

Assessment of Quality of Life and Problems Faced by the Mothers of Children with Hearing and Speech Impairment attending Selected Special Schools, West Bengal

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Abstract: *The investigator conducted a descriptive study on assessment of quality of life and problems faced by the mothers of children with hearing and speech impairment attending selected special schools, West Bengal with the objectives to assess the quality of life of the mothers and to find out the problems faced by them. The conceptual framework adopted for the study was based on “Roy’s adaptation model”. Non probability convenient sampling technique was adopted to select 200 respondents. The tools used for the study were Ferrans and Powers quality of life index and a structured rating scale. The study findings revealed that majority of the respondents (54%) had extremely poor quality of life. Maximum number of respondents (53%) were facing moderate problem while economical domain found to be the highest problematic area. A significant association was found between educational qualification and quality of life of mother as chi square was 8.28 [χ^2 df(1) = 6.63] at 0.01 level of significance. Further a statistically significant [t ’df(198)=3.34] negative correlation (r ’=-0.611) was found between quality of life and problems faced by mother as ‘t’ value was 10.83 at 0.001 level of significance. The study has several implications in nursing education, practice, administration and research. The study can be replicated on larger sample and as a comparative study between mothers of physically challenged male and female child.*

Keywords: Quality of life, hearing and speech impaired child, problem

1. Background of the Study

Quality of life has a significant clinical relevance both when dealing with the patient and when including close relatives and caregivers into medical treatment, remarkably in pediatric cases. **B Kolaric, I Aras, L Kondic, R Stevanovic, S Stevanovic, S Vlahovic** in 2013 conducted a study on Health related quality of life (HRQOL) in parents of children with speech and hearing impairment in Ireland. The result revealed that in the group of parents of children with speech impairment, mothers’ HRQOL was worst in several physical and emotional aspects. [1]

Parents of hearing and speech impaired children exhibit a great amount of stress which may include stress related to the child’s behavioral problems, safety concerns, inadequate support and long term care. Additional sources of stress may include parental conflict associated with caring for their challenged child, lack of financial and social support, and alteration in family’s lifestyle and leisure activities due to care giving responsibilities. A study was carried out by **Nicola** in 2010 on hearing and speech impaired children, India showed that major emotional and behavioral problems were present in terms of ‘deviant’ behaviors related hyperactivity (36.25%), withdrawal (33.12%) and problems in schooling (29.37%).[2]

The mere presence of a hearing and speech impaired child in a family obligates long term adjustments among the other family members and particularly to the mothers who are customarily the primary caregivers. However, since parenting stress is highly stable, it is important to intervene as early as possible.

2. Need of the Study

Maternal ill-health can negatively affect a hearing and speech impaired child’s outcome, as unhealthy mothers have been found to be less sensitive to their child’s need and hence are less effective at nurturing language and psychosocial development in their children. But being a “silent disability” hearing and speech impairment has got the least priority among the studies conducted with the mothers of challenged children although the burden of this condition is shooting up cyclically. Considering all these consequences the researcher felt the need to stop this vicious cycle from its grass-root level by assessing the mother’s quality of life and problems faced by them.

Objectives:

- 1) To assess the quality of life of the mothers of children with hearing and speech impairment.
- 2) To find out the problems faced by the mothers of children with hearing and speech impairment.

Research methodology

By adapting descriptive survey research design, standardized Ferrans and Powers quality of life index and a structured rating scale were applied as data collection tools. Non probability convenient sampling technique was adopted to select 200 respondents.

3. Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework adopted for the study was based on “Roy’s adaptation model”.

Analysis

Findings related to the assessment of quality of life of mothers of children with hearing and speech impairment.

Table 1: Range, Mean, Median and Standard deviation of total quality of life score of the mothers of children with hearing and speech impairment, n=200

Variable	Range	Mean	Median	Standard deviation
Total quality of life score	4.13-21.37	10.05	9.56	3.50

Maximum possible score = 30

Minimum possible score = 0

Data presented in table 1 shows that the mean, median and SD of total quality of life score of respondents' were 10.05, 9.56 and 3.50 respectively. The mean indicates that their satisfaction with their lives was lower than was normally seen in other populations.

The table further shows that SD 3.50 with a mean of 10.05 and range 4.13-21.37 which proves moderate dispersion of total quality life score denoting that although the data were spread out over a moderate range of values but mostly they had a great deal of dissatisfaction with the things that were important to them in their lives.

Findings related to the problems faced by the mothers of children with hearing and speech impairment.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents according to the grading of problem scores, n = 200

Grading of problem scores	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Severe (61-80)	88	44
Moderate (41-60)	106	53
Mild (21-40)	06	03
Little or No problem (0-20)	Nil	-

Data presented in table 2 shows that maximum number of the mothers of children with hearing and speech impairment 53% were facing moderate problems followed by severe problems were faced by 44% respondents, 3% respondents faced mild problem and no one was found in the category of little or no problem.

4. Discussion

The study findings revealed that majority of the respondents (54%) had extremely poor quality of life. Maximum number of respondents (53%) were facing moderate problem while economical domain found to be the highest problematic area. A significant association was found between educational qualification and quality of life of mother as chi square was 8.28 [χ^2 df(1) = 6.63] at 0.01 level of significance. Further a statistically significant [t df(198)=3.34] negative correlation (r^2 =-0.611) was found between quality of life and problems faced by mother as 't' value was 10.83 at 0.001 level of significance.

5. Conclusion

The quality of life of the mothers with hearing and speech impaired children tended to be poor, affecting all the domains of quality of life. Also having a hearing and speech impaired child in a family gives rise to maximum economical problems followed by different psychological, physical, social, marital and other relationship problems.

6. Recommendation

The study can be replicated on larger sample and as a comparative study between mothers of physically challenged male and female child.

References

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