

# Normalization of Scale of Early Communication Skills for the Hearing Impaired on Indian Population

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Language is frequently viewed in terms of receptive and expressive abilities for the purpose of research, diagnosis and clinical educational teaching.

Indigenous language tests are scarce in India. Consequently wherever possible western tests are used, preferably with norms on Indian population. In this study an attempt has been made to obtain norms on scales of early communication skills for the hearing impaired, a language scale specifically meant for assessment of the communication abilities of hearing impaired children.

Language tests are also formulated on similar lines. A language test standardized on a particular group of children i.e., from a specific geographic area, belonging to a particular socioeconomic group and speaking one language cannot be used on children from another population.

The sample though small, is adequate enough to be used in the clinical setting and the data for the benefit of cases in clinical use have been converted into percentile ranks. Major observations made on the normative data are :-

- i. The expressive skills were found to be better than the receptive skills.
- ii. The response in structured situation was better than that obtained in the natural one.
- iii. The nonverbal scores were better than the verbal scores.

These findings shed light on the fact that the teaching programmes used in India required to be modified further. Along with the use of modifications of hearing aids, drill on speech, drill on expression and therapy directed towards daily language use are also equally important.

A limitation of this data is that the sample size is small (N = 76). It is hence necessary that normative data be obtained on large samples.