

Introduction

Increased global demand for speech therapy, especially in underserved regions, has driven the use of technology in SLP. The global pandemic boosted online therapy, showing its potential to transform traditional practices. This study assesses the effectiveness of hygienic digital practices in reaching diverse populations with varying speech disorder severities.

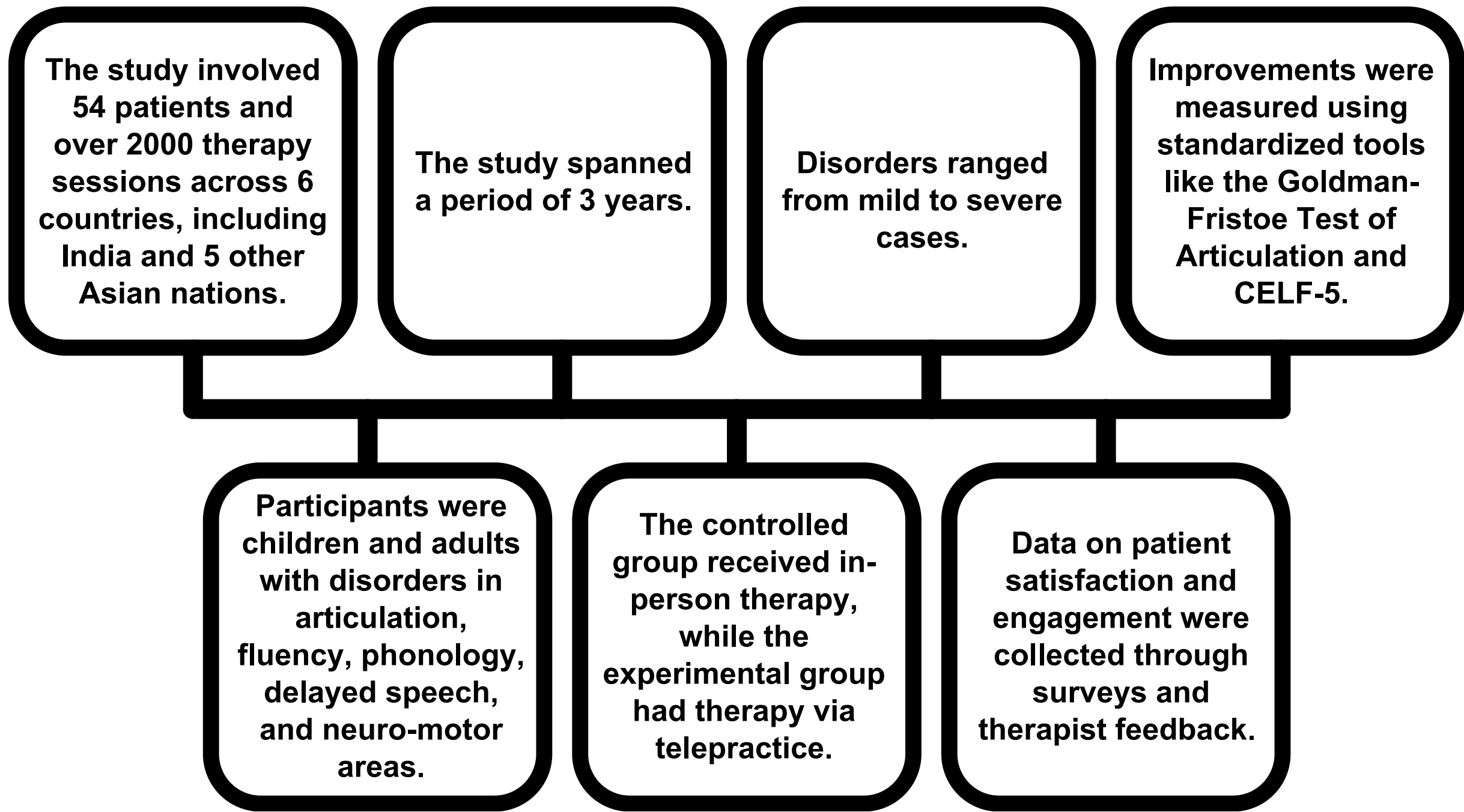
Need for the Study

- Digital speech therapy is growing rapidly but lacks long-term effectiveness studies.
- There is limited evidence comparing digital therapy with traditional in-person sessions.
- Understanding its impact across different cultural and socio-economic contexts is essential.
- Evaluating its efficacy and patient satisfaction can guide future healthcare policies.
- The study is important for optimizing treatments for varying severity levels.
- It addresses caregiver preferences, especially for parents of children with special needs (CWSN).

Aim & Objectives

The study evaluates digital speech therapy's impact on outcomes, engagement, and satisfaction across diverse groups, comparing digital to in-person sessions, exploring accessibility, identifying challenges, assessing home training support, analyzing culturally sensitive materials, and evaluating caretaker involvement.

Method



Results & Discussion

Aspect	Results & Discussion
Speech Improvement	90% of mild category patients showed rapid improvement; 70% moderate and 30% severe category patients reported significant outcomes.
Tactile Requirement	Moderate and severe cases required tactile interventions, where conventional in-person therapy was more effective.
Absenteeism Reduction	Tele therapy reduced absenteeism, ensuring regularity and consistency in sessions.
Convenience	Beneficial for patients with mobility issues and school-going children due to session flexibility.
Parental Involvement	Increased awareness and involvement of caretakers improved long-term progress maintenance.
Cultural Relevance	98% satisfaction due to culturally relevant digital materials and instructions.
Session Quality	Lack of familiarity with digital tools hindered professionals from creating engaging sessions.
Technological Issues	Connectivity challenges, especially in rural areas, affected patient engagement.

Summary & Conclusion

Digital speech therapy proves highly effective for treating a range of speech disorders, from mild to moderate, offering benefits like reduced absenteeism and continuity of care, particularly valuable for patients with mobility issues or those unable to attend clinics. However, for severe cases needing tactile feedback or intensive intervention, traditional in-person therapy is still favored. The use of digital practices enhances therapists' cross-cultural competence, as they must adapt to diverse cultural expectations. Success in online sessions heavily relies on the quality of digital interaction, pushing therapists to enhance their digital literacy and engagement skills. Moreover, when practicing online, therapists must navigate taxation and comply with statutory regulations across different regions to ensure legal operation.

References

Chinnaraj, G., Shetty, H. N., & Palaniyappan, V. (2021). Effect of digital noise reduction and directionality algorithms in hearing aids on temporal envelope distortion and speech recognition. **Journal of Hearing Science**, 11(4), 123-135.

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