

Effectiveness of online guided intervention program based on parent feedback during covid 19 for children with communication disorders

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Introduction

The covid 19 pandemic lead to standstill of therapy sessions and there was acute need felt to sustain the continuum of care for children with neurodevelopment disorders (NDD).

There was a shift to online mode of delivering interventions which was parent mediated under professional guidance

Objective

Parent perception of effectiveness of online interventions given to a set of children with communication delays and disorders.

The response was evaluated through parental feedback at the end of 6-12 weeks.

Methodology

Study Design: Retrospective, quasiexperimental study



- A subset of 10 children was selected who were diagnosed with communication disorders and delay (4 children with autism spectrum disorder, 5 with social communication disorder & one with language delay).
- After initial functional evaluation, an individualised plan was made.
- The parents were guided as how to execute the plan with child & in turn share videos and call the team for any difficulties encountered.
- A separate what's app group of each family along with professionals including a development paediatrician, occupational therapist, language therapist and special educator was created for exchange of information which was monitored on a daily basis.
- At the end of 6-12 weeks parents shared their responses through a feedback form and gave a score from 0-10
 - Very good response (>7 score)
 - good respnse 5-7 score
 - fair response 2-4 score
 - no response <2 score



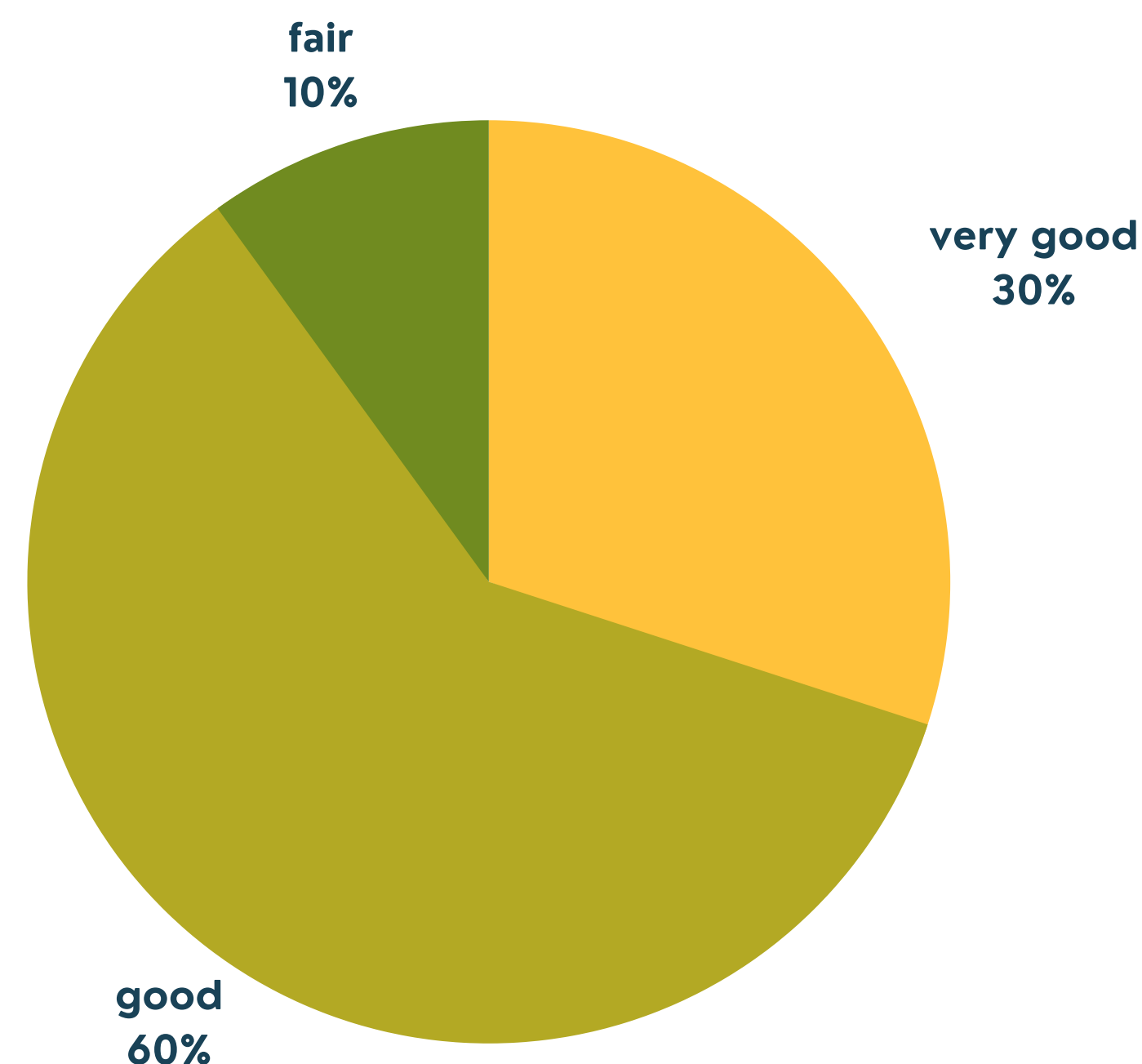
Results

Parental response (n=10) was reported as:

- very good- 3 families
- good - 6 families
- fair- 1 family

None of the parent marked as no resposne.

Parents main area of challenges was to deliver plan involving speech sounds and in children with extreme behaviour issues.



Conclusion

Hands on therapies with children with neurodevelopment disorders has been a traditional practice & backed by ample research. But during covid times with limited resources, online mode of interventions with emphasis on higher parental involvement and training did make a difference.

This study had a small sample size but similar design can be implemented on a larger scale.

The impact of online interventions can be explored as a huge arena for treatment delivery in limited resource setting.

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