

EFFICACY OF HIGH-TECH AAC (AVAZ) ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES – A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY IN NORTHERN INDIA



Diya Nair¹, Aarti Nair²

¹Latika Roy Foundation, Dehradun, India

²PhD Scholar, NIMS College of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, Jaipur, India

INTRODUCTION:

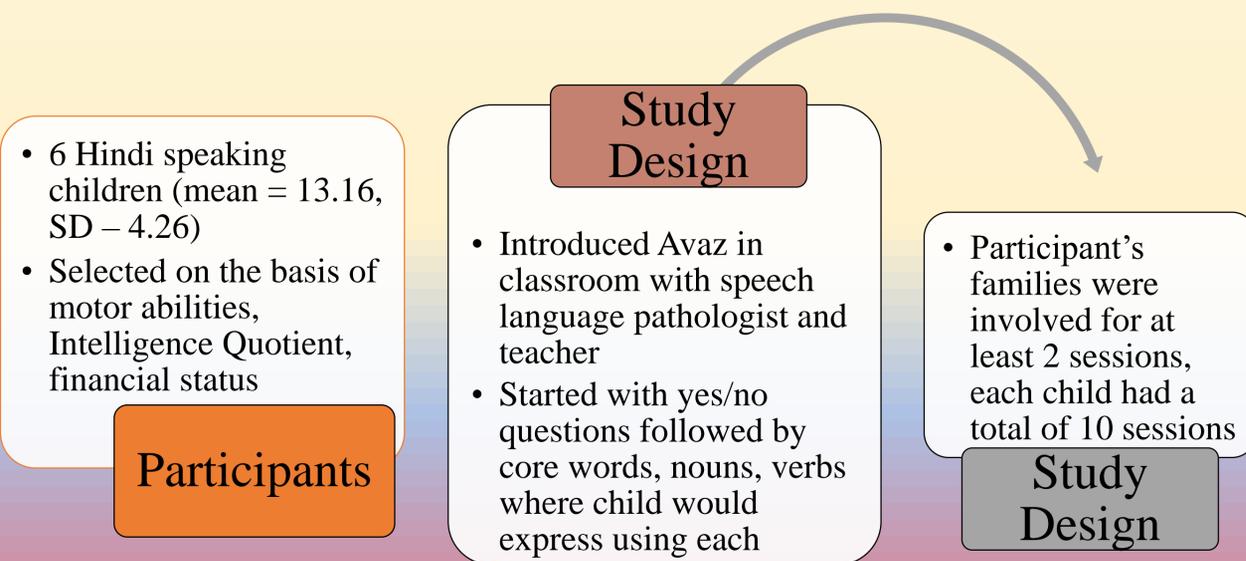
- Various disabilities show that a deficit in communication skills is one of the core symptoms.
- Furthermore, Covid-19 may have been a boon for some families but under the umbrella for children with special needs it has been a testing period for families and children alike.
- With intervention services moving predominantly to a virtual mode, the introduction of High technology AAC has proved to be a godsend for several families considering the exposure to smartphones, tablets and laptops over the past year and a half.
- Current study aims to check the effectiveness of Avaz application (a picture-based learning and communication tool) for children with ranging disabilities from 8-18 years of age

RESULTS:

- A. 2 participants have Autism and the other 4 had Cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome (2 each)
- B. Close ended questions were asked to elicit appropriate responses
- C. An improvement in social and communication skills was seen (Table 1)

Avaz area taught	Number of participants	Number of questions asked	% Correct responses
Yes/No questions	6/6	10	100% (10/10)
Core words	6/6	10	90% (9/10)
Nouns	6/6	10	80% (8/10)
Verbs	6/6	10	80% (8/10)
Pronouns	6/6	5	40% (2/5)

METHOD



CONCLUSION:

- Given the virtual mode may linger, Avaz application can certainly be a recommended mode of intervention for several children over a wide age range with different disabilities and/or impairments.
- The apps' abilities to improve an individual's social and communication adeptness along with it being an educational tool aids in an all-inclusive therapy setup.
- With this study, a preliminary framework can be developed for individual's having varying special needs using High-tech AAC