



NEEDS OF AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY: PARENTS PERCEPTION

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Title: “Needs of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) system for Children with Cerebral Palsy: Parents Perception”

Aim of the study: To explore the parent’s perception of children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) regarding the needs of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) system.

Methodology: This is a qualitative type of phenomenological study where 7 parents of children with CP who met the inclusion criteria assigned purposively from the outpatient unit of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) Savar, Dhaka. Data was collected by using standard self-inventory questionnaire that contains 10 questions. Semi-structure, face to face interviews were conducted to collect in-depth information.

Result: Parents are highly concern to the functional communication of children with CP thus the AAC system was preferred and could be a possible recommendations.

Conclusion: Communication difficulties were closely connected with the life of children with CP. For communication difficulties they were not able to pass a meaningful life. They faced different problems in the family, school and society.

AAC system is a helpful technique for severe communication difficulties CP child, it is significant to know for the parents of children with CP. This study also helps to the SLTs to work in this area and a speech and language therapist could support a children with CP to develop their expressive skills verbally or non-verbally.

4.1 Limitation: There are some restrictions that should be reserved in mind during conducting the study. They are given below:

- In this study participants were chosen from only SLT department at CRP.
- There were some parents do not aware about Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) system. So some time they faced difficulties to answer the question.
- In this study only the parents of children with CP was included.
- The participant's educational level status was different which exaggerated their understanding.
- All participants were not knowledgeable about AAC system. So some of them did not understand the question.
- There was no available research conducted in this area in Bangladesh. So appropriate information about AAC system was limited.
- In this study, it was not possible to organize participants with same severity and age.
- Lack of literature was a barrier while conducting this study.

4.2 Recommendations

- Raising awareness about parents training for children with CP at home how they will use AAC system.
- This study was done in clinical setting, so it is recommended to do further study in different setting such as school setting, home setting.
- Further, study parent's satisfaction about AAC system use in their child.
- In this study age limit is from 3-10 years, so for further study age limit can be changed.
- In this study investigator used selected questions. For further study the investigator can procedure more questions about the speech and language difficulties.
- Similar study should be accompanied on large number of participants in different areas in Bangladesh.
- Speech and Language Therapist also can run support through counseling parents about AAC system.
- This study would be helpful for SLT students in their study because AAC system is an effective intervention program for severe expressive language difficulties children with CP.

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