

# Assessment of Children's Speech by Parents\*

SUMA R,

The study was designed to find out, if the parents of hard of hearing children and normal children are able to assess their children's speech, using the questionnaire method.

To begin with, questions were given to 66 parents of normal children. Based on the responses obtained from the parents, the questions were modified. The revised set of questions were given to 40 parents of normal children and 15 parents of hard of hearing children.

The questionnaires were distributed to parents through the Speech and Hearing professionals. As the questions were given to the parents, child's speech was examined by the Speech and Language pathologists.

A descriptive analysis of the data was done.

On examination of the parents' responses the following conclusions seem warranted :

- 1 It is feasible to collect information from parents, about their children's speech development through the questionnaire method.
- 2 It is possible for the professionals to know the child's level of speech

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based on the information given by parents.

- 3 Based on the parents' responses it was possible to differentiate the speech of hard of hearing children and normal children.

## Recommendations for Future Research

- (1) The questions can be administered on larger normal population to different age groups representing different linguistic background.
- (2) The questionnaire can be administered on other speech disordered children. *Eg.* : MR. CP, BD, **etc.**
- (3) Similar questions in other Indian languages can be constructed and used.
- (4) The present questions to be modified and made more specific to the language.
- (5) The grammatical categories and **other** structures to be dealt in greater detail.
- (6) A cassette version of the questionnaire can be made and the difference in responses for the recorded **and the** questionnaire version can be found out.