State of stuttering intervention practices in Lebanon

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INTRODUCTION

Speech and language pathology was implemented in Lebanon in the late 90’s. Institut supérieur d’orthophonie is involved since 2008 in research projects aiming to improve speech pathology practices in Lebanon (Zebib & al., In press). Their goals are:

- To provide developmental and symptomatological data related to the fields of intervention.
- To develop and adapt tools for assessment and intervention.

Studies in language and communication are at their beginning. Clinical experience showed that stuttering has been avoided by Lebanese Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs) for a long time and has never been the subject of scientific or published research in Lebanon. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to study the state of stuttering intervention practices in Lebanon. This would lead to identify needs, demands and difficulties in treating stuttering in a linguistic and cultural diversity context (Tellis G. & Tellis C., 2003).

A computerized questionnaire was sent to 250 SLPs practicing in private clinics. This study leads to new perspectives for further clinically based studies aiming to ameliorate services for people who stutter in a multilingual context.

MATERIAL

The computerized questionnaire includes 13 questions about:

- SLPs private practice: years of experience and the possibility of offering stuttering treatment.
- SLPs knowledge and experience in treating stuttering: university courses, trainings, workshops, etc.
- SLPs difficulties and perspectives in treating stuttering.

Different formats used:

- Dichotomous questions (yes/no).
- Open/Closed format questions.
- Frequency rating scale questions.

MAIN RESULTS

- Referral and treatment

96% of SLPs who answered the questionnaire reported referrals for therapy in stuttering. 34% of them do not treat stuttering for many reasons, such as the lack of training and experience.

 Majority of referrals are from the school age category. The treatment of stuttering is mainly based on individual intervention; 6% of SLPs who answered the questionnaire conduct therapeutic groups.

- Partnership in treating stuttering

Lebanese SLPs collaborate the most with parents, psychologists and teachers throughout the treatment of stuttering.

- Difficulties in treating stuttering

70% of SLPs worry of not having enough knowledge about stuttering. 46% of them have gained knowledge through university courses and personal reading only. Many difficulties in treating stuttering were noted:

PERSPECTIVES

Results analysis particularly highlighted the need to:

- Promote and assist therapeutic groups.
- Create supervision groups among professionals.
- Provide updated approaches and techniques through continuous trainings.
- Conduct stuttering awareness campaigns.
- Ensure better prevention and early intervention.

REFERENCES


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