



People with Autism Economically Supporting Their Families in Peru



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How is it that the best businesses in Peru hire people with autism and some of those people have been working continuously for 23 years? Because they have found that people with autism are good workers, don't gossip, ask for more work and are loyal to the business where they work. Centro Ann Sullivan of Peru (CASP) has more than 100 students working in 44 business. Sixty percent of them have autism. All receive the same pay and benefits as other employees and are included in all social activities in their work places. Many help their families economically by paying the costs of the water and electricity, paying for the medication of their parents or even starting the construction of their own home. And CASP student/workers receive the same social benefits as all Peruvian workers.

It is important that persons with autism, especially those from extreme poverty, work in a supported employment program because it leads to including them in all aspects of society and because it leads to poverty reduction.

CASP just celebrated its 40th anniversary; so they are not only one of the first behavior-analysis-based autism centers in Latin America, but in the world. And more importantly, it is one of the very few centers that has been able to work with their clients from pre-school to adulthood, using applied behavior analysis within their Functional Natural Curriculum to make a significant change in the quality of their lives and their family's lives. CASP uses behavior analysis in their early childhood, preschool, school, vocational, supported-employment, and inclusion programs. And all these programs put a heavy emphasis on family training and participation. A major factor in their success is that CASP provides the families with 170 hours of behavior-analysis training each year.



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