



## Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) and among Immigrants and Minority Groups in High-Income Countries (HICs)

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Globally there is a rising rate of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, the increasing global wealth of knowledge on ASD is primarily based on different studies conducted in developed, affluent countries. This situation is partly a result of a lack of epidemiological and service research in the field of mental health in general and ASD in particular in LMICs. The irony is that the demographics of the global human population are tilted so that most (up to 80%) of world children and youth live in LMICs.

A similar shortage of studies reported ASD studies among immigrants and minority groups in high-income countries (HICs). There is evidence of ethnic and racial differences in ASD prevalence and services access even among the HICs and developed societies. Delayed diagnosis is another crucial issue for immigrant children from LMICs to HICs. Within HICs, individuals from high socioeconomic backgrounds are mainly represented in ASD research. The high cost of researching ASD contributed to this imbalance in LMICs.





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