

ATTENTION DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER AS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT. SOME THOUGHTS CONCERNING EDUCATION

Ioana Drugaș*
University of Debrecen
Hungary

Marius Drugaș**
University of Oradea
Romania

Abstract

The nature of the Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) represented a source of controversy over the years. The traditional, biological perspective was challenged recently by the followers of the social construct theory. Critics targeted the hidden interests of the pharmaceutical companies and discouraged the application of the medical model in treating this disorder. Instead, environmental factors (classroom environment, inadequate play space, stressful parents, or exposure to electronic gadgets) were brought into discussion as causes of ADHD. Our paper aims to briefly present some studies that tried to redefine ADHD as a social construct, and ends with some recommendations for parents, teachers, and psychologists, based on this approach.

Keywords: ADHD; biological model; social construct theory; social causes

* PhD student, PhD student, Doctoral School of Human Sciences, PhD Program in Education Research, University of Debrecen, Hungary; school psychologist, "Don Orione" High School Oradea, Romania; E-mail: ioanadrugas@gmail.com

** Associate Professor, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of Oradea, Romania; E-mail: mariusdrugas@gmail.com