulties in gross motor functions among children with ASD.

**Limitation and Recommendations:** The researcher studied 50 younger children, with heterogenic criteria like some new admission and some after-therapy; recommending studies with larger sample size and homogenous criteria. The checklist which was used has no specific measure for its components and needs improvement and validation. Specific symptoms like Flat Feet and other Foot Deformities and Mothers health before childbirth and history of Developmental Delay, like Missed Crawling, should be studied individually. Walking Pattern and Posture of children with Autism also need special attention.

**Keywords:** Gross Motor Difficulties, Motor Function, Autism, Checklist.