

A PROFILE OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS AT AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH SCIENCE CLINIC, UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

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This study focuses on speech and language disorder cases that were referred to the Audiology and Speech Sciences Clinic (ASSC), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. This study was conducted by collecting data and information from patient files that were registered at ASSC between January 2000 and December 2006. The main purpose of this study was to create a profile of speech and language disorders at ASSC that were referred to speech language pathologists (SLP) at ASSC. The study revealed that 611 out of 2613 files are patients with speech and language disorders. 71% of this client group were males. Children between ages four years to four years 11 months were most likely to be referred to the SLP. The main type of speech and language disorders at ASSC are language disorders (54.7%). The other disorders are speech disorders (9.7%), hearing impairment (11.8%), fluency disorders (4.9%), voice disorders (6.7%), dysphagia (0.3%) and unrecorded diagnosis information in file (10.6%). The main source of referral to the SLPs at ASSC are the audiologists (17.3%). The other sources of referrals are the pediatricians (13.1%), consultants of ear, nose & throat(ENT) (11%), parent/self-referrals (10.1%), self-referrals (2.9%), other SLPs (12.3%), medical officers (8.2%), teachers (4.6%), psychiatrists (2.8%), psychologists (1.8%), non-governmental organizations (0.7%), neurologists (0.7%), plastic surgeon (0.8%), physiotherapists (0.8%), occupational therapists (0.2%), not recorded (11%) and other (1.8%). The referral pattern of new cases at ASSC is fairly constant between January 2000 and December 2006. In conclusion, there are 6 main speech and language disorder areas among children, teenagers and adults that were referred to SLPs at ASSC.

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