

A Study to Assess the Effect of Growth and Development Assessment for Early Detection of Childhood Disability

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Abstract: World health organization revealed that 5% of children under fourteen years of age have some type of moderate to severe childhood disability. In United states developmental delay occur in 16- 18 % children under eighteen years of age. In India 1.5 to 2.5 % of children under 2 years of age affected by developmental delay. The objectives of the study were 1) To assess the normal developmental milestones between 0-3 years of age. 2) To find out the developmental delay in children of 0-3 years of age. 3) To detect the developmental delay in early stage of onset and intervene appropriately. Descriptive study design used and data was collected by purposive sampling technique. Sample design was 35 children between the age group of 0-3 years, admitted in pediatric wards was selected. Data was analyzed with descriptive statistics. Findings shows, from among 35 children of different age group, only children in the age group 0-6 months, and 7-12 months had developmental delays 2.85 and 5.71 percentage respectively. This indicates that early detection by simple methods with using TDSE tools are effective and can be used by anybody who are closely related in early year of life of children, like parents, caretakers and anganwadi teachers.

Keywords: Growth, development, assessment, milestones, childhood disability

1. Introduction

Human life is greatly influenced by different developmental stages. Appropriate growth and development in developmental stages are indicator of good health. Early assessment in each stages of development helps to detect the problems in early stage and take necessary steps to overcome developmental delays. So parents, family members, and child care takers must be aware about the normal growth and development of children. Alteration in nutrition mainly affect the growth and development. Growth assessment is one of the simplest method to confirm the health and nutritional status of children. Major factors affect the Growth and developments are heredity, environment, sex, exercise, hormone, nutrition, familial influence, geographical influence, socioeconomic status, learning and reinforcement etc. Deviations in the above areas can lead to developmental delay. Developmental skills of children are spread mainly in five areas i.e. cognitive skills, social and emotional skills, special language skills, fine and motor skills and activities of daily living. Delay in cognitive realm reduces his curiosity to explore the world around him with his eyes, ears and hands. Under development in the social and emotional skills disable him to relate to other people as well as not able to express his feelings and emotions. Defect in speech and language skills leads to the inability to use and understand language, ultimately affects the communication skills. Delay in fine and gross motor development affects the motor activity. Delay in activities of daily living leads the inability to meet the basic needs such as bathing, eating etc. Early detection of developmental problems helps to intervene in its bud and save the life of children. The impairment affects not only the child and the family, but also the society, in terms of the cost of providing health care, educational support, and treatment services. Evidence supports that early treatment of developmental disorders leads to improved outcomes for

children and reduced costs to society. Studies in the US have shown only about 1/3 of children are identified prior to school entrance, and as a result, miss out on the proven long term benefits of early intervention. Nurses play a vital role in early detection of developmental delays and improve the health status. Hence the researcher thought to conduct a study to recognize the importance of early assessment and intervention of childhood disability in Ernakulum district of Kerala State.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Study to Assess the effect of Growth and development assessment for early detection of childhood disability in selected hospitals of Ernakulum District, Kerala State.

2. Methodology

2.1 Research Approach and Research Design

Descriptive Analysis was used. Study was conducted on children between 0-3 years admitted in 350 bedded hospital

2.2 Setting

The study was conducted in Inpatient department of Sanjoe hospital Perumbavoor, Ernakulam district Kerala State.

2.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

Sample comprises of 35 children between the age group of 0-3 years. Purposive sampling technique was used to select samples

2.4 Tool

2.4.1 Description of the tool

Trivandrum Developmental Screening Chart (TDSC) mainly aimed to assess the development of 0-3 years of child. Consists of twenty seven questions to assess the developmental milestone of 0-3 year's child. The questions were classified into five sections like motor (gross motor and fine motor), speech and language, cognitive and socio emotional functioning, or daily living skills.

2.4.2 Data collection process

Prior to data collection, necessary approvals from institutional heads are obtained by the investigator. Sample size of 35 were selected conveniently from Sanjoe Hospital Perumbavoor, Inpatient department. (St. Alphonsa, G & K Ward subsequently). Written consent was obtained assuring maximum anonymity and confidentiality. The investigator assessed the developmental milestone using Trivandrum Developmental Screening Chart (TDSC). The samples co-operated well throughout the study. Data were collected by Trivandrum Developmental Screening Chart (TDSC).

3. Results

Table 1: Age group 0- 6 months-1 child

Sample No.	Development	To be achieved	Achieved	Not yet
1	Social smile	2 months	5 months	
	Eyes follow pen/pencil	3 months	6 months	
	Hold head steady	3-4 months	5 months	
	Rolls from back to stomach	4-5 months	6months	
	Turns head to sound of bell/rattle	5-6 months	7 months	

Analysis of the data Table.1 shows that from among 0-6 month age group of children, (2.85%) not attained the developmental milestone in time.

Table 2: Age group 7 - 12 months (2 children)

Sample No.	Development	To be achieved	Achieved	Not yet
1.	Social smile	2 months	3months	
	Eyes follow pen/pencil	3 months	5months	
	Hold head steady	3-4 months	6months	
	Rolls from back to stomach	4-5 months	6months	
	Turns head to sound of bell/rattle	5-6 months	yes	
	Transfers objects hand to hand	7 months	8months	
	Raises self to sitting position	11 months		Not yet
	Standing up by furniture	11 months		Not yet
	Fine apprehension pellet	11 months		Not yet
	Pat a cake	12-13months		Not yet

Table (2) illustrates developmental milestones between the age group of 7-12 months. In this group developmental milestones was delayed for 5.71% of children. 1-2years, and 2-3 years groups are attained normal developmental milestones.

4. Conclusion

Conclusion drawn from the present study was that, proper implementation of Rasshtriya Bal Sawsthya Karyakram (RBSK) Programme is required for early identification of developmental delay and implementation of appropriate remedial measures. Simple screening tool like TDSC could be helpful for parents, childcare takers and anganwadi teachers. But health professionals need to be trained for advanced screening methods. No child should be left without assessment in time for developmental delays and subsequent problems.

References

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