

Demographic Profile of Children with Speech Sound Disorder: A Sample of University Clinic

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Abstract

Purpose: Recent study aims to describe the demographic characteristics of children who have speech sound disorders (SSD) and to determine any possible differences between preschool and school-aged children in terms of their speech sound production characteristics.

Method: This study is a descriptive, retrospective study. Case files of the SLP clinic's achieve in a University were scanned and used for the aim of this study. The sample was collected from 140 files of children whose age were between 2;00-8;11 who had speech sound disorders. Their demographic characteristics, familial history were examined and the percentage of correct consonants (PCC) was calculated.

Results: According to the demographic characteristic's results, SSD caseload is different between sexes. Majority of the files belonged to the boys (69.3%); girls created only 30.7% of the SSD caseload. More than half of the participants (55%) have family history in terms of speech and language problems. Fathers have the highest rate (15.4%) in familial history of speech and/or language problems. The rate of SSD in these problems is 19.3%. Most of the children produced their first words after the age of 1;1. About speech sounds production, results shows that children's PCC scores change between 23.33 and 97.11. Lastly, 47.8% of them have shown inaccurate vowel productions.

Conclusion: Being a boy, having a family history of speech and language problems, having a delayed speech-language history and having inaccurate vowel production can be characteristics of children who have SSD. In clinical implication, if a child has these features and shows any sign of speech problems then clinicians must be careful for SSD and should evaluate the child accordingly to implement a better diagnosis process.

Keywords: speech sound disorders, demographic characteristics, family history, speech sounds production

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Note: SSD is a common disorder that logopedists/speech language therapists (SLP) may confront in their clinical settings. Studies on SSD and its characteristics have an important role in evaluation and diagnosis processes. If recent international congress gives an opportunity to these kind of researches then many SLP from different parts of world can share their experiences and may help each other in clinical settings.