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Prithvi N

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Assessment of Attitudes among Public towards Stuttering in a Coastal City of Southern Karnataka

Authors:

Ms Prithvi.N

1. Ms Aiswarya Varghese
2. Kenneth . O. St Louis

ABSTRACT

Purpose:

People who stutter often experience negative judgments and reaction from the non-stuttering majority because of their stuttering. Lack of knowledge among general public could lead to the formation of the stereotypes about stuttering. Creating an uncomfortable situation would aggravate the frequency and severity of stuttering. This research examined public's attitude regarding stuttering in Mangalore City, Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state. It aimed at assessing the knowledge and awareness regarding the same.

Methods and Procedure:

POSHA-S questionnaire was distributed to 386 participants in Mangalore city of Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state which assessed attitudes and beliefs regarding stuttering.

Results: The means and percentile scores were measured, and the low percentiles strongly reflected the means, implying that participants had more negative views than the average, as shown by earlier POSHA-S studies conducted around the world. Scores were less than the average for most of the questions related to attitude and beliefs regarding stuttering.

Conclusion:

Studies exposed negative stereotypes and attitudes of the population of Mangalore city, Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state. Results obtained from the study will serve as baseline for creating awareness and improving the knowledge of the public regarding stuttering. Having appropriate and accurate knowledge about stuttering will lead them to create comfortable and conducive environment for people who stutter thereby improving their overall speech out.

Key words: Mangalore City, Public, Stuttering.