

## INTEGRATION OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN IN ALBANIA

**Elona Mano**

PhD candidate, European University of Tirana, Albania, kristinamano@yahoo.com

### **Abstract**

In recent decades there is an increase awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder. One reason for this is the increase in rate. Based on the evidence reviewed, the median of prevalence estimates of autism spectrum disorders is 62/10 000. Elsabbagh, M, et al., (2012). Secondly, parents of autistic children as the best 'advocates' of their children are fighting for their children`s rights for education. Based on Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights no one can deny these children the access to school. The best form of social integration for these children is to give the possibility to study in regular classes. Children can learn from each other. Children without disabilities can learn about diversity and autistic children are provided the support they need. But are all the actors prepared for this step? This study is focused on teachers` and parent`s point of view. During the interviews the participants raised some important issues. Integrating autistic children through inclusive education seems to be the challenge of the future.

**Keywords:** Autism, Integration, Parents, School.