

Editor's note



Welcome to the September 2006 edition of Iranian Rehabilitation Journal . This edition is devoted entirely to articles on speech and language disorder, that are prepared by the university lecturers of this field .

Speech and language disorders affect one's ability to use speech to communicate effectively . When the form of speech is more noticeable than its content or the content is somehow distorted, then probably some kind of speech and / or language disorder exist. There are different speech and language disorders which might be observed among both children and adults such as stuttering, articulatory problems speech and language disorders, learning impairment and disabilities , mental retardation , autism and cerebrovascular disorders . Any form of sensory or motor disorders may lead to some type of speech and language problems and may have an impact on individual mental health and family relationship . Early intervention by speech and language therapist can prevent the development of the problem through proper diagnosis and therapeutic approach .

Regarding the number of persons with speech and language disorders , it can be referred to a survey that was conducted in 1993 by the University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation

Sciences this survey was held using systemic clusters sampling which 59678 people had been selected and assessed and the sample size was 1 per 1000 of general population , it clarified that 8% of Iranian people above the age of five years old are suffering from some kind of speech & language disorders . These disorders prevalence could be noticed as : 1.2 percent with language disorders , 5.1 percent had articulation defect , 0.9 percent with stutter , 1.3 percent had resonance disorder .

The educational program for rehabilitation specialities goes back to 1973 that rehabilitation faculty of Iran medical university started to train experts and specialists in different rehabilitation disciplines including speech & language pathologist at BSc degree . At present there are six colleges in different part of the country that provide the training courses in Bachelor and Master degree.

In addition the PhD course was approved and in near future doctorate students will be admitted . Each year around 200 new students are admitted for four years study in BSc degree.

The speech language pathologists provide professional services in hospitals , rehabilitation centers , special schools , private practice and other related centers.

There's about 1000 rehabilitation centers (State , private and non- governmental funded) that provide rehabilitation services by qualified professionals including speech language pathologists .

Unlike other disciplines in rehabilitation such as physiotherapy that their local training program was started more than forty years ago , speech and language therapy developed one decade later , but recent this discipline has been ranking alongside other therapies in importance in rehabilitation service planning .

Since communication plays a major role in every person life and it is the means by which an individual is integrated into the community , consequently it is vital that any service dealing with communication should be directly related to life and culture of each specific community .

To create a service appropriate to Iranian disabled people , it is necessary to develop training and research relevant to the needs and situation of these people .

The articles of this special issue gives an example of attempts of this kind and I am sure the authors will all be handsomely rewarded by readers' interest and careful study .

Finally on behalf of IRJ advisory Board , I express my thanks and gratitude to the writers and reviewers of

articles published in this issue for their contribution .

Reader's comments and suggestions are certainly appreciated and of course will help us improving the quality of Journal Materials.

Thank you
Seyed Majid Mirkhani
Editor - In - Chief