

**PHYSICIAN'S PERCEPTION ABOUT THE ROLE OF SPEECH
AND LANGUAGE THERAPY.**

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Bachelor of Science in Speech and Language Therapy (B. Sc. in SLT)

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**Physician's perception about the role of Speech and Language
Therapy.**

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Physician's perception about the role of Speech and Language

Therapy.

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Declaration

I declare that the work presented here is my own. All sources used have been cited appropriately. Any mistake or inaccuracies are my own. I also declare that for my any publication, presentation or dissemination of the study I would be bound to take written consent from my supervisor.

Signature:

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Dedication

To my parents

and

.....well wishers

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Abbreviations

ASHA=American Speech-Language Hearing Association

BMA=Bangladesh medical Association

RDMA =Royal Dutch Medical Association

SLT= Speech and Language Therapy

Tx=Treatment or Therapy

WHO= World health Organization

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Abstract

To explore the physician perception about the role of speech and language therapy. This was phenomenological research design of the qualitative research paradigm. Where 12 samples were selected by convenience sampling techniques according to inclusion and exclusion criteria. Semi structured face to face interview were used to explore the perception of Physician's about role of Speech and Language Therapy. Content analysis was used to analyse the data. The summary of the methods were unitizing, categorizing, once all transcripts were coded, those codes were clustered into categories that formed the themes. By this study investigator found mixed results. Where physician's perception about role of Speech and Language Therapy was viewed positively by ENT specialist. ENT specialist expressed that they have enough knowledge how much this professions is needed. On the other Dentist viewed negatively about the role of Speech and Language Therapy. By this study investigator found mixed perception among physicians about the role of Speech and Language Therapy .But they all suggested that in Bangladesh Health care system SLT should play a major and vital role alongside the physician. Other professionals will value the role and contribution of SLT and extend their interaction between them if this Speech and Language Therapy profession offered from government sector and have appropriate council.

Key words: Speech and Language Therapy, physicians' perception, Role of Speech and Language Therapy.

1.1 Introduction

A health professional is such a person who dedicates his/her whole life to the service of the health of the people. Speech and Language Therapist are health professionals who serve the people for their whole working life. Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) is the scientific and rehabilitative treatment of human communication disorders. This includes disorder/difficulties of Speech, Language, Voice and Swallowing (Owens, 1997). Though it is an established profession all around the world, it is still a very new profession in Bangladesh. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that each year hundreds of thousands of children suffer from disability in communicating Due to the impairment. The World Health Organization also estimates that 10 percent (%) of the world's population is disabled. Bangladesh has 2.5 million disabled people (WHO, 2007) and a study of Dhaka city by the Bangladesh Bureau of statistics estimates that the percentage of the population with hearing and speech difficulties to be 28% of disabled people. So in Bangladesh, there is a demand for the SLT to serve them.

As Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) course is a very new program in Bangladesh, and still a considerable amount of time is required to be recognized as a popular subject .In spite of SLT's huge demand in Bangladesh, many health professionals have lack knowledge about it.

In spite of this, collaborative work is still lacking among health professionals. According to Rayes (2014), the building blocks for strengthening the health system in any country needs interaction between team members. Every service has valuable individual role in their own sector, but when they work as a team they understand the value of each other's specialism.

In Bangladesh Health care system SLT should play a major and vital role alongside the physician. Other professionals should value the role and contribution of SLT and extend their interaction between them for the purpose of rehabilitation (Hind,2003).

Rayes study of 2014 shows that within different community's physicians have close proximity to patients because they are the first respondents in the health care system.

But in Bangladesh as the physician is the pioneer of health care system in that case they do not maintain interaction among other health professionals.

So in this present study the investigator wants to find out the physicians' perception about the role of SLT in the current practice by health care professionals in Bangladesh.

1.2 Literature Review

Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) is the scientific and rehabilitative treatment of human communication disorders. This includes disorder/difficulties of Speech, Language, Voice and Swallowing.

Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) is a medical discipline to provide preventive, curative and rehabilitative measures of human communication difficulties & disorders (Speech, Language, voice & Cognition) and swallowing disorders.

Speech & language Therapy is dealing with from new born child to elderly people those who have any degree to speech, language, voice, swallowing and cognitive deficits. Firstly try to enable people in Independent Communication. If not possible than use Augmentative & Alternative Communication System to maximize the clients communication through proper intervention in Speech, Language, Voice and Swallowing so that each client can lead a socially, mentally, physically healthy life.

According to the American Speech-Language Hearing Association(ASHA), speech-language Therapists practice in a wide variety of work settings including schools, hospitals, clinics, private homes, nursing homes and more (ASHA, 2007). SLTs mostly work in a medical setting such as a hospital or nursing home. Here the SLTs work with physicians, nurses, and other health professionals to provide care for patients of all ages. As a result of the diverse environments in which speech and language therapists work , (SLTs) they come into contact with people from many other professions (Morten, 2001).

According to Steptoe (1999) and Crystal (2002) the most common settings that SLTs are work in schools, hospitals, and clinics. While working in these settings SLTs interact with physicians, teachers, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and occupational and physiotherapists. Every SLT shares information with clients and caregivers and therefore must form a working partnership with patients and family members as well (Steptoe et al, 1999). Although a SLT may not be a core member of a hospice team, their role in hospice care is still important. Pollens' research suggested that an SLT's role in hospice care is focused on consultation. According to Pollens a SLT's suggestions are used to help the family increase communication with their loved one, as well as helping the core hospice team improve the patient's quality of remaining life.

In Bangladesh Health care system SLT should play a major and vital role alongside the physician. But Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) course is a very new program in Bangladesh, and still a considerable amount of time is required to be recognized as a popular subject .In spite of SLT's huge demand in Bangladesh, many health professionals have lack knowledge about it.

Since SLTs work in close collaboration with such a wide variety of individuals, it is important to understand the relationships between the practicing SLT and their co-workers. It is necessary to understand each other's attitudes towards the profession and the practice of speech and language pathology in order for a successful professional relationships to grow (Hall , 2005).

This paper would examine the role of the SLT, as well as the role of those working with the SLTs across various work settings. In a 2006 study, Greenwood, Wright, and Bithell raised several questions concerning the physiotherapist's knowledge of the field of speech-language Therapy. Greenwood et al .sought to understand how the profession the SLT is perceived by the physiotherapy profession, and the effect these perceptions have on the practice of speech-language Therapy. The Greenwood et al (2006) study, found that the physiotherapist did value the role and skills of speech therapist.

Morten (2001), found that in the developed world SLTs worked as part of a multidisciplinary team, alongside other health professionals such as physicians, Nurses, physiotherapist and occupational therapist. They may also liaise with professionals in education and social services.

Morten (2001), conducted research about Co-operation and Conflict in a hospital: interprofessional differences in perception and management of conflicts. The objective of this study would be to find out how hospital professionals go about managing their Conflicts. Analysis of this study revealed that this is important to professionals' perception of time, and how such differences in time perception may influence work behaviour, including conflict management. This would also be pointed out by other studies, (Amy Nelson, 2008; Crystal, 2002).

Sullivan and Crystal (2002) sought to determine how those in other health care professions perceive SLTs. The researchers surveyed students to learn what is being taught about the profession of speech-language pathology in schools. Medical, nursing, occupational therapy, and physical therapy students were asked questions about what they thought to be the roles of SLTs. The study showed mixed results. Although many of the students had knowledge of the roles of an SLT, medical students as a whole knew the least about an SLT's function in a medical setting. The results of the survey illustrate that while many of the allied health professions are actively teaching their students about the roles of an SLT's practice, the medical profession has given their students very little exposure to the field. A second element of the Sullivan and Crystal (2002) survey presented participants with 18 health cases and asked the participants to indicate the most important professionals to be involved. Participants were most likely to say a SLT would be needed when the case directly involved speech production problems. The other cases that were frequently cited as needing a SLT all contained the word speech in them. In cases where traumatic brain injury and Cerebral Palsy were involved few participants acknowledged a need for a speech-language pathologist. This information led the authors to conclude that although the allied health professions are teaching students about the roles of a speech-language therapist, some critical gaps still exist in their knowledge of the field. In other words, vital members of an interdisciplinary medical team are unaware of the services a SLT can provide patients. In addition to hospitals and nursing homes, SLTs provide services in a hospice care setting. In palliative hospice care SLTs work with various medical professionals to improve the quality of the remaining life for the terminally ill. Hawk (2002) described the role of the SLP in palliative hospice care as being multifaceted. In palliative care a physician and nurse are the main members of the core hospice team. Speech-language Therapists work in a secondary team that provides additional services to the patient. Hawk (2002) also explained that the SLT's

role as a member of a hospice team should include educating team members with strategies for patient care, and receiving information about a care plan from the team and the patient's family. Lew (1993) added "an additional role of the speech-language Therapist is to provide consultation for other members of the interdisciplinary hospice team and to receive clinical input from the team regarding the overall plan of care for the patient". The studies above revealed that there is conflict between different professionals and a lack of knowledge about the role of allied health professionals. This can make conflict between professional behaviour and patient management. The complexity of this finding raises many questions among interprofessional. However the most emphasis of most past research has been on the foremost thing is to conflict among health professionals. In the present study attempt to explore how is the relationship among health professionals.

According to Rogenberg (2007), reported that there would a different opinion the knowledge about the role of Speech and Language Therapy in health care service but the problem and conflict still in all around the world which is shown by many British studies where they focus on ideas, knowledge, skills such as collaboration and decision to highlight the need for collaboration between the health care professionals.

Community care legislation has long demanded for the joint working in health services across both hospital and community health care services because it is still a matter of debate and hard research evidence is needed as evidence of the impact of collaboration is lacking Lew (1993).

Many examples is good, many are innovative for collaborative working and should have knowledge about the individual role of health professionals in health care services. West & Poulton (1997),suggested that working together provide positive outcome for patient care.

According to Crystal (2002),explored the interprofessional relationship between the physician and nurses. From this study data would collected from 130 participants where study revealed that the physicians and nurses never committing a colleagues for removing the conflict and supporting each other as a result they did not ensure the quality of treatment for the patient betterment.

In the hospital setting range of health professionals involved in the care of individual patient. Where physicians, nurses, Therapist, Psychologist all are involved provide care for client group. Although all health professionals meet to fulfil clients need where the different health professionals meet in the same client group to treated them while this team led by an consultant or physicians when physicians never gave respect to the allied health professionals. According to Morten (2001), suggested that in order to successful interprofessional working it is essential to make liaison and have mutual respect to the allied health professionals in all the team members and also give equal value in the placed of contribution each health professionals to health practices.

Although allied health professionals are already well established in the developed world, some studies reveal that there is still a lack of knowledge between team members. But other studies show the importance of research in helping health professionals to gain insight into each other expertise. As Bangladesh is a developing country there is a great need for a survey about the role of speech therapy in health care.

1.3 Significance of the study

Still there is no study available on physicians' perception about role of Speech Therapist in Bangladesh. This study would be helpful for finding the attitudes and expectation among health professionals about the role of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT).

Because it would increase awareness among physician about the role of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT). This study also would help to establish this service as an individual consultant side by side physician. Increase the interaction level between physician and Therapist that would be optimized to enhance delivery of Speech Therapy (SLT). By knowing the need of SLT physician would give value the role and contribution of Speech therapist. As there have not been any research papers that explore the concepts such as physicians' perception and expectations towards the role of Speech and Language Therapy in Bangladesh. So to increase referral of patient and also patient's benefit from those health professionals it need to conduct such kind of research (Andrews, 2006). Through this study, the researcher would be able to

achieve its aim and objectives which become helpful to explore the physician perception about Speech and Language Therapy. To investigate physicians' perceptions of Speech therapists as members of the health team because this study arose from the current emphasis that is placed on good multidisciplinary teamwork for effective rehabilitation and the awareness that different team members often have different perceptions of their respective roles within the team.

Investigator search the online database but did not found any study on the physicians' perception of the role of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT). Even there have not been any similar study in the developed country to explore the perception of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) because of their well-established health system.

Key words: Speech and Language Therapy, physicians' perception, Role of Speech and Language Therapy.

1.4 Operational definitions

Perception

The process by which people translate sensory impression into a coherent and unified view, thought of the world around them or capacity for such inside and act, knowledge gained by perceiving. According to psychology dictionary (2008) perception is the ability or the way to see, hears, or become aware of something through the senses in which something is regarded, understood or interpreted. Perception is the process of recognizing and interpreting the sensory stimuli.

Physician

According to Pioneers Dictionary (2006) "A physician is someone who practices medicine to treat illnesses and injuries". According to medical dictionary physician is a person who trained and licensed to practice medicine and heals and exerts a healing influence. The American Heritage Dictionary (2008) that physician is a person legally qualified to practice medicine and specializing in areas to treats diseases.

Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy is a treatment to improve the speech of children or adult who have difficulty in learning to speak, for example because of partial deafness or brain damage, or to help restore the power of speech to adults who have lost it or partly lost it through accident or illness.

Speech and Language Therapy is the part of health professions. They work with children and adults who have difficulties with communication or with eating, drinking and swallowing. Speech disorder refers to a problem with the actual production of sounds, whereas a language disorder refers to a difficulty understanding or putting word together to communicate ideas, thought.

1.5 Aim

- ✓ To explore the physician perception about the role of Speech and Language Therapy.

1.6 Objectives

- ✓ To identify the physician understanding about Speech and Language Therapy.
- ✓ To identify the need of Speech and Language Therapy.
- ✓ And expectation of role about Speech and Language Therapy.

2.1 Study design

This paper presents an in depth so phenomenological study is used to exploring the perceptions and expectations of the physicians' on the role of Speech and Language Therapy in Dhaka. It is a part of qualitative study which is done to explore the perceptions of physician. Semi structured interviews were conducted with a convenience sample of 12 participants from physician (neurologist, ENT specialist, dentist, paediatrician).

According to Hicks (1999), Qualitative research is a exploratory in nature by which can gain insight into another person's view, opinions, feelings, and beliefs within their own natural setting .A phenomenological study can be implemented to any study where the investigator is concerned with people's views on their own life or the situations or their own views regarding existing circumstances and suitable to explore the new area.

2.2 Study Location

The study place was at Dhaka in Bangladesh. This study was conducted among different physicians Neurologist, paediatrician, ENT specialist, dentist who are related with speech and language therapy to treat the patients in Dhaka .This area was selected purposively.

2.3 Study population

Study population normally 12 participants from physician (neurologist, ENT specialist, dentist, and paediatrician).Those participants are willing to participate in this study. So the investigator took 12 participants in this study.

2.4 Participants of the study

In this study investigator selected 12 participants from physician (neurologist, ENT specialist, dentist, paediatrician). As those physicians mostly treated the patient who has difficulty in Speech and Language or swallowing.

2.5 Sampling techniques

Participants of this study are 12 physicians from Dhaka city. Those participants were selected using convenience sampling method. This sampling method is beneficial because participants can recruit more easily, cheaply and quickly (Bailey, 1997).

2.6 Sample selection criteria

Sampling

Participants of this study are 12 physicians from Dhaka city. Those participants were selected using convenience sampling method. Participants would recruit following specific inclusion and exclusion criteria and on a voluntary basis.

➤ Inclusion criteria:

- Physician who are practicing in Dhaka city.
- ENT specialists, Neurologist, Medicine specialist, Paediatrician, Dentist are included.
- Willingness to participate in the study.

Rationale for Inclusion criteria: Speech and Language Therapist provide service to patient with voice, speech and swallowing problem usually related to ENT, and neurological condition. In health care service for MDT approach ENT specialist, Neurologist, Medicine specialist, Paediatrician, Dentist and Speech and language Therapist are involve to provide treatment for those difficulties for better diagnosis and treatment. So the investigator chooses it.

➤ Exclusion criteria:

- Non practicing physician will be excluded.
- Unwilling to participate in the study.

2.7 Data collection tool

The researcher herself had collected all the data and no assistant were used during data collection .According to Hicks (1999),Researcher is the main tool to collect data in qualitative study .Semi structured interview guides containing a set of questions were developed following a through literature search and in consultation with the

supervisor. A tape recorder would be used during interview to record the conversation and when conducting face to face interview.

The advantage of tape recorder is full transcripts of interview possible accessible to independent analysis (Polgar and Thomus). It would be appropriate to use tape recorder because it is difficult to write and think at the same time in an interview and as a result of small but important things may be missing. Tap recording can be useful to check the wording of any statement because it may be replayed several times and transcription can be improved (Silverman 2001). Paper and pen were also used.

2.8 Data collection procedure

Investigator used semi structured interviewing system by face to face with open ended question. Face to face interview would be performed because it allows the interviewer to interact directly and to develop rapport with the interviewee (Bailey 1997) and also permits a full range of nonverbal behaviours to be observed in more natural setting. To conduct the interview the researcher made a time schedule for individual participant as they said of their availability of all the took place in a quiet and secure room.

2.9 Data analysis

Content analysis would be used to analyze data collected from interviews. For content analysis collected data were prepared for analysis. According to (Shortell, 2000) 'content analysis is very useful way to obtain information that describes an issue or topic and it is helpful in validating of the study. The analysis of the data would begin with transcription of the interviews. At first transcript were made then it would be transcribed into English. Then English transcripts were given to two individuals who were good in translate. Then the investigator would verify the accuracy of data & read out the transcripts for several times to recognize what the participants want to say. Furthermore the investigator would listen the record all over again to make sure the validity of data. When data would be fully familiar with investigator then the data would start to analysis. Category and category were made from transcript on the basis of the study and summarize it under the keyword. According to (Bailey, 1997) "Content analysis is a process where researcher analyzes the data by looking for repetitive words and concept."

2.10 Ethical Considerations

The project protocol of this study would present in front of the research proposal approval committee where Acting Head, Research and Evaluation Officer, lecturer of Speech & Language Therapy Department were present. The committee members have given the permission for conducting this study. The Acting Head of Speech and Language Therapy Department and Principal of Bangladesh Health Professions Institute have given written permission to conduct the study. Permission would also take from head of the institutions from where researcher would collect data. Each and every participant in this study would inform about the purpose of the study. Participants were assured that they have right to refuse to answer any question during interview session if feel discomfort. All information and their personal identity were kept in safety and locked secured place so their confidentiality would be assured and respected. The participants were informed that their participation in this study would not cause any harm. When study would finish, data would be explored.

2.11 Pilot Study

Investigator conducted a pilot study in Savar before starting the main data collection. Investigator chooses 4 participants who were not included in the main study. Pilot study is a preliminary run of the main study to highlight any problems which can then be corrected and it is important always to run some pilot study before starting the experiment. Because it would conducted for appropriate subject selection and also check the appropriateness of data collection tool. From this study investigator knew how much time is needed for completing data collection. If investigator face any unexpected situation then investigator would be aware in final data collection. So the researcher performed a pilot study before starting the main study. Researcher took one week for pilot study and visited physician's chamber in Savar and consulted with qualified speech Therapist to identify the physician's perception .After finishing the pilot study consider some points based on Bangladeshi aspects among physician's and according to this aspects modified some questionnaire, find out the questionnaire that would helps to seek the actual perception among physician's. By this process it took 10 minutes to collect data and extra 7-8 minutes to explain the purpose of the study.

The main objective of the study is to explore the perception among physician about Speech and Language Therapy in Dhaka city. 12 sample were selected for this study. Here the demographic information of participant's and findings of the study are presented in this chapter.

3.1 Socio-demographic information of the participants

Among twelve physician's (30-40) year old participant were 10 with 83.33% and (40-45) years old participants were 2 with 16.66% from them male were 9 with 75% and female were 3 with 25%. Muslim participants were 12 with percentage of 100%.

Table -1

Socio-demographic info.	Number	Percentage (%)
Age 30-40	10	83.33 %
Age 40-45	2	16.66 %
Sex		
Male	9	75 %
Female	3	25%
Religion		
Muslim	12	100%
Hindu		

Table-1: Socio-demographic information of the participants.

Out of 15 individuals who were invited to participate in this research project, 12 were agreed to attend. Then record the participant's speech and summarized the main theme. After identified the main theme, the recorded data would reviewed to ensure validity of data. Content analysis would do to identify core consistencies and meanings. Then data would code into the broad categories as dictated by the research question and all the category were listed and grouped into categories. This section explores the major themes and categories that emerged from analysis of the data .Data obtained from interviews are presented as four different but related themes followed by categories that mach with the broad theme. The main themes and category are following;

Theme 1

Physician's knowledge about Speech Therapist as a Health professional in Bangladesh

The most commonly identified theme would physician's knowledge about Speech and Language Therapy. Most of the physician's indicated that they know about speech and language therapy .In our circumstances some are already know from where this course is being offered and how long it is providing. But some did not have enough knowledge about Speech and Language Therapy. They do not know from where this course being offered. This theme that would identify in all participants and some categories were organized under this theme. This category has no sub category.

Category 1.1. Speech Therapist as a healthcare professional in physician's minds

The most commonly identified category would concerned with perceptions of the medicine doctor on the role of Speech Therapist in Dhaka. This would the only category that would identify in all participants. Eight participants out of the twelve participants defined a Speech Therapist as a health professional to improve the patient's way of communication people who face difficulty.

At a glance it is important to add that 8 participants approached Speech Therapist has Major role in beside the physician's .Speech Therapist has a different and unique role

in health care. Some Physician suggested that it is high time for Speech Therapist to work separately. Speech Therapist has unique role in health service.

Physician 2 said, *“Speech Therapy for those people who can’t express their needs verbally. Some are have speech but they don’t know how to talk with people properly”*. Some of them don’t know the way of communication.

Some participants added that *“In our circumstances Speech therapy has huge demand but it is too tough to establish Speech and Language Therapy as a first treatment because a large number of people are illiterate and unaware about their health. They know only the physician can treat patient.”*

Category 1.2: No perception of physician’s about Speech therapist in health service

This category would concern with perceptions of the physicians on the knowledge of Speech and Language therapist is an allied health professional in health service. It is interesting to add that 4 participants defined a Speech Therapist work as a physiotherapist and physiotherapist provides Speech therapy. Some physicians do not know about Speech therapy. Physicians reported that they do not know who provide this service and from where this service is providing. Still they know nothing about this service. Some of them don’t understand what communication difficulty is? For having no idea about Speech Therapy some are not willing to participate in this project.

Physician 8 and 9 said that *“We know the name of Speech and language Therapy but we do not know their role and also from where this service is being provide.”*

One participant said that, *“In our circumstances for the hearing impaired child Speech Therapy has huge demand but it is only available in SHAHIC*. From where this service is being provided some of the participants don’t know. This is the shame for us that as Speech therapist have huge demand in our circumstances but yet physician’s has not enough knowledge as they are the first contact practitioner. Which affect the initial treatment for speech Therapist for the patient?

Theme 2

Physician's attitudes towards Speech Therapist in Health service

The second dominant theme would identify the physicians' attitudes towards Speech Therapist in Health service in Dhaka city. Theme 1 is related with this theme to identified Physician's attitudes towards Speech Therapist in Health service. In this theme 12 participants were participate and showed different attitudes about SLT. According to the participants opinion there is 2 categories under this theme.

Category 2.1: Speech and Language Therapist should work under the supervision of physician.

This category would identify in all participants and all Physicians expressed that every SLT should work under the supervision of Physician. Physicians stated that they need to diagnose first the patient then they would refer to Speech Therapist.

Physician 1, 2, 3 said that *"SLT should not work individually. Physician need to supervise the SLT otherwise patient did not get proper treatment from SLT"*.

Category 2.2: Speech therapist should work as a multidisciplinary Team in clinical setting.

Speech therapist should work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team with physicians .Health service is such profession where every health practitioner need to work collaboratively unless it could not ensure patient's prognosis. Some physicians expressed that collaborative work strengthen the team and a Speech Therapist has major role to provide therapy on various issues such as in rehabilitation centre, craniofacial surgery camp, and some physicians also stated that, *" speech therapist has major role with ENT specialist, Neurologist . Because sometime providing on some neurological condition speech therapist and Physicians need to deal the patient in a multidisciplinary team "*.

Some physician said that, *"Speech therapist has no separate role in health service .They should work in a multidisciplinary team."*

Theme 3

Need of Speech and Language Therapy among patient in Bangladesh.

This is the theme where 2 physicians stated that for the child's communication Speech Therapy is very essential. 2 physicians stated that It is very essential for adult patient for ensue their quality of life. Under this theme there is two category are following;

Category 3.1 Speech Therapy necessary for child with developmental disorder

Here 1 neurologist and 3 paediatricians stated that for developmental disorder child such as Cerebral palsy, Autism, down syndrome etc. for them Speech Therapy has a major role for their functional communication .In this sector Speech Therapist has individual role to improve child's communication.

Physician 11 and 12 expressed that *“For the child with Autism Speech Therapist has major role to modify their challenging behaviour”*. Physician 12 also expressed that *“Speech Therapist has an important role with disable child who has difficulty to talk with other and do not understand or express their needs”*.

And another physician 5 said that *“For communication speech and language is the way where most of the developmental disorder child has difficulty in Speech and Language, for that child Speech and language is very essential.”*

Category 3.2 To ensure patient's quality of life

Two physicians expressed that a Speech Therapist has range of demand in cancer hospital like after laryngectomy or for the patient of head neck cancer after taking radiotherapy or chemotherapy. On the other hand some physician stated that Speech Therapy is need for Stroke patient and some neurologic condition. Physician 2, 3 said that *“communication is the part of quality of life and Speech and Language Therapist ensure the way of communication.”*

Some participants were most likely to say a SLT would needed when the case directly involved speech production problems. In cases where traumatic brain injury and Cerebral Palsy were involved few participants acknowledged a need for a speech-language Therapist.

Theme 4:

Expectation of physician's about role of speech and language therapy

In our circumstances some physician's referred patient to Speech therapist and also know the importance of Speech therapist. During interview researcher found kind of common level of satisfaction and expectation from ENT specialist as well from neurologist, dentist, and paediatrician. Physician's stated that they know this therapy is how much important for patient with communication difficulty or swallowing problem. Because Speech Therapy has lots of good impact on child's communication difficulty as well on adult communication difficulty. At this moment they stated that this Therapy should spread in all corner of our country and take some step to make aware in general people and also among physician's.

Category 4.1: Need government concern to increase awareness.

Physician 1 and 2 reported that government concern is very important to make awareness among people. They expressed that the practice of this subject need to increase for children and adult neurologic condition at medical setting. If government take step to make awareness among people then it would be accepted easily.

All physicians expressed that every government hospital should have post for Speech Therapist. At now there is a huge demand for Speech Therapist. Physicians also stated that this Speech Therapy course should offered in a government university. If government take concern to increase awareness patient would get more benefit from Speech Therapy.

Physician 2 said that," *When government take concern to make awareness among general people then the value of this service.* Physician 3, 4 said that" *government should take step to create awareness among general people.*" Physician 10 said that "*When government should take step to make aware this Therapy then physician would motivate to aware the general people.*"

Category 4.2: Increase publicity about Speech Therapy among medical student.

Most of the physicians stated that in our circumstances need to publicity among medical student about Speech and Language Therapy. One physician said that "*when medical students know about the Speech and Language Therapy they would provide*

knowledge among other health professionals.”Because if medical students know the speech therapy they would spread knowledge among health practitioners when they are established physician. As the physicians are the pioneer at health service in Bangladesh so they are only responsible for referred patient of communication difficulty to Speech Therapist.

One participant expressed that, *“Medical student should know the role of Speech and Language Therapy to make awareness among general people. When they become establish physician then they would referred patient to the Speech Therapist.*

Category 4.3: Need to define role of Speech and Language Therapy in interprofessional team

Some physicians do not have enough information about Role of speech therapy. Which area SLT work they not know .But they reported that it is very important to know about them as they are health professional. Some physicians stated that they know about role of Speech Therapy but still now they need to know to more about Speech Therapy.

Physician 11 and 12 said that *“at first physician need to clear about the role of Speech and Language Therapy and need to know what type of benefit patient would get though people can get motivation to take this Therapy when physicians recommend them.”*

Physician 9 said that *“Physicians are responsible for referred patient to the Speech and Language Therapist but still now many physicians don’t know the details information about their role with patient.”*

In this study discussion would presented together with necessary literature support. Although still there is no available literature in same study. Investigator found in outer world especially in developed country there is some related study on multidisciplinary team work and interprofessional relationship in health professionals.

The purpose of the study is to find out the physicians perception about the role of Speech and language Therapy.

In this study investigator tries to find out the result of the physician's perception on the role of Speech and Language Therapy in Bangladesh. Where investigator find the result through qualitative survey for taking perception by comparing with related studies in other countries.

Discussion are according to the themes are provided below;

Theme 1

Physician's knowledge about Speech Therapist as a Health professional in Bangladesh

From the results of the study it appears that the majority of the participants in the study were able to provide knowledge about the Speech and language therapy but none were able to clearly state that they don't know about the Speech and Language Therapy.

Speech and Language Therapist have appropriate knowledge for diagnosis and managing the disease condition as well as give plan for managing different disease .Speech and Language Therapist are highly qualified in the assessment and diagnosis of speech disorder.

Most of the participant expressed "*Though Speech Therapist has enough knowledge but in our circumstances it is not much known to all beside there is several different therapeutic way to ensure the diagnosis.*"

One participant added that "Speech Therapist has vast knowledge about disease condition and treat the patient."

Cleave (2003) stated that “In our circumstances Speech therapy has huge demand but it is too tough to establish Speech and Language Therapy as a first treatment because a large number of people are illiterate and unaware about their health. They know only the physician can treat patient.

Another researcher Pollens (2004), said that some physician are not helpful to treat the Speech Therapist has an individual role in the health service. “And also viewed that “There is no doubt Speech Therapy has major role in our circumstances. Because now days it becomes the demand of present science of treatment.

Theme 2

Physician’s attitudes towards Speech Therapist in Health service

The purpose of the study is how the physicians treated work with or think that Speech and Language Therapy can be the first treatment in our circumstances. One individual said “*Speech Therapy can be first treatment some specific condition like child’s developmental disorder or intellectual disability and some condition where Speech therapy it may be the second treatment like neurological condition or motor neuron disease.*” Donlan(1995), added that “Speech Therapy not only the first treatment for developmental disorder but also the paediatric and adult head neck and neurological condition” .“Any Speech and Language problem Speech Therapy can manage early.

Definitely Speech Therapy could be the first treatment because our profession is totally autonomous profession and our treatment procedure is totally autonomous from other profession. Mentioned by one most of the time medical professions is cited as an ideal profession and Speech Therapy as semi or paraprofessionals implying that it is subordinate to medical practice and not attributed full professionals implying.

In developed country like UK, USA, Speech Therapy is already developed first contact profession when practice in private setting.

This is the shame for us that as Speech therapist have huge demand in our circumstances but yet physician’s has not enough knowledge as they are the first contact practitioner. Which affect the initial treatment for speech Therapist for the patient?

Theme 3

Need of Speech and Language Therapy among patient in Bangladesh.

Almost all the entire participants said that, “*General people do not know the Speech and Language Therapy patient.*” *Most of the patient thinks that Speech therapy is one kind of exercise and physiotherapist can give this therapy.* This is separate lack of knowledge about speech and Language Therapy which already hampered self referral (Webster, 2008).

Although Speech and Language Therapy has huge demand in our circumstances “But still it is really poor that most of the people do not about Speech and Language Therapy”. They don’t have enough knowledge about Speech Therapy. Public just understand that Speech Therapy is an exercise.

One participant added that, “*Some people have knowledge about Speech Therapy but as they do not prescribe medicine so the general people do not show the enough interest to the Speech Therapy.*” “*Speech therapy is a new profession, so it not spread out through the network.*” Stated by another one.

Still now Speech Therapist faces some barrier which affects to treat the patient. One participant said that “Lack of awareness is the main barrier for the Speech Therapist to treat patient as initial treatment.” Because general peoples were not aware about the role of Speech Therapist. One participant directly indicates that “Speech Therapy has no legal counsel though they are not accepted easily by all.” But in some specific disease condition there is a huge need to play individual role.

Sometimes Speech and Language Therapist are neglected by Physician’s. “*They have no individual role among patient.*” One participant added it.

More than two third of the participants said that, “cultural view, general practitioner, medical association, lack of knowledge about Speech and Language Therapy , mal practice, patient demands drugs , lack of early referral from other professionals are the key point to barrier as a new profession in Bangladesh which may effects the initial treatment. Some barrier which may influence both rural and remote recruitment and retention in the related health professions particularly for Speech and Language Therapy.

Theme 4

Expectation of physician's about role of speech and language therapy

At this moment Speech therapist face neglect behaviour from physicians .One physician stated that, *“majority of the health professional thinks that it is paramedical course or diploma course .But day by day it become changing .Actually it depends upon how much other professional know about the role of Speech and Language Therapy. One participant thinks that “Speech Therapist need to work as assistant. But those who know properly about Speech Therapy they really respect the Speech and Language Therapists and referred patient with confidence.*

Some of the Health professionals especially dentist consider a Speech Therapist as a competitor and some of them think that Speech Therapist has poor knowledge about disease condition, diagnosis and treatment. Stated most of the participants,” *Speech and Language Therapist should show enough skills, knowledge, confidence as well maintain liaison with physicians then professionals would also go up to the slandered.*

Other participants stated that this condition is different in Developed country from our country .They cannot deny their skill and knowledge in specific disease condition such as paediatric condition as well as adult neurological condition.

As the Speech Therapist is too confident to manage the disease condition to diagnosis and manage the condition but public awareness is very poor all of the participant give same answer. One participant said that, *“General people don't know the about the Speech and Language Therapy and who is qualified Speech therapist and what is the quality.”*

Most of the participant's said that,” *To increase public understanding and government concern need seminar, workshop, improve facilities, health camp, advertisement about Speech and language Therapy, paper/book ,multimedia ,radio/television ,newspaper”.*

According to the participants view it is clear that ,”Advertising about Speech and Language Therapy ,publish article about Speech and Language Therapy, ensure better professional relationship with other professionals, then physician would positively

focus about Speech and language Therapy towards the patient. Also increase awareness in school, college, and university as well as in NGO and stop mal practice, awareness raising programme in general people, create government post.”

One participant commends,” *Need to improve their curriculum and educational system and increase accessibility of this service.* Most of the time patient’s feel better after getting Speech Therapy from Speech therapist. When patient get proper treatment protocol and get well then patient would understand that how much valuable the Speech Therapy. One participant said that, ”*After treatment most patient get benefit but if need then refer patient to other physician. If Speech therapist fulfils their goals then why should they go to other professional?*”

One participants expressed that, ”*In CRP most of the patient are satisfied after having Speech Therapy.* So most of the participants expressed that there is no alternative about the role of Speech Therapy in our circumstances.

During data collection some participants expressed less interest to participate in the study because some are not willing to give speech or due to lack of knowledge. This may have influenced responsiveness to the interview question would considerations were made in the study design. The researcher tried to access original resources for this study. However due to limited resources investigator face difficulty. Also the research would do by an undergraduate student and it would first research project for her. Therefore the researcher had limited experience with techniques and strategies in term of the practical aspects of research. So there were some mistakes that overlooked by the supervisor and teacher.

Future research should focus on several areas. To increase understanding of students' perceptions of the field, future research should focus on the effects of promoting the profession, increasing awareness of speech and language therapy by visiting high schools and colleges to inform students of the career's existence, as well as its many work settings and competitive pay. The researchers also suggest increasing the public's knowledge that the field requires an advanced degree and is based in science. To increase other health professions' knowledge about the field of speech-language pathology, SLTs should increase their involvement with other professions as well as advocate for programs that would build awareness of the field. Although it is important for other professions to understand the roles of SLTs it is equally important that SLTs have an understanding of other professions' roles in providing Services. When it comes to a client's perception of speech-language pathologists, Pershey and Reese (2002) suggest that future interviews "ask customers for suggestions on how to improve Service delivery rather than to describe their degree of satisfaction". All of the studies agree that more research can be done to uncover commonly held perceptions of the field of speech and language Therapy and that this information can be used by SLTs to improve others' Opinions of the field.

Still there is no study available on physicians' perception about role of Speech Therapist in Bangladesh. This study would be helpful for finding the attitudes and expectation among health professionals about the role of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT).

Because it would increase awareness among physician about the role of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT). This study also would help to establish this service as an individual consultant side by side physician. Increase the interaction level between physician and Therapist that would be optimized to enhance delivery of Speech Therapy (SLT). By knowing the need of SLT physician would give value the role and contribution of Speech therapist. So to increase referral of patient and also patient's benefit from those health professionals it need to conduct such kind of research (Andrews, 2006). Through this study, the researcher would be able to achieve its aim and objectives which become helpful to explore the physician perception about Speech and Language Therapy. To investigate physicians' perceptions of Speech therapists as members of the health team because this study arose from the current emphasis that is placed on good multidisciplinary teamwork for effective rehabilitation and the awareness that different team members often have different perceptions of their respective roles within the team.

In conclusion, this study provided insight into the way the physician perceives about the role of Speech Therapy in Dhaka. Our findings can be used to promote discussion in the profession and with stakeholders about the role of Speech Therapist in patient care in Dhaka. Future studies should focus on providing significant data about the perception of the general public on the expected enhanced role of Speech Therapists in the country.

Through the use of qualitative research methodology, this study explored the physician's perception about role of Speech and Language Therapy. Most of the physicians are aware about the role of Speech and Language therapy .Physicians mentioned that in Bangladesh Speech and Language Therapy has huge demand for the child communication skill and comprehension as well for the adult communication. Some physicians had clear knowledge about Speech and Language Therapy but the physician who did not have the correct idea shown limited knowledge. However from physician's perception, Speech and Language Therapy is very much essential for the child with developmental disorder and adult patient who has difficulty in neurological condition with head neck region .They also expressed their expectation about this profession and said that this profession should spread in every corner in our country.

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ANNEXURE

Annexure 1

প্রশ্নাবলী

- ১। আপনি কি স্পিচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপি সম্পর্কে জানেন ?.....
- ২। আপনি কি জানেন বাংলাদেশের কোথায় এই স্পীচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপি চিকিৎসা প্রদান করা হয় ?.....
- ৩। কত বছর যাবত এই স্পীচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপি চিকিৎসা প্রদান করা হচ্ছে?.....
- ৪। আপনি কি মনে করেন স্পিচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপি যোগাযোগের সমস্যা সমাধানে কার্যকরী ভূমিকা রাখে? আপনি কেন এরকম মনে করেন?.....
- ৫। যখন আপনি যোগাযোগে সমস্যা জনিত রুগী পেয়ে থাকেন তখন আপনি কি মনে করেন ঐ ব্যক্তি স্পিচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপিস্ট এর কাছ থেকে সর্বোত্তম চিকিৎসা পাবে? অনুগ্রহ করে ব্যখ্যা করুন।.....
- ৬। বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষাপটে আপনি কি মনে করেন এর প্রয়জনীয়তা রয়েছে? কেন ব্যখ্যা করুন
- ৭। আপনার কি মনে হয় রুগীদের মাঝে স্পিচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপির চাহিদা রয়েছে? এই সম্পর্কে আপনি কি বলতে চান।.....
- ৮। একজন রুগীর প্রতি স্পিচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপিস্টের ভূমিকা কি বলে আপনি মনে করেন?.....
- ৯। আপনি কি মনে করেন একজন স্পিচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপিস্ট ডাক্তারের ন্যায় স্বাধীন বা ডাক্তারের তত্ত্বাবধানে থেকে কাজ করা উচিত? এ সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত ব্যখ্যা করুন।

১০। আপনি কি মনে করেন সরকারের এই চিকিৎসা ব্যবস্থা নিয়ে উদ্যোগ নেয়া উচিত?
কেন।.....

১১। সমন্বিত চিকিৎসা ব্যবস্থায় স্পিচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপিস্ট এবং ডাক্তারের একত্রে
কাজ করার প্রয়োজনীয়তা রয়েছে কেন?.....

১২। আপনি কি মনে করেন এই চিকিৎসা পদ্ধতি সম্পর্কে জনগনের মাঝে সচেতনতা
গড়ে তুলতে ডাক্তারের ভূমিকা রয়েছে? কেন আপনি তা মনে করেন।.....

১৩। স্পিচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপি সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত বা কি প্রত্যাশা রয়েছে।
.....

১৪। এই সম্পর্কে আপনি আরও কিছু বলতে চান যা আমি আপনাকে জিজ্ঞেস করিনি।
.....

Annexure 2

Questionnaire

This questionnaire asks for your views about Speech and Language Therapy. This information would help us to understand how you feel about their role in health service and what your expectation about their role is?

[Please read each question and response which best reflects your thought and understanding.]

- 1) Do you know about Speech and Language Therapy?
.....
- 2) Do you know from where a bachelor degree of Speech and Language Therapy is being offered in Bangladesh?
.....
- 3) Do you know for how many years the service is being provided in Bangladesh?
.....
- 4) Do you think Speech Therapy would be effective to cure speech disorder/communication problem?.....
- 5) When you get a patient with speech disorder do you feel it could be best treated with the help of Speech Therapist? Please describe
.....
- 6) In the context of Bangladesh do you think the service is needed? Please describe
.....

7) Do you think the service that the service of Speech and Language Therapy has demand in client group? Please describe

.....

8) What do you think about the role of Speech and language Therapist with a patient?

.....

9) What do you think if a Speech Therapist can work as an individual consultant like a doctor or should he work under a doctor?

.....

10) Do you think govt. should take Speech and Language Therapy in concern? Why?

.....

11) Is it necessary that a speech and Language Therapist and a doctor should work together in a team?

.....

12) Do you think for raising awareness of Speech and Language Therapy among people doctor has responsibilities.....

13) What is your opinion or expectation for speech and Language Therapy? Describe

.....

14) Is there anything else to say that I am not asking you?

.....

“Thank you for participating this questionnaire”

Annexure 3

সম্মতি পত্র

এই গবেষণা স্পীচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপি বিভাগের অধ্যয়নের একটি অংশ এবং গবেষকের নাম রাজিয়াসুলতানা। তিনি বাংলাদেশ হেলথ প্রফেশনস ইন্সটিটিউটের বি .এস. সি ইন স্পীচ এন্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপি বিভাগের ৪র্থ বর্ষের অধ্যয়নরত একজন ছাত্রী এবং তার গবেষণার বিষয় “স্পীচ অ্যান্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ থেরাপি সম্পর্কে ডাক্তারদের ধারণা”।

এই গবেষণায় আমি----- একজন অংশ গ্রহণকারী এবং আমি এই গবেষণার উদ্দেশ্য পরিষ্কারভাবে জানতে পেরেছি। আমি যে কোন সময় এবং গবেষণার যে কোন পর্যায়ে আমার অংশগ্রহণ প্রত্যাহার করতে পারি। এ জন্য আমি কারো কাছে জবাবদিহি করতে বাধ্য নই। এই গবেষণায় অংশগ্রহণ করলে তা আমার বর্তমান এবং ভবিষ্যতে কোন প্রকার প্রভাব ফেলবেনা।

সাক্ষাতেরসকল তথ্য যেগুলো গবেষণার কাজে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেগুলো সম্পূর্ণভাবে গোপন থাকবে। শুধুমাত্র গবেষকের তথ্যগুলোর প্রবেশাধিকার পাবে। কোন প্রকার নাম প্রকাশ হবেনা।

আমি গবেষণার পদ্ধতি এবং জটিলতা অথবা সাফল্যের ব্যাপারে বা গবেষণার তত্ত্বাবধায়কের সহিত আলোচনা করতে পারব।

আমি উপরিউক্ত সকল তথ্যগুলো সম্পর্কে জানি এবং আমি এই গবেষণায় অংশগ্রহণে সম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করছি।

অংশগ্রহণকারীর

সাক্ষরঃ _____ তারিখঃ _____

গবেষকের

সাক্ষরঃ _____ তারিখঃ _____

Annexure 4

Consent Form

The researcher, Razia Sultana is a final year student of B.sc in Speech and Language Therapy department of Bangladesh Health professions Institute (BHPI) CRP, Savar, this study is a part of the course requirements outline in the curriculum .The title of the study is “**The physician’s perception on the role of Speech and Language Therapy in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**”

In this study I am..... a volunteer participant and clearly informed about the aim of the study .I would have the right to refuse in taking part any time at any stage of study .For that reason I would not be bound to answer to anybody .This study would not any impacts on me at present and future I am inform that, the entire information collect from the interview that is use in the study would be kept safely and maintain confidentiality only the researcher would be eligible to access in the information for her publication of the research result and my name and address would not publish anywhere of this study. I can consult with the researcher and the research supervisor about the research process or get answer of any question regarding the research project.

I have been informed about the above mentioned information and I am woulding to participate in the study with giving consent.

(It would be read aloud in front of the illiterate participant)

Signature

Participant.....

Date:

Signature

Researcher.....

Date:

Annexure 5

Permission Letter from BHPI for Data collection

Date: 28th September, 2014

To

Head (Acting)

Department of Speech & Language Therapy,
Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI),
CRP, Chapain, Savar, Dhaka.

Subject: Prayer for seeking permission to conduct the data collection.

Sir,

With due respect I state that I am Razia Sultana ,4th year student of B. Sc. in Speech and Language Therapy Dept. of Bangladesh Health Professions Institute , the academic Institute of CRP. I am sincerely seeking permission to conduct the data collection of the research project as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of B. Sc. in Speech and Language Therapy. The title of my research is **'Physician's perception of role of Speech and Language Therapy in Dhaka'**. The main objective of study is to find out to explore the doctor's (Physician's) attitudes towards the role of speech and language therapy in Dhaka.

Now I am seeking your kindness to approve me to start the data collection for research project and I would like to assure that anything of my research project will not harmful for the participants.

So, I therefore pray and hope that your honor would be kind enough to grant me the permission of conduction the data collection and will help me to conduct a successful study as a part of my course.

Yours Obediently,

Razia Sultana

4th year student of B. Sc. in Speech and Language Therapy Department,
Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI),
CRP, Savar, Dhaka

Course Coordinator	Comments and Signature
Md. Jahangir Alam Head (Acting) Department of Speech and LanguagTherapy BHPI, CRP, Chapain, Savar, Dhaka-1343	Proceed for the data collection. <i>Jahangir</i> 29/9/14

Annexure 6

Permission Letter from BHPI for research project

Date: 28th September, 2014

To

Head (Acting)

Department of Speech & Language Therapy,
Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI),
CRP, Chapain, Savar, Dhaka.

Subject: Prayer for seeking permission to conduct the research project.

Sir,

With due respect I state that I am Razia Sultana ,4th year student of B. Sc. in Speech and Language Therapy Dept. of Bangladesh Health Professions Institute , the academic Institute of CRP. I am sincerely seeking permission to conduct the research project as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of B. Sc. in Speech and Language Therapy. The title of my research is **'Physician's perception of role of Speech and Language Therapy in Dhaka'**. The main objective of study is to find out to explore the doctor's (Physician's) attitudes towards the role of speech and language therapy in Dhaka. Now I am seeking your kindness to approve me to research project and I would like to assure that anything of my research project will not harmful for the participants.

So, I therefore pray and hope that your honor would be kind enough to grant me the permission of conduction a research project and will help me to conduct a successful study as a part of my course.

Yours Obediently,

Razia Sultana

4th year student of B. Sc. in Speech and Language Therapy Department,
Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI),
CRP, Savar, Dhaka

Course Coordinator	Comments and Signature
Md. Jahangir Alam Head (Acting) Department of Speech and Language Therapy BHPI, CRP, Chapain, Savar, Dhaka-1343	You are allowed to conduct the study. <i>Jahangir</i> 29/9/14