

To Assess the Social Maturity Level among Congenital Heart Defect Children

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Abstract

In India about 27 million children are born each year, But nearly 2 million of them do not live to the age of 5. Due to increase of medical surgical treatment there is decrease in mortality rate but increase psychosocial problem in pediatrics. It is estimated that 125,000 children are born every year with congenital heart disease. Children in today's society seem to be much more pampered and less responsible than they were a few decades ago. They also seemed to have lost much of the value system that most of us took for granted while growing up. The children is found to be embraced the entrance into the fascinating cultural and social that set them apart from adults. Social maturity has to do with how well people understand the nature of the social world they live within. Social maturity is what enables us to function as healthy adults. Children are by definition, socially immature, and nobody wants them to stay the same way as they grow into adults. In fact, a great deal of difficulty is involved in helping children finds their way to become mature adults. It includes the development of social skills, psychomotor skills, self care skills, social development. Any types of diseases can interfere with these skills with over pampering and over cautiousness.

To assess the Social Maturity Level among Congenital Heart Defect Children .This study on social maturity will help the researcher to find out the levels of social maturity among the congenital heart defect children. This will enable the parents, teachers to deal effectively with their children and help them to become mature adult.

The study follows the descriptive research design with sampling technique of convenient sampling technique. The sample size selected was 50 cardiac paediatric patients.

The study reveals very superior social maturity level among Congenital Heart Diseased Children.

The preliminary study about social maturity level among congenital heart defect shows very superior social maturity level among children. This particularly emphasize on multidimensional assessment and treatment at earlier stage

Keywords: Congenital Heart Disease, Social maturity, Pediatric, Cognitive Retraining

Introduction:

Congenital heart defect (CHD) or congenital heart anomaly is a defect in the structure of the heart and great vessels which is present at birth. Congenital heart disease is a general term for a range of birth defects that affect the normal workings of the heart. The term "congenital" means the condition is present at birth. Congenital heart disease is one of the most common types of birth defect, affecting up to 9 in every 1,000 babies born in the India. Congenital heart defects are problems with the heart's structure that are present at birth. These defects can involve; Interior walls of the heart, the valves inside the heart, the arteries & veins that carry blood to the heart or the body. Many school survivors of infant cardiac surgeries require Neuropsychological rehabilitation services. Early screening , evaluation diagnosis in CHD population and early rehabilitation viz., neuropsychological rehabilitation as follow up procedure post operatively consequently result in improvement in neuropsychological outcomes in high risk population. Social maturity is the ability to function in an appropriate responsible manner and understanding of the social rules and norms in place in a given culture and the ability to use that knowledge effectively. Self-care skill, healthy social interactions and an appreciation for others feelings are some indicators of social maturity in certain age groups.

Each child grows and develops at his or her own rate. Children display developmental landmarks at different times. The school-age years (age 3 through 6) bring new and exciting challenges and rewards for children. Using the initiative they established as preschoolers, the primary job of the school-age child is to develop a sense of personal competence. They experience slow, steady physical growth and rapid cognitive and social development. The child grows from egocentrism in early child hood to more mature thinking. This maturity supports the ability to solve problem and make reasonably independent decisions. Learning and experience plays increasingly dominant role in development and as the child grows older, it can be directed into channels that will lead to good adjustment. This means that children establish a sense of self or self-concept based on their abilities. This self-concept is influenced by how easily they learn new skills. The optimal development of children is considered vital to society and so it is important to understand the social, cognitive, emotional, and educational development of children.

Aim of the Study: To assess the Social Maturity Level among Congenital Heart Defect Children

Objectivity of the Study: To find out the levels of social maturity among the congenital heart defect children.

Procedure:

Children and parents were educated about the nature and procedure of the study. The children were enrolled in the study after obtaining parental consent. The tools were used to collect data .The collected data are tabulated and the interpretation was made. This study is an attempt in direction to prove the importance of Psycho social rehabilitation among children with chronic illness like congenital heart disease .where medical and surgical procedure cures the disease but Psycho social rehabilitation works to prevent further disorder hence providing a meaning to the life they live with better and fulfilled quality of life.

Research methodology

The population, sample and sampling

The population of this research is children with congenital heart disease of age group 3to 6 in MMM hospital Chennai. For sampling the sample size was selected by convenient sampling.

Research tools:

The instrument used in this study is

Section A: Socio demographic profile which include age, gender, , place of residence, ordinal position of child in the family, number of siblings, religion, education of parents, occupation, type of family, family monthly income, score, social age, social quotient.

Section B: Vineland Social Maturity Scale Indian Adaptation among CHD 3-6 years

Description of the tool:

The Vineland Social Maturity Scale- Indian Adaptation by Dr. J. Bharth raj is a non-projective personality measure designed to help in the assessment of social competence. It was developed by the American Psychologist, Edgar Arnold Doll in 1986 later adapted by Dr. J. Bharth raj for Indian Children. The Vineland Social maturity Scale measure social competence, self – help skills, from infancy to adulthood. It is used in planning for therapy and individualized instruction for persons with mental and social retardation. The Vineland scale, which can be used from birth up to the age of 15, consists of a 89 item interview with a parent or other primary care giver. Social skills are evaluated in the following areas: daily living skills (general self- help, eating, and dressing); communication (listening, speaking. writing); motor skills (fine and gross, including locomotion); socialization (interpersonal relationships, play and leisure, and coping skills); occupational skills; self-direction. The test is untimed and takes 20-30 minutes. Raw scores are converted to an age equivalent score (expressed as social age) and a social quotient.

The Analysis of Data

The data thus collected following the above design and procedure was interrupted SPSS.

Research Findings

Table 1: Demographic profile Of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Age of respondents (Years)		
3	15	30
4	12	24
5	14	28
6	9	18
Gender of the respondents		
Male	27	54
Female	23	46
Economic status		
Poor Class	32	64
Middle class	14	28
High class	4	8
Religious background		
Hindu	37	74
Muslim	5	10
Christian	8	16
Family background		
Joint family	9	18
Nuclear Family	41	82

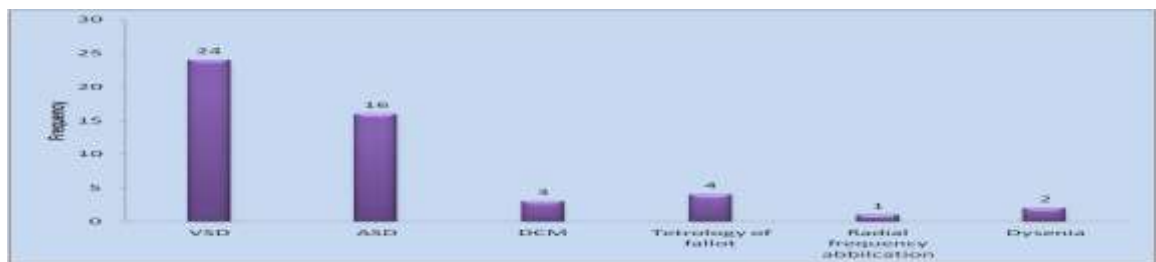
Interpretation:

The above table (Table 1) revealed the demographic profile of the respondents. More than half of the respondents were male and rest of them were female. Thirty percent of the respondents were 3 year old .

with regards to the religious background most of them (74%) were Hindus and followed by Christian(16%). A large majority (82%) of the respondents were belongs to nuclear family and a sizable proportion (70%) of the respondents were belongs to poor economic background, rests of them were in middle economic group.

Table 2: Medical history of the respondents

SI No	Condition	Frequency	Percentage
1	VSD(Ventricular septal Defect)	24	48
2	ASD (Atrial Septal Defect)	16	32
3	DCM (dilated cardiomyopathy)	3	6
4	Tetrology of fallot	4	8
5	Radial frequency abblcation	1	2
6	Dysenia	2	4

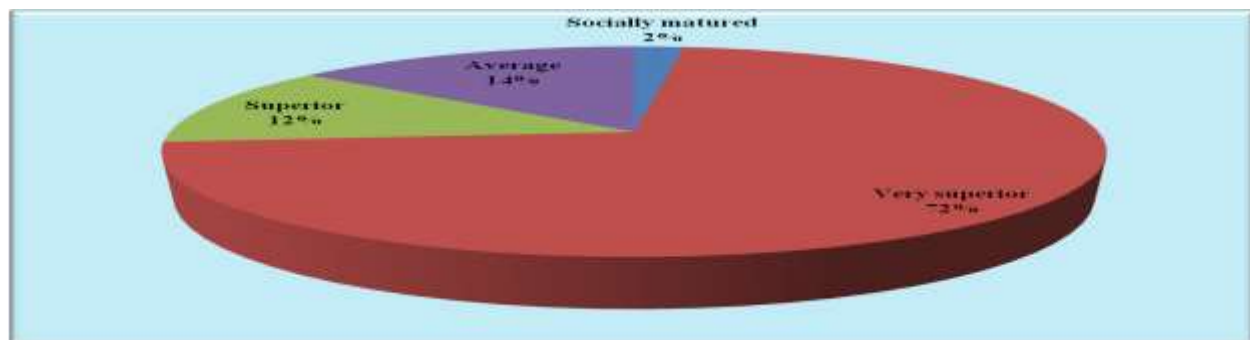


Interpretation:

The table no 2 revealed the medical history of the respondents. Nearly half of the respondents had ventricular septal defect (VSD) problem and followed by atrial septal defect(ASD) 32%.

Table 3:Distribution of Maturity Level

Social Maturity level	Total
Socially matured	1 (2%)
Very superior	35 (72%)
Superior	6 (12%)
Average	7 (14%)
Total	50 (100%)



Interpretation: Table 3 shows the distribution of social maturity level among pediatric congenital heart defect children. The table reveals that 2% showed socially matured 72% of respondents showed very superior social maturity level. 12% showed superior social maturity level followed by 14% showed average social maturity level therefore the table reveals 72%. That is majority of the respondents fall under very superior category of social maturity.

Discussion

The results reveal the importance of psycho social rehabilitation among children suffering from chronic disease. The society now days expect children to be socially matured to transform into independent child. The care givers of such chronic illness children pamper them a lot when compared to a normal child of that age due to illness. This over caring may lead to dependent characterization of child finally resulting in immaturity to face the society. Later leading to all sort of personality disorders. So the psycho social rehabilitation can help the child into matured individuals.

Conclusion:

The preliminary study about social maturity level among congenital heart defect shows very superior social maturity level among children. This makes them to similar to normal child of the same age. This particularly emphasize on multidimensional assessment and treatment at earlier stage. This early intervention will help children to be socially matured.

Practical suggestions:

The results have shown that Psychosocial rehabilitation can be included in treatment plan for the children affected with Congenital Heart Disease . The treatment planning should be multi dimensional including both medical and rehabilitation treatment .The rehabilitation treatment followed up after clinical treatment should be initiated and made compulsory Awareness regarding behavior problems associated with behavior problems should be educated to both parents and child.Coping skills training program should be initiated Proper information should be given to the school management for regular and careful guidance.

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