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# Golden Research Thoughts

**GRT**

## “A SURVEY OF PARENT SKILLS IN THE USE OF INDIVIDUAL HEARING AIDS”



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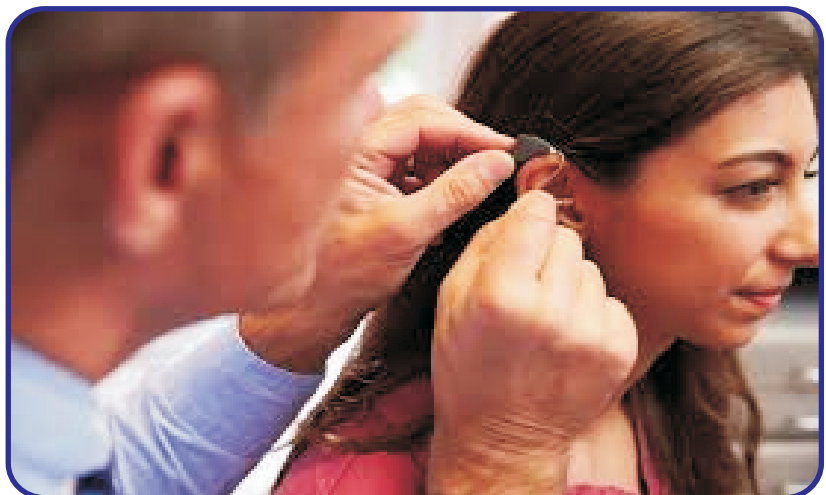
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### ABSTRACT

Parents are the most important people in the life of the non-disabled child as also that of the children with disability. The habilitation and/or rehabilitation of the disabled child should, in fact, start from the family. So the purpose of this study was to assess the parents skills in the use of individual hearing aids. Total 9 special schools for the hearing impaired were selected randomly in the Mumbai. The method of study is survey method. Sample of 80 parents i.e. 40 parents of the CWHI attending pre-school & 40 parents of CWHI attending pre-primary school. Body level hearing aids and behind the ear hearing aids were taken for the study. For assessing the skill of the patents, observation technique was undertaken. Data was collected by observation technique was used. Data was analyzed using ‘t’ test. The results showed that the parents of CWHI attending pre-school & parents of CWHI attending pre-

primary school there was difference in skills in the use of individual hearing aids. It shows that the parents of CWHI attending pre-primary schools are more skilful than the parents of CWHI attending pre-school in use of individual hearing aids.

**KEYWORDS** :Parent Skills , Individual Hearing Aids, psychological growth .



### INTRODUCTION:

The creator of the world great God has awarded us five fingers to make the strength of a fist. Likewise he has awarded us a boon of having five vital senses (vision, hearing, tactile, smell and taste) to have an adequate awareness about the surroundings and to strengthen our physical and psychological growth and behavior. However, none of our sense function in absolute isolation from the other, they work in congruence with each other. All senses contribute in providing a meaning for experience in life, but hearing and vision, the two distance senses are the most important, hearing being more complex of the two.

Hearing or audition refers to the ability to detect sound. It serves to connect the individual with physical environment beyond the confines of his or her own body. In any individual, integrative senses are extremely useful for him to get his ‘colorful picture’. Therefore, if there is missing in any of the senses, then information or picture turns out to be incomplete. Hearing impairment from birth or acquired during early childhood imposes a great deal of hardship and handicap for the individual in learning as a result slowly he becomes withdrawn from society. It also imposes burden on the sufferer’s family and on the society. Besides interfering with a normal speech, the problem of impaired hearing are numerous, varied and multidimensional. Impairment of sound even of a mild degree is a major loss and can not only destroy the very essence and fabric of the personality, but also affects language development and the academic progress of the sufferer. The normal hearing child being spoken in the house and with situational clues understands what is spoken over a period of time. Then he gradually acquires language and start speaking. In case of a hearing impaired child, the child does not hear all that is being spoken in the house therefore he does not understand anything that is spoken and he does not acquire language on his own.

It is important in the case of hearing impaired child that he/she should be a child fitted with suitable hearing aids and must be spoken elaborately about every home activity. Language is the code through which the process of education is effectively carried out by the teacher. However, the parents are the first teachers who stimulate the child to speak. Thus, language is the major vehicle of education which requires the reception and interpretation of information and for this audition serves as a primary avenue. Through ears we gather information, which enriches our thoughts there by making us knowledgeable. This in the long run adds to our personality. But this is not the case with hearing impaired children, where the most important sense organ i.e. the ears are affected.

Parents play an important role in the development of their children and in case of children with disabilities the parent’s plays the key role. Parents of children with hearing impairment play an important role in providing physical, moral and emotional support which helps the children to cope in all walks of their life. Teachers working in the field of education and rehabilitation of hearing impaired routinely deliver treatment using parents transferring skills to equip them to overcome communication problems at home.

Hearing aid is an electronic device whose function is to amplify sound to an extent and in a manner that allows the user to make the best possible use of his residual hearing. The parents have to take up the responsibility of ensuring that the hearing aid is well maintained and that the child is slowly taught to become responsible for caring for the hearing aid to the extent possible. The parents must be well aware of the functioning of the hearing aid and how to identify problems. They should also be able to perform a listening check on the hearing aid to ensure that it is working satisfactorily. The care and maintenance of the different parts of the hearing aids must be undertaken by the parents on a daily basis. Thus, it is very important to emphasize to the parents the importance of daily monitoring, just because the aid is on the child does not mean that the aid is working.

The parents too should have a skill i.e. the expertness and the tactfulness in the effective utilization of the hearing aid, most crucial input in the field of rehabilitation of the Children with Hearing Impairment (CWHI).

## **NEED FOR THE STUDY**

This study will be one of the pilot efforts to high light the important role played by parents in the overall rehabilitation of CWHI. The study will also collectively help the parents and special educators in planning effective habilitations program for the CWHI attending pre-school and primary school.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- 1.To assess the skills of parents of the children with hearing impairment in the use of individual hearing aids attending pre-school.
- 2.To assess the skills of parents of the children with hearing impairment in the use of individual hearing aids attending pre-primary school.

**HYPOTHESES**

- 1)H0-There will be no significant difference in the skills of parents of the children with hearing impairment attending pre-school and pre-primary school in the use of individual hearing aids.
- 2)H1-There will be a significant difference in the skills of parents of the children with hearing impairment attending pre-school and pre-primary school in the use of individual hearing aids.

**METHODOLOGY**

The present design of this study is survey type. Total 9 Hindi Medium Special Schools for the children with hearing impairment were selected randomly to collect the sample for the study. All the special schools selected were situated in Mumbai. Sample of 80 parents i.e. 40 parent of the CWHI attending pre-school & 40 parents of children attending pre-primary school were selected from these special schools situated in Mumbai city. Data analyses were done by using ‘t’ test.

Observation technique was used to assess the skills of parents. Observation is a method in which the information is sought by way of investigators’ as own direct observation without asking from the respondent. A checklist of main 4 items covering minor repairs of individual hearing aid was prepared to assess the skill of the parent through the method of observation.

- a)Digital Multimeter was used by the researcher to assess the skill of the parents as and when required.
- b)The researcher gave the defective hearing aid to the parents for assessing their skills in minor repairs.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Table: 1**  
**Skills of 40 parents of CWHI attending pre-school & 40 parents of CWHI attending pre-primary schools about the use of individual hearing aids**

Skills Score	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t value	df	P Significant (2-tailed)	Significant Level
Pre-school	40	12.78	1.561	-8.356	65.065	.000	Significant
Pre-primary school	40	15.20	.966				

The mean score obtained for skills of parents of CWHI attending pre-school about individual hearing aids is 12.78 and for parents of the CWHI attending pre-primary school is 15.20 respectively. Similarly the corresponding standard deviation of skills for parents of CWHI attending pre-school is 1.561 and parents of CWHI attending pre-primary school is .966. In order to find out whether this

observable difference in mean and standard deviation of skills of parents in the use of individual hearing aids is significant or not ‘t’ test (Independent Samples Test) was administered. The obtained value of ‘t’ is -8.356. The corresponding ‘p’ value with degree of freedom (df) 65.065 is .000 (2-tailed). Since this ‘p’ value is more than the significant value of 0.05 which suggest that the obtained ‘t’ value is statistically significant.

Hence the alternate Hypothesis No.1 formulated by the present researcher, “ There will be significant difference in the skills of parents of the children with hearing impairment about the use of individual hearing aids attending pre-school and pre-primary school” is accepted. This hypothesis thus proves the fact that skill of parents of CWHI attending pre-school & pre-primary school in the use of individual hearing aids is differ i.e. the parents of CWHI attending pre-primeary schools are more skilful than the parents of CWHI attending pre-school in use of individual hearing aids.

Thus there is a significant difference in skills of parents of CWHI attending pre-school & pre-primary school in the use of individual hearing aids.

#### **SUGGESTION FOR PARENTS:**

- Parents must see to it that their child’s hearing aid is functioning properly by undertaking a daily listening and visual check.
- Parents must be able to take proper care and maintenance of their child’s hearing aids.
- Parents must listen & follow the teachers advice on care and maintenance of their child’s hearing aids.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

If parents follow the above suggestions, it will improve the functioning of Body level hearing aids and BTE of children attending special schools. This will increase opportunities of children with hearing impairment to learn language more smoothly this in turn will help the children with hearing impairment to develop and fabricate their personality as a whole and become an active member of the mainstream society.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The authors gratefully acknowledges to several Academicians, Organizations, Publishers and Eminent Administrators/ Scholars (known and aknown at National & International level), whose useful input/ research materials have been included in this article.

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