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CHALLENGES IN FITTING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HEARING AIDS IN LMIC

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Persons with hearing loss in LMI countries have the same hearing and linguistic needs than those living in more developed countries. Usually, people living in LMIC have less opportunity to develop auditory and language skills with a level sufficient to allow them to reach college academic level or a self-sustainable job. This can be attributed, among other factors to: lack of knowledge about hearing loss both at professional and community levels; few professionals trained in the field of education of people with hearing impairment and in audiology; centralization of audiological services in few cities; nonexistent neonatal screening programs; insufficient programs for diagnosis and early intervention. One of the most important factors is the arduous access to hearing aids, especially to those with high technology. Some challenges must be overcome when high technology is introduced in LMIC, such as: insufficient training in regards to the indication, programming, maintenance and repair. It is essential to provide proper orientation to educators, doctors and parents in order to take advantage of the benefits this technology offers.

Abstract-188, Theme-9

INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS – A SURVEY ON PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS' ATTITUDE

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Purpose of the study: Inclusion of children with hearing loss in mainstream settings is increasingly implemented over the past two decades. Teaching children with hearing loss can be challenging for mainstream educators, which hinders them to accept and implement the policies for inclusion effectively. If knowledge and skills on teaching strategies for children with special needs are provided at the grass root level i.e., at the teacher education programme itself, it will bring out great changes in the field of special education. Hence, this study focuses on the attitude of pre-service teachers towards inclusion, their knowledge and skills related to the education of children with hearing loss and their willingness to learn sign language, specific accommodations and strategies for inclusion.

Methods used: A questionnaire was developed to measure the pre-service teachers at Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India, on three domains – 1. attitude towards inclusion of children with hearing loss, 2. knowledge and skills on effective strategies for meeting the needs of children with hearing loss, and 3. willingness to learn sign language and inclusion strategies.

Summary of results: The results indicate that the pre-service teachers have insufficient knowledge and skills in teaching children with hearing loss effectively. But the higher scores on domain 1 and 3 indicate that they show positive attitude towards inclusion and to learn sign language and teaching strategies for the education of children with hearing loss.

Conclusions: The study indicates a need for promotion of sign language and exposure on the unique requirements of children with hearing loss for successful inclusion.

Day 3: 14th Feb, 2015

Venue: Hall B

Time: 4:00-5.30 pm

Theme X : Miscellaneous
 Chairperson : Dr. Damayanti Soetjipto
 Co-chairperson : Dr. Saurabh Varshney
 Rapporteurs : Dr. Ritesh Bansal, Dr. Madhan Kumar

No.	Title of abstract	Presenter	Abstract No.
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2.	Development of the Stria Vascularis in Miniature Pigs	Yan Zhang	122
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9.	Noise Pollution Reality – Whole Body Vibrations and its impact	Dr. Kalyani N. Mandke	187

Purpose of study: Hearing impairment is common throughout the world. WHO estimates that there are 360 million persons worldwide with disabling hearing loss. Two-thirds live in the developing countries today. 32 (9%) million of these are children and it is estimated that 50% of all deafness and hearing impairment is preventable. It is important that parents should have knowledge on common ear problems and their treatment in children. There are very few studies available to assess the knowledge and practices of parents regarding ear problems in children. This study has been conducted to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practice of parents regarding common ear problems and ear care in their children.

Methods: This was a descriptive hospital based cross sectional study. A predesigned, pretested, and semi-structured questionnaire was used to interview 200 participants at Maharishi Valmiki Hospital, North West Delhi, from 1st - 30th Nov 2014. Individuals were selected by systemic random sampling and were asked questions to assess knowledge, attitude and practices with regard to common ear problems and ear care of children.

Summary of Results: Out of 200 participants 60 (30%) were male. According to participants, the most common problems found in children were mostly ear discharge (82.0%), ear wax (80.0%), foreign body (75.0%), deafness (67.0%) etc. Out of 54% participants' children who suffered from ear problem in the last one year, 24.1% didn't seek any consultation. 31% didn't know that a child can be born deaf. According to 47% participants, deaf children can learn to speak without any treatment.

Conclusion: The study indicates that parents have very little knowledge regarding ear problems in children. So it is important to create awareness among parents about ear problems and ear care for children so that we can prevent deafness by early screening and good hygiene.

Abstract - 161, Theme - 10

NEED OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION TO THE CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

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Purpose: Language exemption favoring the children with hearing loss to take only one language as part of their curriculum, blocks many the exposure in English language which in turn affects their higher education and career. English language education has both academic and social benefits for children/people with hearing loss.. Although the importance of learning English language among hearing community has been widely researched, there is less evidence on the importance of learning English language by the people with hearing loss. This study was undertaken in Coimbatore district of Tamilnadu state in India, to understand the need of English language education to the children with hearing loss and their ability to learn it.

Method: An interview schedule was prepared to elicit the responses related to the need of English language education to the children with hearing loss and in continuation to that an experimental study was conducted to 32 students between the age group 7-10, to assess their ability to learn a second language.

Summary: The results indicate the difficulties faced by children/people with hearing loss due to lack of knowledge in English and the need of it. It is also found that nearly 70% of the children were able to learn a second language effectively.

Conclusion: The study concludes that there is a need for consideration by the educationists and administrators to give adequate and equal educational opportunities and experience for children with hearing loss in English language, as this will pave the way for their all round development.

Abstract-187, Theme-10

NOISE POLLUTION REALITY – WHOLE BODY VIBRATIONS AND ITS IMPACT

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Noise Pollution Rules have been enacted in the year 2000 in India, but successful implementations of the rules have been far from the reality.

There has been enough discussion about Noise Pollution. There are people who want to abide by rules and provide quality of life to all. And there are others who have single motto, "Its My Choice to play the music at whatever level I want". The war is between them and us.

People forget that one cannot confine the noise levels to a certain area. Noise travels in all directions, and hearing is also not a voluntary act. We cannot stop hearing at any time of the day. Our process of hearing is active for 24x7. Whether individual likes it or not, one needs to hear all kinds of sounds because it's around us. Naturally the auditory system experiences fatigue. There are many known ill effects of it, such as insomnia, irritability, lack of concentration, poor attention span.

Noise levels at festival time always cross the prescribed limits, and authorities have failed to curb the noise levels. During festival times many traditional instruments are played for hours together. These traditional instruments generate whole body vibrations with frequencies under 50 Hz. These vibrations are injurious to health. This paper would like to create awareness about whole body vibrations and its impact on the body other than high frequency hearing loss.