

SURVEY ON CONDITION OF HEARING AIDS WORN BY HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Mohd Norman Zakaria

This study was carried out to determine the condition of hearing aids worn by 50 hearing impaired children in 2 special schools for the Deaf. A total of 68 hearing aids were checked using visual, auditory and electroacoustic examination. Visual inspection was done to examine the physical parts of the hearing aids, in order to find any obvious problem. Auditory inspection was carried out to determine the sound quality produced by hearing aids, subjectively. Electroacoustic analysis was done to evaluate the performance of the hearing aids, objectively. All subjects were using behind-the-ear hearing aids. 90% of the subjects wore hearing aids at the time of inspection. 75% of the aids examined were having problems, such as battery problem (35%), earmould problem (75%), feedback problem (10%), tone hook problem (10%), unusual sound quality (10%), and aids which were not switched on during the test (6%). The finding of this study revealed low percentage of hearing aids which were in good condition and need to be enhanced. This could be achieved by the establishment of good cooperation among professionals, parents and teachers in the hearing aid monitoring program.

Zakaria, M. N. 1999. Survey on Condition of Hearing Aids Worn by Hearing Impaired Children in Special Schools. Bachelor of Audiology Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.