

Behavioral Response of Autistic Children to Design Interventions

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I. EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Abstract of work progress during the 6 months (January – June 2016) of research

In the first month of January 2016, detailed literature review of relevant research papers and books was done. The literature review was done concentrating on Autism, theories explaining Autism – cognitive and neural, visual perceptual differences in Autism and sensory subtypes. The research papers related to architecture for Autism were also reviewed. The second month of February 2016, a questionnaire was prepared for interviewing specialists and two interviews were conducted and reported. The literature review was continued to include the visual properties of built environment and also identified case studies on designing for Autism. In the third month of March 2016, formalities for getting institutional and ethical clearance in India were done. Also the assessment tools for primary study were finalized as CARS 2 for assessment of severity of Autism, Sensory Profile 2 for understanding the sensory difference and PSI – SF for quantifying parental stress as a measure of behavioral response and cases of validation in the Indian context were gathered. In the fourth month of April 2016, the design parameters for healing spaces in sensory design approach were consolidated from the extensive literature review done. Formulation of design parameters was done and which it was found could be finalized only after case studies/ observation studies of Autistic children. In the fifth month of May 2016, a case study format was prepared after discussions, pilot study and reworking. The month’s work also involved the interview and interview reporting of another specialist. In the sixth month of June 2016, few case studies were done, which provided further insights into what could be the design parameters for Autistic children and also shortening of exposure period. Also, the preparation works for primary study involving initial assessments were done. The latter part of the month’s work also involved preparation of interim report as well.

Timeline with modifications

| Already done | Month | Initially proposed work (at the time of application for fund) | Modified work schedule |
|--------------|-----------|--|---|
| | January | Literature review | Literature review |
| | February | Interview of specialists | Interview of specialists |
| | March | Case studies Observation studies | Fixing upon tools for Assessment, sensory and behavioral aspects of sample, and getting ethical clearance |
| | April | | Formulation of design parameters (tentative) |
| | May | Formulation of design parameters | Preparation of case study format and interview of specialists (contd.) |
| | June | | Few case studies and preparation of interim report |
| To be done | July | Initial assessment | Finalization of design parameters after case studies |
| | August | | |
| | September | | Final assessment after 3 months |
| | October | | |
| | November | | |
| | December | Analysis of results | Analysis of results and report preparation |

2. AUTHOR BIOS

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