



**PEDIATRIC CLIENTS ACCESSING THE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE  
THERAPY SERVICE OF A SPECIALISED HOSPITAL (2015-2020)**

By

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**Title: “Pediatric Clients Accessing the Speech and Language Therapy Service of a Specialist Hospital (2015-2020)”**

**Aim of the study:** To determine the proportion of speech and Language difficulties among pediatric clients in the last five years. To determine the socio-demographic characteristics of the study population.

**Methodology:** This is a quantitative type of cross-sectional survey study where 3562 samples were assigned Speech & Language Therapy Department of Centre for the Rehabilitation of Paralyzed (CRP), Savar, Dhaka. CRP Pediatric Unit Assessment form was used for the study. Data was analyzed by using descriptive statistical analysis (SPSS= Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) method.

**Result:** Through the research findings, 3562 participants, the highest number of participants, 63.10% (2248), were male, and 36.90% (1314) participants were female and the highest number of participants 53.8% (1961) were age range between (0-3) years. The highest number of participants, 55.80% (1989) diagnosed as Cerebral Palsy

and 27.60% (983) of the participants had autism spectrum disorder. And 71.70% (2588), had SLT diagnosis pre-verbal skill difficulties

**Conclusion:** Speech and language issues are relatively wide spread all around the world. And because speech and language are vital for communicating needs and wants, when someone suffers from this difficulty, it can harm their quality of life and ability to lead an everyday life. It can also impair a person's pre-verbal skills, comprehension, expressive language, swallowing, voice, pitch, phonation, and communication, among other things. Speech and language problems can affect both adults and children. It has become a severe problem in Bangladesh, particularly among children under the age of five, and this period is critical for learning. Though it is a lifelong disorder, it is appropriately managed. This analysis on Epidemiology of Pediatric Clients Accessing Speech & Language Therapy Services of a Specialized Hospital (2015-2020) study has 3562 participants, with the highest number of participants accessing cerebral palsy services. Males accounted for 63.10 % (2248) of the total, while females accounted for 36.90 % (1314). Most participants, 53.8 % (1961), were between the ages of 1-3 years old, and the majority of the children, 71.70 % (2588), had pre-verbal skill difficulties. Fathers account for 25.0 % (892) of the participants completed their education. The participants with the most premature children accounted for 76.40 % (2720). Among the participants, the parents' cousin marriage was 14.3% (509). Cerebral palsy was determined to be the most frequent ailment in this survey, accounting for 63.10 % (2248) of all medical conditions. Pre-verbal skill difficulties are considerably more common in children, accounting for 71.70 % (2588) of all speech and language difficulties.

**Limitation:**

This study was almost new in Bangladesh on pediatrics clients. So, there were some limitations and barriers while the investigator conducted this study for these reasons.

Those are:

- Because this study conducted on pediatric patients is almost new in Bangladesh, there is no literature available in Bangladesh.

- Because it was a retrospective population-based study, the data was collected from previous files. There was no option for face-to-face data collection or correction because it was sometimes difficult to comprehend written documents.
- The investigator in this study collected many data (3562), making it challenging to collect data.
- Conducted the study on speech and language difficulties in pediatric clients, but those data were gathered from only the Speech and Language Therapy department at CRP Savar, Dhaka. It could be better if data could be collected from the survey from other parts of Bangladesh; the study on the epidemiology of speech and language difficulties in pediatric clients would be more vigorous.

### **Recommendation:**

The investigator discovered the epidemiology of speech and language issues among pediatric clients seeking speech and language therapy services by doing this study. And it was found that the majority of the parents' education level was S.C.& HSC pass and that parents' educational status is a significant factor in a child's disability, according to this study. It discovered that under 5-year-old male children are more affected by speech & language difficulties and that most of the children have Cerebral Palsy and Pre-verbal skill difficulties. As a result of these observations, the researcher proposed the following recommendation:

- According to this study, most children have cerebral palsy. It is caused by brain injury, premature or post-mature birth history, and parent's cousin marriage, so an analysis of cerebral palsy children with speech and language impairments and their risk factors.
- The government should figure out why men are more likely than women to develop speech and language difficulties and then prevent them.
- The government should develop or arrange public awareness campaigns in many parts of Bangladesh to improve maternal care throughout pregnancy and child care from birth to age 5.
- It is necessary to determine why parents with higher educational levels are risk factors for Autism.

- The study was conducted only in one location due to time constraints. However, it is critical to collect data from additional Bangladeshi sites. As a result, to determine epidemiology in different parts of Bangladesh.
- The researcher suggested studies on the clients' quality of life after receiving services.
- Purposive sampling was employed to perform the research in this study and suggested for subsequent analysis using a random sample.
- It will suggest a study on the epidemiology of speech and language impairments in children with certain conditions.
- CRP organizations need to identify why other conditions are limited for accessing services in here. Maybe for people's lack of knowledge/ledge about CRP. It may be known that only patients with physical impairment can benefit from CRP. Maybe for this confusion, other conditions like (voice disorder, Dysfluency, Cleft-lip and palate, Deaf & laming difficulties) are limited to cerebral palsy. And it's also clear that C.P. affected people's physical condition. CRP must increase and manage resources to assist with various complex circumstances (Deaf, Autism, Laming difficulties, etc.).
- If a client has SLT-related challenges, specialists who are involved in other health professions for management and treatment should recommend them to Speech & Language Therapists for further treatment.
- It is necessary to create awareness by (media, program, CBR, seminar, etc.).
- More posts for Speech and Language Therapists are needed.

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***[N.B. For better understanding of the study, please see hard copy & for any further information please contact: [sajebslt@gmail.com](mailto:sajebslt@gmail.com)]***